



**LIGHTHOUSE  
GUILD**  
Vision+Health

**More service.  
More care.  
More expertise.**



*Muriel Leckembusch, Lighthouse Guild client, with Laura Sperazza, OD, in Lighthouse Guild's Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic.*

**“Believe me, being on an island with light is much, much better than being on a cliff in darkness.”**

*– Muriel Leckembusch, Lighthouse Guild client*

## A message from the Chairman and the President

**Lighthouse Guild** brings an unequalled level of understanding and experience to serving people who are blind or visually impaired. Our models of care, developed over 200 combined years of service, uniquely integrate vision + healthcare and enable us to meaningfully impact the lives of those we serve.

2013 was marked by a significant milestone – completion of 100 years of service by the Guild – and an important achievement, the merger of Jewish Guild Healthcare with Lighthouse International to create Lighthouse Guild. These accomplishments build upon a remarkable history as two of the most well respected not-for-profit vision care organizations in the world come together.

Our integrated vision + healthcare services will improve the lives of more people in more places – and in new and different ways – than ever before. We open a world of possibilities for greater service delivery that will, over time, serve as a model across the United States and around the globe. We are dedicated to delivering more service, more care and more expertise than anyone, anywhere.

We take pride in our ability to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. And, in a year when much of our effort and energy was devoted to the merger, we are especially proud that we continued to make progress in our enduring efforts, helping more people than ever before.

Two of the most venerable vision care organizations in the world have come together.

Here are a few of our many achievements:

- We continued to increase access to our managed long-term care services by expanding into Staten Island and Westchester.
- More children who are blind and visually impaired are experiencing our specialized learning, helping them prepare for lifelong success. Our universal pre-kindergarten program, part of The Ethel and Samuel J. LeFrak School, provides a setting where children with vision loss learn alongside their sighted peers.
- We continue to multiply our impact on the broader healthcare community by providing professionals with more knowledge and better tools to address the challenges faced by people with vision loss. Highlights this year included launching a new and improved online continuing education program and partnering with Columbia University to provide low vision rehabilitation training for their rehabilitation professionals.

We provide professionals with more knowledge and better tools to help people with vision loss.

As you read this report, we hope you will take note of the many other ways our innovative and comprehensive vision + healthcare approach is helping people achieve and maintain the highest levels of function and independence.

Our programs are comprehensive, multidisciplinary and person-centered. Advances in vision care are having a monumental impact in reducing vision loss, yet conditions such as diabetes and glaucoma left untreated, continue to rob individuals of their sight. We remain focused on expanding community awareness, as well as providing

broader access to services that will help to reduce preventable vision loss. We can and will do more to help those we serve succeed in managing the many challenges they and their families face every day.

What has not changed? Our mission. By integrating vision + health-care and expanding access through education and awareness, we help people who are blind or visually impaired, as well as those with multiple disabilities or chronic medical conditions, lead productive, dignified and fulfilling lives.

With your continued support, we can do much more. More service, more care, and more access through programs, service, education and awareness. Everything we are able to accomplish is a product of your help and support. On behalf of all those we serve, thank you for your commitment to making a difference.



*James M. Dubin*  
James M. Dubin  
*Chairman*



*Alan Morse*  
Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD  
*President & CEO*

## A message from the Vice Chairman and the Executive Vice President

We are thankful for the support we have received from patients, clients, students, parents, donors, board members, volunteers, and the community over our 108 years of service. As Lighthouse International joins forces with Jewish Guild Healthcare to form **Lighthouse Guild**, we know we can count on your continued support.

Together we will expand the impact that our dedicated staff and volunteers have on the lives of individuals dealing with the challenges of vision impairment, often accompanied by other disabilities.

Each day since Lighthouse International was founded in 1905, the kindness and generosity of our benefactors has allowed us to touch the lives of individuals with vision loss and their families in a meaningful way. Now, as Lighthouse Guild, our growth will be a direct result of the success that you have helped create.

We hope you share our excitement about the tremendous opportunity that lies ahead. Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do to improve the lives of so many.



A blue ink signature of Joseph A. Ripp, written in a cursive style.

Joseph A. Ripp  
Vice Chairman



A blue ink signature of Mark G. Ackermann, written in a cursive style.

Mark G. Ackermann  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer





## Integrating Vision + Healthcare

Our **Vision Rehabilitation** services help people regain function and maximize their usable vision to remain safe, independent and active at any stage of life.

**Behavioral Health** services help people with vision loss and their families address the concerns and anxiety often experienced when losing vision.

Our integrated and coordinated **Medical Services** include cardiology, diabetes care and endocrinology, mental health and psychiatry, nephrology, neurology, occupational therapy, optometry, physical therapy, podiatry and primary care.

**GuildNet Health Plans** provide managed long-term care services for more than 16,000 people 18 and older with chronic medical conditions to help them live safely at home.

**Adult Day Services** help individuals maintain their physical and mental health and their independence through our adult day health care, developmental disabilities day treatment and mental health day treatment programs.

Our **Education Programs** improve lives through highly specialized schools, including a preschool, a school for students with multiple disabilities and the only community music school in the U.S. for people with vision loss – as well as support for parents of children with visual impairments, and scholarships for legally blind students.

Our **Training Programs** promote improved care and well being for people who are blind and visually impaired as well as those at risk.

Our **Advocacy** builds support for appropriate legislative responses to issues that affect people with vision loss.

We recognize and reward **Research** in vision science that leads to vision care breakthroughs.



## **“L-I-F-E is what Lighthouse Guild is all about. Living it and loving it.”**

Born with vision challenges, 90-year old Muriel Leckembusch has received services from Lighthouse Guild since 1947. Now facing macular degeneration, we are helping Muriel make the most of her remaining vision. Our Vision Rehabilitation services help her regain function and maximize her usable vision, as well as develop skills and strategies to remain safe, independent and active.

“The most beautiful thing about Lighthouse Guild is that they’re not only helping me make the most of the vision I still have, but they do so with warmth and humanity. Believe me, being on an island with light is much, much better than being on a cliff in darkness.”

*Photo: Muriel Leckembusch uses a closed circuit television to read small print under the instruction of Laura Sperazza, OD, in Lighthouse Guild’s Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic.*





**“Lighthouse Guild is helping Rachel a lot. She has come a long way from where she started, which has brought us closer together.”**

Kin Yiu is a legally blind parent whose 4-year-old daughter, Rachel, attends Lighthouse Guild’s Ethel and Samuel J. LeFrak School. When Rachel enrolled, she was unable to walk, didn’t speak, and rarely engaged in any activity without help. Today, she is becoming more social and even completing difficult puzzles. Our programs help students like Rachel and their families manage needs associated with vision loss and gain greater independence.

“What I like best is the focus on each individual child. They are preparing Rachel for kindergarten, elementary school and upward. She’s no longer afraid, and that’s a major milestone.”

*Photo: With the help of her teacher, Rachel Yiu explores her world.*



**“I was feeling really bad. With the help of Lighthouse Guild, I feel much better, physically and mentally.”**

Armantina Torres suffers from many chronic health problems including diabetes and depression. As a GuildNet Gold member, she is helped by a full spectrum of integrated vision + healthcare programs and services. GuildNet coordinates Armantina’s care and provides a continuum of services designed to address her individual needs. She benefits from our Adult Day Health Care program, along with access to a home health aide, behavioral health services and vision rehabilitation.

“I’ve been receiving services through Lighthouse Guild for 10 years. GuildNet is a good program for me. I’ve changed a lot. My attitude has improved, I’ve lost weight, and I’ve also made a lot of friends.”

*Photo: Marguerite Pagan, RN, a nurse in our Lighthouse Guild Adult Day Health Care program, takes Armantina Torres’ blood pressure.*





## **“They’ve given me the courage to use all of the technology now available.”**

Ben Benson is a successful former restaurateur who has lived his entire life with impaired vision, but his vision loss has worsened in recent years. By learning how to use new technologies at Lighthouse Guild’s Grunwald Technology Center, Ben is now able to manage his needs and preserve as much function and independence as possible.

“I was very intimidated by the touch screens on smart phones. They insisted I could learn it, and now I have an iPad, iPod, iPhone and a computer. I’ve done well enough that I will be teaching other people how to use the smart phone. For anybody who wonders where they can get help, I send them to Lighthouse Guild.”

*Photo: Ben Benson is adept at using his iPhone and iPad, and keeps up-to-date on the latest technological developments thanks to the instruction he receives from Dorrie Rush, Director of the Grunwald Technology Center.*



## **“I’ve found the right place where I can actually learn music.”**

Dr. Caroline Kasnakian is a student at Lighthouse Guild’s Filomen M. D’Agostino Greenberg Music School. She is a clinical psychologist who is visually impaired and takes classes at our community music school. Through accessible instruction and our music technology center, we’re able to nurture the creativity of Dr. Kasnakian and the many others we serve.

“This is a very rich community filled with people that are absolutely wonderful. I started at the music school playing the piano, and now I’m learning the guitar. I’ve had really amazing experiences, from being in an opera to performing at the Metropolitan Museum.”

*Photo: Dr. Caroline Kasnakian, a clinical psychologist who has low vision, participated in the Music School’s 2013 production of Benjamin Britten’s opera Noye’s Fludde. She was one of the ‘gossips’ – seen here in a pink raincoat.*





## **“My teachers at Lighthouse Guild help me think about what I want to be when I grow up.”**

Michael Lewis is a 14-year-old legally blind student at Lighthouse Guild’s Harriet and Robert Heilbrunn School and is currently learning Braille. Our Saturday programs give Michael even more opportunities to make friends and learn more about technology. Expanding access to our specialized schools and educational resources is making a real and positive impact in the lives of young people with vision loss.

“I like learning special technology. Sometimes I can use it for reading or writing or even creating websites. You have a fun day and learn a lot about drama, yoga, tennis, and more. And sometimes we go on field trips.”

*Photo: Using the portable VisioBook® which enlarges print material, Michael Lewis and his teacher Christopher Russell read a document relating to a class social studies project.*



## **“Thanks to Lighthouse Guild, I am a success story.”**

When Jeremiah Taylor lost his sight at age 51, he needed training to learn how to regain his independence. Lighthouse Guild’s Vision Rehabilitation programs helped Jeremiah learn to navigate and walk with a cane. Through our orientation and mobility services, we give people like Jeremiah the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their personal goals.

“Lighthouse Guild allowed me to recapture my life. They gave me the training to get back my independence and to get back to work.”

*Photo: Jeremiah Taylor (left) chats with his business client Gerard Addeo at Mr. Addeo’s office in Manhattan. After he became blind, Mr. Taylor built up a successful tele-marketing business.*

## Selected Highlights



*Training the healthcare professionals of tomorrow.*

Lighthouse Guild trained significantly more healthcare professionals, arming them with knowledge and better tools to help care for people who are blind and vision impaired. We launched a new and improved **online continuing education program** with the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), and partnered with Columbia University to offer low vision rehabilitation training programs.

**GuildNet**, which offers long-term health plans for older adults with visual impairment and chronic illnesses, broadened access to healthcare programs and services by expanding into Staten Island and Westchester.

Our **Harriet and Robert Heilbrunn School** increased its parent involvement initiatives, held successful community outings, and integrated more technology into its classroom teaching as part of the literacy program. In our **Ethel and Samuel J. LeFrak School** we launched a new universal pre-kindergarten component to help more children in the New York City area prepare for lasting success.





*Left to right:  
Bressler winner Simon W. M. John,  
PhD; Pisart winner Clare Gilbert  
MD; Oberdorfer winner Gregg  
Vanderheiden, PhD*

We honored deserving individuals for their advancements in the vision care field, including the **Bressler Award in Vision Science** winner Simon W. M. John, PhD, for his career in glaucoma treatment and research, and the **Pisart Award in Vision Science** winner Clare Gilbert, MD, for her work in childhood blindness prevention. We also recognized Gregg Vanderheiden, PhD, for his dedicated work in augmentative communication through the **Oberdorfer Award**, created in partnership with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO).

**ColumbiaDoctor's Ophthalmology** opened its fourth NYC and only Upper West Side location at Lighthouse Guild's West 65th Street Campus. Through partnerships like this, we're better able to help more people and open new doors for growth and expansion.

Lighthouse Guild supported 23 deserving high school and college students with **scholarships** given to legally blind young people entering or enrolled in college.

Our **Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School** performed three sold-out shows of the Benjamin Britten opera, *Noye's Fludde*, earning acclaim from opera enthusiasts as well as *The New York Times*.



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## Our future is in your hands

We are grateful for the generosity and support of the many individuals and organizations that believe in the mission of Lighthouse Guild. To continue meeting the challenges faced by the ever-growing population of visually impaired and multi-disabled people, please partner with us to bring independence, dignity, and hope to thousands of men, women, and children in New York and beyond.

For further information on how you can directly impact the lives of Lighthouse Guild's clients, patients and students, please contact:

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716-285-3499

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Lighthouse Guild, its affiliates and subsidiaries, do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, sponsorship, marital status, citizenship, or national and ethnic origin with regard to admission to any of their programs and services or in any of their policies or practices.

To obtain our complete audited financial statement, write to Lighthouse Guild, Development Department, 111 East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022-1202, or contact the New York State Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, Third Floor, New York, NY 10271 or visit [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

For more information about Lighthouse Guild, visit [lighthouseguild.org](http://lighthouseguild.org).



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