Year End Review
Vision loss brings significant changes to everyday life.

The good news is that most vision loss is not inevitable.

Help us BUILD on our FOUNDATIONS so that no one loses vision needlessly.

THE NEED FOR OUR SERVICES CONTINUES TO GROW
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 and 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 are moving 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
Honoring the achievements of today

This past year we honored deserving individuals for their significant achievements in vision science research, including Bressler Prize in Vision Science recipient Daniel Palanker, PhD, of Stanford University, for his experimental work in retinal physiology, and Pisart Award in Vision Science recipient Pradeep Ramulu, MD, PhD, Johns Hopkins University, for his work in low vision research and therapy and the impact of ocular disease. The Annual Bressler Symposium’s 2016 theme was “Technologies for Restoration of Sight in Retinal Degeneration”.

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.

Our efforts include: advocating for vision screening for infants and young children as well as advocating for vision screening and access to effective eye care for seniors.

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

The 2016 Bressler Symposium speakers: E.J. Ford Univ.; Richard H. Kramer, PhD, UC Berke
The Bressler Symposium and Pisart Lecture were held at the New York Historical Society, where they were preceded by a special Pre-Conference sponsored by Columbia University Department of Ophthalmology and Lighthouse Guild on “New Technologies for the Patient with Vision Loss”. The conference was aimed at the vision care community and speakers presented about evolving technologies that directly benefit patients with vision loss.

We also recognized Denis Pelli, PhD, Professor of Psychology and Neural Science at New York University through The Oberdorfer Award in Low Vision Research, created in partnership with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO).

SCIENTISTS & SCHOLARS

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 2016, we awarded 17 unrestricted scholarships of $10,000 each to an outstanding group of students from ten states. Fifteen recipients were high school seniors, while two graduate students received scholarships to support their continuing education.

Hunter Rouillard, 2016 Scholarship Recipient

Chichilnisky, PhD, Stanford Univ.; Botond Roska, MD, PhD, Univ. of Basel; Daniel Palanker, PhD, Stanford; Thomas A. Reh, PhD, Univ. of Washington; James D. Weiland, PhD, Univ. of Southern California.
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 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, New York-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

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.
Working with grass roots organizations

In the past year one of our partnerships has focused on the importance of reading, a simple pleasure, but one often denied to many, due to vision loss. Now, Lighthouse Guild and Bookshare®, an online library of over 500,000 titles, have partnered with the American Academy of Ophthalmology to empower students with low vision to reach their full potential. We are working alongside LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired in San Francisco and the members of VisionServe Alliance, who provide services for individuals who are blind or have low vision throughout the United States. The new program will use the Spotlight Gateway app for iPad to expand access to digital reading materials specifically designed for people with low vision.

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

Our collaboration with Bookshare has encompassed other libraries such as the Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library, a part of the New York Public Library System, as well as Palm Beach County Library System’s Talking Books for the Visually Impaired. We expect more to follow.

Another partnership formed this past year is with the Guide Dog Foundation and America’s VetDogs. Our Behavioral Health Services perform screenings as part of the process to determine the suitability of candidates to receive a guide dog through America’s Vet Dogs.
The Power of Philanthropy

Each year we celebrate, through our LightYears Gala, individuals and organizations whose vision and philanthropic spirit transform lives. In 2016, we honored the contributions of Marios Damianides, Advisory Partner and Cyber Security Practice Lead of Ernst & Young LLP and member of our Board of Directors. We also honored the Guide Dog Foundation and America’s VetDogs.

In Palm Beach, we promoted Lighthouse Guild’s work and honored Frannie and Jennie Scaife at “A Visionary Evening” Dinner Dance.

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.
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 are moving our headquarters to a new, state-of-the-art building located at 250 West 64th Street (near West End Avenue). The new building is being 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 have engaged in rebranding our organization and we are building a new website, all to enable us to better reach those who need us and to more effectively serve the needs of our community and beyond.

Frannie Scaife, honoree at “A Visionary Evening” Dinner Dance, Palm Beach, with Lighthouse Guild President and CEO Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD, (left) and Lighthouse Guild Board Chairman James Dubin.
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.

Vision services are delivered in an ad hoc, non-evidence based manner. Data on service delivery and outcomes is incomplete. Our efforts continue to explore new opportunities to work with researchers to answer questions about how to best serve people with vision loss. We will leverage 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** provides a full spectrum of integrated vision and healthcare services helping people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired, including those with multiple disabilities or chronic medical conditions, lead productive, dignified and fulfilling lives. We provide a vast array of medical and healthcare options that result in positive outcomes for the more than 25,000 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.

**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 [zip code to come], or contact the New York State Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, Third Floor, New York, NY 10271 or visit www.guidestar.org.

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