Where Vision and Health Connect
We are dedicated to addressing and preventing vision loss through coordinated vision and health services.

Visual impairment, blindness cases in US expected to double by 2050.*

To Our Supporters

Lighthouse Guild is at a transformational time in its history. We are the nation’s forerunner in providing comprehensive and coordinated care to prevent vision loss and treat those at risk or affected so they can live full and independent lives. Our models of care uniquely integrate vision and healthcare and enable us to have a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve. 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.

Through the dissemination of our expertise in four key initiatives, we are positioned to be a national resource for healthcare professionals, students, clients and patients in need of our services. These initiatives address the relationship between vision and related healthcare for people of all ages:

- Training for healthcare professionals and educators
- Early identification, prevention of vision loss
- Lighthouse Guild vision rehabilitation network
- Research to improve delivery of vision care services.

In addition to the thousands of New Yorkers we serve each year, our programs and services extend beyond any geographically defined community. Whether it’s recognizing achievement through our Bressler Prize in Vision Science, providing a national tele-support network for parents of children with vision impairment, or providing scholarships to promising students in order to unlock their potential and take their rightful place in the next generation of leaders, we are eager to be there to help.

With the increasing prevalence of vision loss and related health conditions, the need for our services continues to grow. In 2017, we moved into a new headquarters designed to enhance our ability to deliver services to patients, clients and students.

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.

Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD, President and CEO
James Dubin, Chairman of the Board
A key initiative that addresses the relationship between vision and related healthcare for people of all ages — the early identification and prevention of vision loss.

We advocate for people of all ages – from screening for infants and young children to adults, and providing effective eye care for seniors.

Our preventive care efforts include: developing educational and training programs that target individuals who have already received a diagnoses of glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy or macular degeneration. For these diseases, much can be done to delay disease progression.

Assisting the leaders of tomorrow

Since our scholarship program began, we have helped many legally blind young adults make a successful transition to college and support post-graduate education, facilitating career development. To that end, in 2017, we awarded 10 unrestricted scholarships of $10,000 each to an outstanding group of high school students from six states. Two graduate students received scholarships of $5,000 each to support their continuing education.

Graham Rainsby
2017 Scholarship Recipient
This past year we honored deserving individuals for their significant achievements in vision science research, including the Bressler Prize in Vision Science recipient Russell Van Gelder, MD, PhD, of the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, for his work in the field of non-visual photoreception and Uveitis, and Pisart Award in Vision Science recipient Yoshikazu Imanishi, PhD, of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, for his studies of photoreceptor cell membrane functions, particularly as they relate to Usher’s Syndrome. The Annual Bressler Symposium’s 2017 theme was “Sensing Without Seeing: Advances in Non-Visual Ocular and Extraocular Photoreception”.

The Bressler Symposium and Pisart Lecture was held at The University Club of New York, where they were preceded by a special pre-conference sponsored by Columbia University Department of Ophthalmology and Lighthouse Guild on “New Technologies for Patients with Vision Disorders”. The conference was aimed at the vision care community and speakers presented about evolving technologies that directly benefit patients with vision loss, as well as new directions for expanding technology development for the growing numbers of people with vision loss.

We recognized Gary S. Rubin, PhD, FARVO, of University College London’s Institute of Ophthalmology through the Oberdorfer Award in Low Vision Research, created in partnership with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO).
A key initiative that addresses the relationship between vision and related healthcare for people of all ages — the Lighthouse Guild vision rehabilitation network.

To meet the growing need for low vision services, we are establishing a network of academic ophthalmology departments at major universities that will work together to improve access and provision of vision rehabilitation services. Participation in our network will increase identification of patients with low vision and appropriate referral to vision rehabilitation, identify ways for ophthalmology departments to integrate vision rehabilitation as part of the continuum of health care and reduce economic and social costs of vision loss.

Partnering with other organizations is an important part of the dissemination of Lighthouse Guild’s work.

Working with medical institutions

As we establish our network of academic Ophthalmology Departments we will work with these medical institutions to improve access and the provision of vision rehabilitation services. The following are just the beginning of our network:

- University of Michigan, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Kellogg Eye Center
- Columbia University, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center, Department of Ophthalmology, Harkness Eye Institute
- University of Wisconsin, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
- Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center, Department of Ophthalmology
- Oregon Health & Science University, Department of Ophthalmology, Casey Eye Institute
Celebrating Partnerships

Working with grass roots organizations

In 2017, one of our partnerships which began in 2016, continued to focus on the importance of reading, a simple pleasure, but one often denied to many due to vision loss. Lighthouse Guild and Bookshare®'s collaboration and partnership with the American Academy of Ophthalmology and members of VisionServe Alliance, using the Spotlight Gateway app for iPad, has now empowered many students with low vision to reach their full potential.

The University of Birmingham Callahan Eye Hospital referred a number of students to the Spotlight Gateway program, and in 2017, sent this enthusiastic response: “The Spotlight Gateway program is so awesome because it provides a tool that lets kids access textbooks and leisure reading books. The iPad is also versatile because they can use the audio features or the camera to zoom. The kids that we’ve referred have been so excited to have a ‘cool’ technology rather than big, bulky large print books that make them feel different than their friends.”

(Support for the Spotlight Gateway program has been provided in part by a generous grant from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.)

In 2017, our Parent Support Group worked with the New York City Public Library system, the Educational Vision Services of the New York City Department of Education, and the New York State Commission for the Blind to offer an outreach program on early childhood literacy aimed at the parents of children who are visually impaired or multiply disabled. Workshops were held in 2017, in NYC Public Libraries in Staten Island, Manhattan and the Bronx and will be held in 2018 in libraries in Brooklyn and Queens.

Parents are offered a convenient setting to come together in their communities to learn about the resources and services of their local public libraries. They received information on early literacy, with activities provided for children with and without visual impairments. At these programs, they can also learn about resources within the five boroughs of New York City for families of children with vision loss.
The Power of Philanthropy

Each year we celebrate, through our LightYears Gala, individuals and organizations whose vision and philanthropic spirit transform lives. In 2017, we honored the contributions of Pauline Raiff, Immediate Past Chair of Lighthouse Guild’s Board of Directors, Brian Gell, Vice Chairman, New York Tri-State Region, CBRE, and Darcy Stacom, Chairman and Head of the NYC Capital Markets Group at CBRE.

A key initiative that addresses the relationship between vision and related healthcare for people of all ages — training for healthcare professionals and educators.

The goal of our professional training program is to promote and advocate for the delivery of quality vision services that maximize safety, independence and quality of life for people with vision loss through development and dissemination of educational materials and training programs that improve care for people with vision loss in all settings.

Vision rehabilitation is the standard of care for patients who are losing their vision and ophthalmologists are key to improving access to care for these patients. Recognizing this, in 2017 we began offering an innovative Vision Rehabilitation eLearning program to ophthalmologists and ophthalmology residents.
Connecting Care & Community

Our new headquarters

The need for our services is growing. With the youngest of the baby boomers reaching 65 by 2029, the number of people with visual impairment or blindness in the United States is expected to double to more than 8 million by 2050, according to projections based on the most recent census data and from studies funded by the National Eye Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health.

To meet this growing need, we moved our headquarters to a new, state-of-the-art building located at 250 West 64th Street. The new building is designed to our unique specifications to enhance our capacity to deliver critical, patient-centered services, offer comprehensive educational programs, and conduct groundbreaking research.

As part of this new chapter, we engaged in a rebranding of our organization and we are launching a new website in 2018, all to enable us to better reach those who need us and to more effectively serve the needs of our community and beyond.

Community leaders and government officials joined Lighthouse Guild leadership, staff and clients at the ribbon-cutting ceremony held in September to celebrate the opening of our new facility.
A key initiative that addresses the relationship between vision and related healthcare for people of all ages — research to improve delivery of vision care services.

Currently, vision services are delivered in an ad hoc, non-evidence based manner. Data on service delivery and outcomes is incomplete. To remedy this, we continue to explore new opportunities to work with researchers to answer questions about how to best serve people with vision loss. We are leveraging our relationships with our Vision Rehabilitation Network and collaborate with leading researchers to develop and evaluate new knowledge-based interventions, with the aim of improving care for individuals with vision loss.

Lighthouse Guild is the leading not-for-profit healthcare organization dedicated to addressing and preventing vision loss through coordinated vision and health services. With Lighthouse Guild, people who are at risk for, or affected by, vision loss have access to all the resources necessary to lead full, independent and productive lives. We provide a vast array of medical and healthcare options that result in positive outcomes for the more than 28,000 people we serve annually.

Vision Rehabilitation services help people regain function and maximize their usable vision to develop skills and strategies to remain safe, independent and active. This includes learning to use the latest adaptive computer technology, training in new techniques for daily tasks and mobility training.

Behavioral Health services help people with vision loss and their families address the concerns and anxiety often experienced when losing vision and help them develop healthy coping skills. Our day treatment program helps people with psychiatric diagnoses remain in their communities.

Our integrated and coordinated Medical Services include diabetes care and endocrinology, optometry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, podiatry, primary care and specialized medicine including cardiology, nephrology and neurology.

We have an Adult Day Health Care program that offers people with health and vision problems comprehensive health care such as nursing, therapies, medication assistance, and personal care as well as meals and transportation.
& Health Connect

Education programs improve the lives of children with vision impairment and other disabilities through highly specialized, multidisciplinary services and schools, including a school for students with multiple disabilities, and the only community music school in the US for people of all ages with vision loss, as well as support for parents of children with visual impairments and scholarships for legally blind students.

Professional Training programs promote improved care and wellbeing for people with vision loss as well as those at risk. We provide low vision rehabilitation training to prepare healthcare professionals in all settings to recognize and address vision problems.

Through Advocacy efforts, we raise awareness of the need for access to vision rehabilitation services and build support for appropriate legislative responses to issues that affect people with vision loss.

Our GuildNet Health Plans provide managed long term care services for people 18 and older with chronic medical conditions. A care management team works with members and their doctors to develop a plan that helps members remain safely in their homes.

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

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To obtain our complete audited financial statement, write to Lighthouse Guild, Development Department, 250 West 64th Street, New York, NY 10023, or contact the New York State Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, Third Floor, New York, NY 10271 or visit guidestar.org.

For more information about Lighthouse Guild, visit lighthouseguild.org.