



Visionary PHILANTHROPY

EMPOWERS

TRANSFORMS LIVES

BUILDS FUTURES

PROVIDES HOPE

LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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VISIONARY PHILANTHROPY...

Thanks to the vision and endeavors of founders Winifred and Edith Holt, Lighthouse International has been at the forefront of the care and rehabilitation of people with vision impairment since 1905. Leading the way in the field of low vision for more than a century, the Lighthouse has created limitless possibilities for people who have lost their sight. Today, the Lighthouse is proud to continue the Holt legacy on behalf of all those who look to the Lighthouse as a place that can profoundly transform lives.

The Lighthouse remains firmly committed to helping people of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances overcome the challenges of vision loss, through education, technology, and personalized support. Since the Lighthouse's inception, great advances have been made in medicine, science, and public awareness, but with more than 61 million Americans currently at high risk for serious vision loss, our mission continues — we continually strive to ensure that people with impaired vision lead independent, safe, and fulfilled lives.



Lighthouse International was built upon philanthropic gestures, those of time, treasure, and talent. Our life-enhancing work is only possible because of the extraordinarily generous contributions of our many friends and benefactors. As Helen Keller most memorably said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." So to you, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and we sincerely thank you for your continued support.



“The people who came together are a tremendous group ... very committed, very serious. This was a partnership that I would have never expected.”

– Jesse H. Davis, President
of Creative Mobile
Technologies

EMPOWERS

ACCESSIBLE TAXI: TECHNOLOGY FOR INDEPENDENCE

Getting from Point A to Point B in a metropolis is rarely trouble-free. Taking a taxi in a city like New York without the ability to see the meter, or to know whether the correct destination has been reached, is an enormous challenge. Imagine if all taxis carried accessible technology that enabled people who are visually impaired to take control of their cab rides. Thanks to an extraordinary partnership between Lighthouse International, the City Council of New York, and software company Creative Mobile Technologies (CMT), this is now a reality.

New York City Councilman James Vacca, whose father utilized the Lighthouse when he lost his sight, had long desired a citywide system that would permit riders who are visually impaired to use taxis independently. CMT took a credit card payment system, used by cabs nationwide, and made it accessible to people who are vision impaired. The Lighthouse brought everyone together and, with vital feedback from its clients, a life-changing program was set into motion.

Thanks to the Lighthouse's advocacy efforts, CMT's technology, and Councilman Vacca's work pushing the bill through the City Council in late 2012, NYC taxis now carry this groundbreaking technology. Passengers hear the fare throughout their ride, learn their location through GPS updates, pay the charge and calculate the tip — independent of the driver — all via an audible touch screen system. And great ideas are often contagious: the program is now rolling out in major cities across the nation, including San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, and New Orleans.

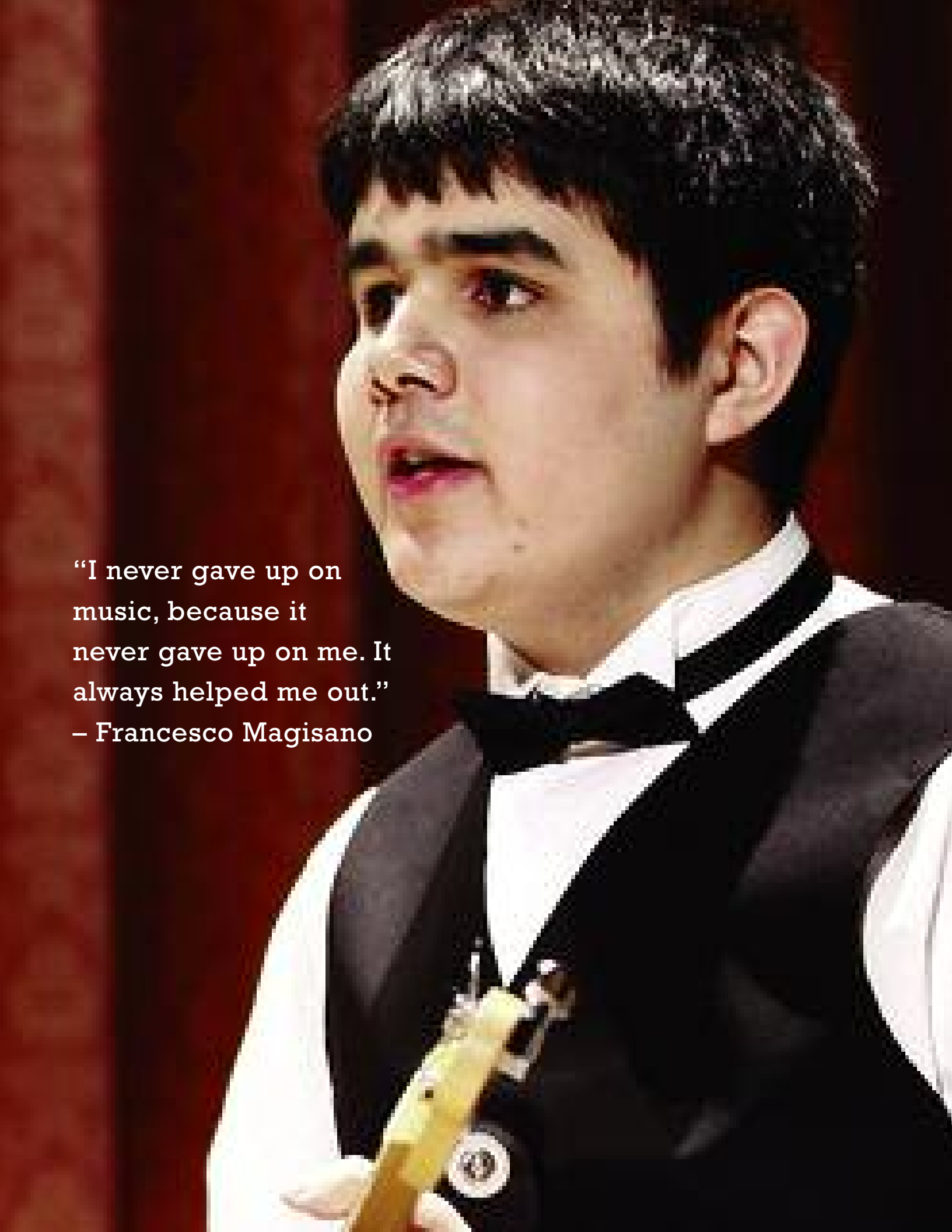
The partnership of these visionaries has enabled the Lighthouse to extend its reach far beyond its walls on 59th Street and help people with vision loss maintain their independence.

“I found partners at the Lighthouse. Our partnership was crucial in the legislation that was passed.”

– Councilman James Vacca



Former New York Governor David Paterson and Councilman Vacca demonstrate how to use the accessible taxi payment system.

A young man with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, a black bow tie, and a black tuxedo jacket, is shown from the chest up. He is looking slightly to his left with a focused expression. He is holding a saxophone, with the neck and keys visible in the lower foreground. The background is a dark, textured red or maroon color.

“I never gave up on
music, because it
never gave up on me. It
always helped me out.”
– Francesco Magisano

TRANSFORMS LIVES

THE FILOMEN M. D'AGOSTINO FOUNDATION: HARMONIOUS SUPPORT

A trailblazer for women in law. A self-taught investor. A World War II government censor. An active philanthropist. Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg was a woman of many skills. But her talent for the piano is what makes Mrs. Greenberg such an important figure in the Lighthouse's history.

Mrs. Greenberg, who was visually impaired, turned to the Lighthouse Music School to continue her study of piano and took lessons well into her nineties. Grateful to the Lighthouse for helping her keep music in her life, she supported the school with personal gifts, such as a Steinway piano, and donations through her family institution, The Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation. When she died in 2000 at the age of 102, she left a philanthropic legacy of continued support to the Lighthouse Music School. In 2004, the Foundation — administered by her attorney and member of the Lighthouse Board of Directors, David Malkin, and her nephew, Max D'Agostino — made a multi-year pledge in Mrs. Greenberg's memory, for which the Lighthouse proudly renamed the music school in her honor. Today, Mrs. Greenberg's Foundation continues to be one of the Music School's largest benefactors.

As it approaches its centennial in 2013, The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School stands proudly as the only community music school in the country for people who are visually impaired. With 150 students ranging in age from 5 to 95, the school is dedicated to serving anyone interested in enriching their life through music.

One such student is Francesco Magisano. Legally blind since birth, Francesco came to the Lighthouse when a retinoblastoma compromised his remaining sight during his sophomore year in high school. Now 18, Francesco credits the Music School for helping him discover his twin passions — guitar and singing. "It's an awesome place," he says, "not only if you're going through a tough time, but if you want to learn music."

Music has been at the heart of the Lighthouse's history, and thanks to the generosity of Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg and the Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation, it is now a well-loved tradition.

**"This is a fabulous New York institution
that does great things for people with a
specific need."**

– David Malkin, Esq., Lighthouse Board member



BUILDS FUTURES

JERRY A. TISHMAN: ENLIGHTENED GIVING

Longtime member of the New York Stock Exchange, now retired, Lighthouse donor Jerry A. Tishman has supported the Lighthouse's mission for many years and recently included the Lighthouse in his estate plans.

A friend and fellow supporter first introduced Mr. Tishman to the Lighthouse, and through the years he has found that the Lighthouse's work with children and young people with vision loss reflects his own heartfelt interest in them. This compassion is largely what led him to designate a significant bequest to establish the Jerry A. Tishman Fund, which will serve children who are born with or develop a vision impairment or blindness. When asked what inspired him to contribute to the Lighthouse in this way, he replied, "I want to help other human beings. And that is what the Lighthouse does. And I want to keep doing that, even when I'm not here." In gratitude to Mr. Tishman for his past, present, and future generosity, the Lighthouse has named the lower lobby space in its New York City headquarters the Jerry A. Tishman Atrium.

Mr. Tishman's gift will enable the Lighthouse to continue providing vital low vision services to children and young people with vision loss. Programs such as Early Intervention are critical to identifying and evaluating vision loss in infants and toddlers; the integrated curriculum at The Ethel and Samuel J. LeFrak School allows preschool-aged children to develop crucial learning and social skills; and the rehabilitation, pre-vocational and recreational classes through Youth Services give young people up to age 21 the capabilities and self-assurance they need to transition to college or the workforce.

Lighthouse programs are designed to give children and their families the care, training and support they need to maximize learning and growth and enable them to enter adulthood with confidence and independence. Thanks to the far-sighted generosity of supporters such as Jerry Tishman, young people with limited vision will be empowered for many years to come.

**"I want to help other human beings.
And that's what the Lighthouse does."**

– Jerry A. Tishman





“The Lighthouse allows me to live my life independently. And I’m 88 years old, and have other health problems. But with their assistance I’m managing, I’m going about my way, and I’ve found new interests in my life. They’ve given me new horizons!”
– Ruth Day

PROVIDES HOPE

DR. LAWRENCE A. YANNUZZI: ILLUMINATING THE LIGHTHOUSE'S MISSION

Lighthouse International is committed to the care and rehabilitation of people who are visually impaired; for many, the Lighthouse is the only place to turn when their doctors are no longer able to treat their vision. But just as important as the assistance the Lighthouse provides its clients is the outreach to inform physicians and practitioners in the fields of ophthalmology and optometry about how the Lighthouse supports these patients. Getting the word out about services and programs is vital to the Lighthouse, and Dr. Lawrence A. Yannuzzi is one of the key players in this effort.

Physician Outreach at Lighthouse International informs health care providers, in the New York metropolitan area, about services available for patients with uncorrectable vision loss and facilitates referrals to the Lighthouse low vision and vision rehabilitation team. Dr. Yannuzzi, one of the world's foremost authorities in medical retinal diseases, serves as co-chair of the Lighthouse Research and Medical Advisory Board. He is a renowned expert who represents Lighthouse to his patients and peers. Whether it's a recommendation for low vision services, vision rehabilitation, orientation and mobility training, or occupational therapy, through our outreach team, practitioners learn how the Lighthouse can help patients with limited sight by providing services that enhance their course of medical treatment. When patients have vision loss that cannot be corrected by glasses, medication or surgery, Lighthouse is there to maximize their vision and restore their personal safety.

Dr. Yannuzzi's efforts have raised awareness on what the Lighthouse can do, enabling countless people with low vision to regain their independence, and to a larger extent, their lives.

"There are patients who say [of the Lighthouse], 'That experience just changed my life.' When I hear that, I get a great deal of satisfaction."

– Dr. Lawrence A. Yannuzzi, Lighthouse Board member and co-chair of the Lighthouse Research and Medical Advisory Board



A Message From the

PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

As you can imagine, in our roles as President and Chairman of Lighthouse International, both of us are often asked, “What makes Lighthouse special?” Answering this question is easy; Lighthouse’s history of innovation and programmatic excellence, our extensive range of programs and services that emphasize independence, self-reliance, and initiative and our dedicated team of clinical, social service, and educational professionals, all make Lighthouse truly unique.

But recently, one of our most generous supporters asked an interesting question: “What makes the Lighthouse different?”

Different? We don’t normally think of Lighthouse as different. After some thought, the answer is simply, **“You do. By making Lighthouse one of your philanthropic priorities, you join in partnership with the hundreds of thousands of current and past visionary supporters of Lighthouse International who have and continue to make our mission of bringing a better life to people who are blind or suffer low vision a reality.”**

From the very beginning, charitable giving has been at the heart of the Lighthouse. From the founders, Winifred and Edith Holt’s, simple first gift of giving up their dress allowances to buy tickets so people who were blind could attend concert performances to the over 15,000 benefactors who made Lighthouse International one of their giving priorities in 2012, philanthropy makes Lighthouse different among other charities in New York City.

While government grants, insurance reimbursement and rental income from the Lighthouse headquarters all contribute to the Lighthouse’s annual operational budget, philanthropic donations, on average, make up 40 – 50% of our annual revenue. Without the generous support of our friends and benefactors, our doors would close.

In the pages of this report we’ve highlighted several examples of visionary philanthropy in action, from the considerable support of donors such as Jerry A. Tishman and the significant efforts of Board members like Dr. Lawrence Yannuzzi, to the milestone reached by The Filomen M. D’Agostino Greenberg Music School and the launch of the accessible taxi program.

But while financial support is of vital importance, it is also the dedication and commitment of the 2,500 volunteers that donated over 40,986 hours of their time this year, that make the

**VISIONARY PHILANTHROPY ...
LIVES ... BUILDS FUTURES**

Lighthouse different. Our Board members, as well, devote countless hours every month to oversight and advancement of the Lighthouse mission. From the POSH® and LightYears galas to the Double Up 4 Vision® bike ride/walk and our Volunteer Reading Services, volunteers have made a sincere and meaningful difference to Lighthouse clients, patients and students and to the organization at large.



Joseph A. Ripp
Joseph A. Ripp
Chairman of the Board



Mark G. Ackermann
Mark G. Ackermann
President and CEO

It is only through this munificence that the Lighthouse is able to continue providing vital assistance to those most in need. And this support is more necessary than ever, as countless people do not have access to the vision care they need due to insufficient, unaffordable, or in some cases, inaccessible, health care.

And we work as hard as possible to make your gifts count. We start each day at the Lighthouse keenly aware of your investment in our work, and we strive to ensure your contributions are used in the most efficient and effective ways possible. The Lighthouse is truly a partnership among our Board, staff, volunteers, friends, and donors, and this synergy ensures that the value of every donation is multiplied.

Even in this time of economic turbulence, rest assured that the Lighthouse's mission has never been more steadfast. **We are as committed as ever to providing our clients, patients and students with the best care and services**, and are constantly looking ahead to anticipate how their needs will evolve and how we can adapt to accommodate them. After all, the Lighthouse began as a spark of an idea that grew into a flame as a result of our founders' visionary philanthropy. We are the proud stewards of this light that has burned brightly since 1905, and we look forward to the years to come.

As always, thank you for your encouragement, collaboration, and support!

EMPOWERS ... TRANSFORMS
... PROVIDES HOPE



“Everything I’ve
learned from the
Lighthouse —
especially in terms
of mobility —
has really helped
me regain my
independence.”
– Shafonda Oliver

Programs and Services at a Glance

Lighthouse International is dedicated to helping people of all ages overcome the challenges of vision loss. Its mission is furthered through the following programs and services:

LOW VISION CENTER

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

- Early Intervention Program
- Youth Services
- Career and Academic Services
- Vision Rehabilitation Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Orientation and Mobility Instruction
- Social Services
- Print Access Center

SCHOOLS

- The Ethel and Samuel J. LeFrak School
- The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Professional Education
- Arlene R. Gordon Research Institute
- Policy and Advocacy

VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

THE LIGHTHOUSE STORE AND EYEWEAR BOUTIQUE

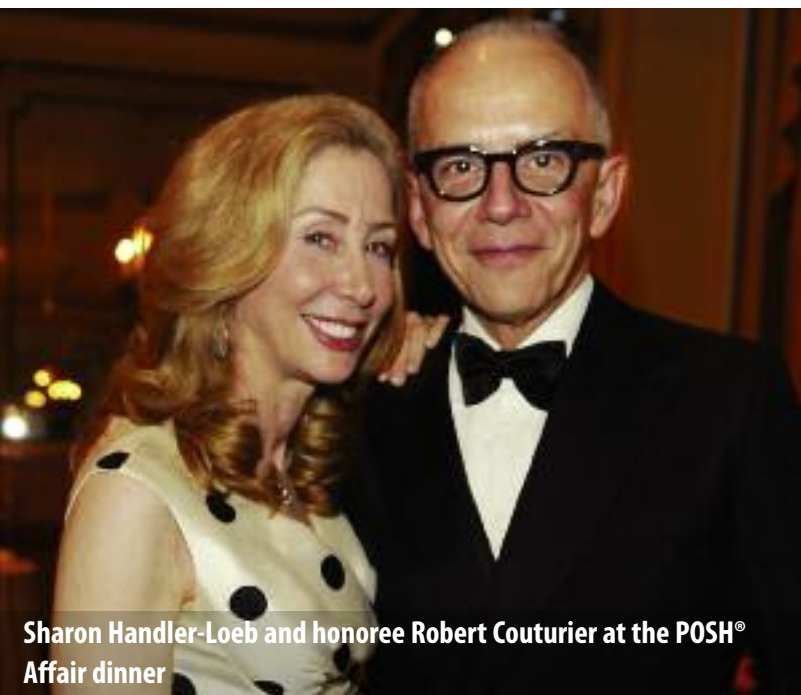




Carla and George Mann at the POSH® Palm Beach Dinner



Honorees Lizzie Tisch and Chris Fiore at the POSH® Affair dinner



Sharon Handler-Loeb and honoree Robert Couturier at the POSH® Affair dinner



Iris B. Apfel and Lighthouse President and CEO, Mark G. Ackermann, at the POSH® Affair dinner



Award winners at the Lighthouse International Scholarships and Career Awards Luncheon

VISIONARY PHILANTHROPY

A snapshot of the many events the Lighthouse is proud to host in support of programs and services.

POSH®

For almost four decades, POSH® has brought together loyal supporters and volunteers to further the idea of fashionable philanthropy, first imagined by Lighthouse founders, sisters Winifred and Edith Holt. In February, Lighthouse held the 5th annual POSH® Palm Beach Dinner and Fashion Sale. Co-chairs at this glittering event included Iris B. Apfel, Lucia N. Musso, and Kathy Bleznak. In May, the glamorous Pierre hotel in Manhattan was the setting for both the POSH® Affair dinner — co-chaired by Hamish Bowles, Amy Fine Collins and Lorry Newhouse, honoring POSH® visionaries: Lizzie Tisch, entrepreneur and philanthropist; Robert Couturier, architect and decorator; Chris Fiore, President of Henri Bendel and hosted by Rosanna Scotto, co-host of *Good Day New York* on WNYW/FOX 5TV — and the POSH® Fashion Sale.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND CAREER AWARDS

An honored tradition — established by Lighthouse International's Women's Committee in 1980 — the Lighthouse International Scholarships and Career Awards recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding students with vision impairments by granting scholarships to aid in their academic pursuits. In June, seven extraordinary people received awards in a ceremony led by Julie Chang, entertainment reporter for WNYW/FOX 5TV. Mark Farrell, New York City television personality and radio talk show host, capped the luncheon with a moving talk.

THE HENRY A. GRUNWALD AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE LUNCHEON

In October, the Lighthouse hosted the Henry A. Grunwald Award for Public Service Luncheon at New York's famed Metropolitan Club. Named in honor of the late Henry A. Grunwald, former United States Ambassador to Austria, Editor-in-Chief of Time Inc., and Managing Editor of TIME. This award pays tribute to those committed to public service and advancing the greater good. Mr. Grunwald chronicled his own vision impairment and onset of macular degeneration in the moving book, *Twilight: Losing Sight, Gaining Insight*, and in doing so gave voice to the struggles of millions who deal with vision loss.

Co-chaired by Mandy Grunwald, Elizabeth van Merkensteijn, Joseph A. Ripp, and Lesley Stahl, with Liz Smith again this year returning as master of ceremonies. Honorees for 2012 included Bob Pittman, CEO of Clear Channel Communications, and Linda Fairstein, bestselling author and former Chief of Sex Crimes for the Manhattan District Attorney's office.



Honoree Bob Pittman and Louise Grunwald at the Grunwald Award Luncheon



Linda Fairstein at The Dorothy Strelsin Author Series event



Jean Shafiroff and Fe Fendi at the LightYears gala



Honoree Tommy Tune and James Nederlander at the LightYears gala



Lighthouse President and CEO, Mark Ackermann, honorees Grace and Chris Meigher and Lori Stokes at the LightYears gala

DOUBLE UP 4 VISION®

New York City's glorious Hudson River was the backdrop to the 3rd Double Up 4 Vision® 5K walk and 10K tandem bike ride. This event pairs sighted and visually impaired people on tandem bikes or as walking partners. Lighthouse supporters and friends came out en masse on October 13th to participate, their route winding through the scenic Hudson River Park in lower Manhattan. The festivities were kicked-off the day before with 20 tandem teams riding in a 24-hour bike relay through New York's five boroughs.

PISART VISION AWARD

Each year, the Lighthouse honors an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the prevention, treatment, or cure for severe vision impairment or blindness. In 2012, the Lighthouse was privileged to present this award to Clare Gilbert, MB, ChB, FRCOphth, MD, MSc, Professor of International Eye Health and Co-Director, International Centre For Eye Health, Faculty of Infectious Tropical Diseases, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

THE DOROTHY STRELSIN SOCIETY EVENTS

The Dorothy Strelsin Society is a group of dedicated friends and supporters of the Lighthouse whose generous contributions help make our work possible. As a show of gratitude for their assistance, Strelsin Society members are invited by the Lighthouse to participate in a series of unique social and educational events. The Dorothy Strelsin Author Series celebrates the spirit of reading and literacy, and in 2012 these authors shared their works with an enthusiastic crowd: Linda Fairstein, Maria Cooper Janis, Denise LeFrak Calicchio and Roberta Amon, Sandra Bark and illustrator Bil Donovan, and Alex Hitz. With the support of several major film studios, the Lighthouse also hosted The Strelsin Film Series, screening the first-run films *Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and *Argo* for society members.

VISION FOR LIFE

The Lighthouse Vision For Life series on vision loss is designed to provide the public vital information about prevention, maintaining independence, and the latest advances in treatment of vision loss. Events feature presentations from renowned vision experts and leading vision care specialists. In 2012, the Lighthouse hosted Vision For Life events at its New York City headquarters, in Palm Beach, Florida and in Southampton, New York.

LIGHTYEARS

LightYears, Lighthouse's tribute gala, recognizes those who demonstrate great vision, philanthropy, and civic responsibility. In a ceremony at New York's elegant Pierre hotel, the 2012 recipients of the Visionary Award were Joseph A. Ripp, Chairman of the Lighthouse Board of Directors; Lighthouse Palm Beach Advisory Board members Grace Meigher and S. Christopher Meigher, Chairman and CEO of Quest Media; and dancer/choreographer Tommy Tune. Lori Stokes, anchor for *Eyewitness News This Morning* and *Eyewitness News at Noon* on WABC-TV Channel 7, guided the evening's events, which included a heartfelt tribute to composer Marvin Hamlisch.

THE HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

January 1 – December 31, 2012

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, foundations, corporations and government sources, Lighthouse International is positioned as the worldwide leader in helping people of all ages overcome the challenges of vision loss.

(\$100,000 - \$1,999,999)

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Mrs. Adele Block
Joan Ganz Cooney and
Peter G. Peterson
Filomen M. D'Agostino
Foundation Corp.
Jacob L. & Lillian Holtzmann
Foundation
Dina and George Perry
Dr. Amelia Quist-Ogunlesi
Ms. Sarah E. Smith
Mr. Jerry A. Tishman

(\$25,000 - \$99,999)

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Mr. and Mrs. Mitch Baumeister
Mr. Melvin Bedrick

**“The Lighthouse welcomes those
who have vision loss and provides
assistance to so many of all ages and
needs. The Lighthouse deserves our
support.”**

– Mary-Jo Saeli, Esq.

The Wallace Foundation
Mr. Gurdon B. Wattles
J. Weinstein Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Nell Yperifanos

(\$1,000 - \$4,999)
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Henry and Wendy Breck
Marie Brenner and Ernest Pomerantz

“The Lighthouse was an important part of my mother’s life for many years — even before she began to lose her sight due to age-related macular degeneration. She appreciated how important the Lighthouse is to the men, women and children it serves.”

– Linda Diesso

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