Where Vision and Health Connect
We are dedicated to addressing and preventing vision loss.

Blindness or low vision affects approximately 1 in 28 Americans older than 40 years.*

*Source: JAMA Ophthalmology
To Our Supporters

Reducing the burden of vision loss is the cornerstone of what we do. Approximately 1 in 28 Americans over the age of 40 is affected by vision loss, which for most, is irreversible. That means **almost 4 million Americans are blind or have low vision.**

Because vision provides critical sensory input for everyday activities and affects quality of life, it’s not surprising that vision loss is among the most feared of health conditions. However, our focus on prevention and early detection of an eye disease or risk for vision loss — in people of all ages — helps preserve eyesight and savings of costly medical services that too often accrue across a person’s lifespan.

Through the dissemination of our expertise in key initiatives, we are 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:

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

In addition to the thousands of New Yorkers we serve each year, **Lighthouse Guild’s** 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 loss, 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 your continued support, we make it easy for people at risk for, or affected by vision loss, to get all the physical, social and emotional support they need, all in one place. All of our initiatives and work during the past century grew out of a deep commitment to providing life-enhancing care to the ever-increasing population of people in need of our programs and services.

On behalf of all those we serve, thank you for your commitment to helping transform the lives of people with vision loss.

Alan R. Morse, JD, PhD, President and CEO
James M. Dubin, Chairman of the Board
Preventive care

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.

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. In 2018, we awarded ten unrestricted scholarships of $10,000 each to an outstanding group of high school students from nine states. Each graduate student received a $10,000 scholarship to support his/her continuing education.

Mary McLaughlin
2018 Scholarship Recipient
Scientists & Scholars

Celebrating Outstanding Accomplishments in Vision Science

This past year we honored deserving individuals for their significant achievements in vision science research, including the Bressler Prize in Vision Science recipient Botond Roska, MD, PhD, of the University of Basel, Switzerland, for his work seeking to restore photosensitivity to retinas in retinal degeneration, and Pisart Award in Vision Science recipient Joshua D. Stein, MD, MS, of the W. K. Kellogg Eye Center, University of Michigan, for his studies of quality of life of patients with ocular diseases.

The Annual Bressler Symposium's 2018 theme was “Genetic Diseases and Gene Therapy of the Retina.”

The Bressler Symposium and Pisart Lecture were held at The University Club of New York. 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 number of people with vision loss.

Edith E. Holloway, PhD, Center for Eye Research Australia, Melbourne, was awarded the 2018 Oberdorfer Award in Low Vision Research for her work on preventing depression in low vision patients.

The Oberdorfer Award in Low Vision Research was created in 2012 in collaboration with the ARVO Foundation for Eye Research with support from Lighthouse Guild. The award recognizes an individual for his or her role in furthering low vision research and rehabilitation. It was inspired by the seminal contributions of Michael D. Oberdorfer, PhD, in support of low vision research.
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 established 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 for vision rehabilitation, identify ways for ophthalmology departments to integrate vision rehabilitation as part of the continuum of healthcare, 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 grass roots organizations.

Lighthouse Guild is collaborating with the Palm Beach Libraries to provide annual memberships to Bookshare® for the county residents who have vision impairment. Bookshare, a Benetech® initiative, is the world’s largest online library for people who read differently due to blindness, low vision, a physical disability, or dyslexia. 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.
Celebrating Partnerships

Collaborating with Vision Rehabilitation Networks.

The Lighthouse Guild Vision Rehabilitation Network (LGVRN) is a collaboration between leading academic ophthalmology departments and Lighthouse Guild to share data and methods to improve understanding of individuals with vision loss and their rehabilitation needs. It will identify and address population needs for vision health with the goal of expanding access to, and provision of, vision rehabilitation services.

Current Members of the LGVRN:

- Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami
- Casey Eye Institute, Oregon Health & Science University
- Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute, Columbia University
- Kellogg Eye Institute, University of Michigan
- Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, Icahn School of Medicine
- NYU Langone Health, Department of Ophthalmology
- Scheie Eye Institute, University of Pennsylvania
- University of California San Francisco, Department of Ophthalmology
- University of Washington, Department of Ophthalmology
- University of Wisconsin, Department of Ophthalmology
- Weill Cornell Medical College, Department of Ophthalmology
- Wills Eye Hospital, Thomas Jefferson University
- Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University
A key initiative that addresses the relationship between vision and related healthcare for people of all ages — training for healthcare professionals and educators.

Knowledge improves lives. Our educational programs and materials help healthcare professionals and their clients get there.

As the needs of people with vision loss change and our knowledge about how to help them evolve, there is always a need for innovative educational programming to help them live fully and independently. Lighthouse Guild's eLearning programs enable professionals to stay abreast of the latest technological advances and research findings through convenient online programs. We also offer innovative educational resources for people with vision loss and their family members.

The Lighthouse Guild Palm Beach Dinner Dance salutes individuals whose vision and philanthropic spirit transform lives.

A highly anticipated evening in Palm Beach in February 2018 honored philanthropists Grace Meigher, Elizabeth Meigher and Amanda Mariner, and the first Young Visionary honoree Wyatt Koch, who has been a long time and dedicated supporter of Lighthouse Guild.

The Lighthouse Guild team rode in the 40-mile TD Five Boro Bike Tour that crisscrossed through all five New York City boroughs. We were especially excited to have Dr. Mehmet Oz ride with our team to promote the importance of addressing and preventing vision loss.
Connecting Care & Community

Advocacy

Lighthouse Guild was a proud official sponsor of the 2018 Disability Pride Parade, an annual celebration held with support from the NYC Mayor’s Office for People With Disabilities. We marched to show our support in solidarity with other organizations, and provided information at a booth during the fair.

Community Wellness

Lighthouse Guild partners with community leaders to connect our healthcare services with the neighborhood. At events we hosted from Brooklyn to Chinatown to the Bronx, we provided vision and blood pressure screenings, glucose level checks, and tips on managing diabetes, nutrition and stress.

Our Wellness Fair, co-sponsored by Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer, connected the Health Center, Behavioral Health, GuildCare and Vocational Rehabilitation staff with over 100 attendees from the surrounding community. Free flu shots, health screenings, and demonstrations on healthy and safe meal preparation were offered, as well as workshops on meditation, assistive technology and safe travel.

Diabetes is one of the leading causes of vision loss and blindness. Together with the Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz Jr. we co-hosted a Diabetes Wellness Fair, in collaboration with the American Diabetes Association. The Wellness Fair offered Bronx residents health screenings, as well as information on diabetes prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The event was held at the Bronx Museum of Arts.
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 are 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 collaborating with leading researchers to develop and evaluate new knowledge-based interventions, with the aim of improving care for individuals with vision loss.

Where Vision

For people at risk for, or affected by vision loss, Lighthouse Guild offers clear guidance, coordinated care and a community of support.

Our comprehensive Health Center provides a full range of services, including vision assessment (optometry), kidney care (nephrology), neurology, endocrinology (care for hormonal disorders), podiatry (foot care), and physical and occupational therapy.

Our Diabetes Services includes an American Diabetes Association-accredited self-management education program. Our specialists offer many services, including help managing diabetes, nutritional counseling, support groups, and endocrinology.

We specialize in Low Vision Rehabilitation Services. Our low vision optometrists assess your remaining vision, and occupational therapy specialists work with you to maximize your eyesight through the use of adaptive devices and exercises.

With guidance, training, and support from our Vocational Rehabilitation Services team, people with vision loss can become more confident, learn how to address challenges, and develop the necessary skills to live an independent life. We offer career services, orientation and mobility training, college preparation, training in activities of daily living, and independent living programs.

Behavioral Health Services operates the only psychiatric clinic in the United States for people dealing with the effects of vision loss on emotional health. We also provide behavioral health services to people regardless of their vision. Services include individual, group, couples, and family psychotherapy, and medication management.
& Health Connect

We provide comprehensive Adult Day Health Care for people with vision loss and chronic medical conditions. The program includes two meals a day, nursing care, physical/occupational/speech therapy, nutritional counseling, social and therapeutic activities, and vision rehabilitation services.

Our Parent Support Network includes workshops, seminars and tele-support to help parents and families of children with vision loss.

We provide support for students with vision loss to prepare for life after high school by offering: counseling, advanced computer and technology training, career exploration/preparation and orientation and mobility evaluation and training.

We have a merit-based national scholarship program that helps outstanding legally blind high school students from across the country attend college. Our graduate school scholarship supports students pursuing or seeking a degree after college.

Through Advocacy efforts, we engage local, state, and federal policy makers to raise awareness of the need for access to vision rehabilitation services, and advocate for appropriate legislative responses to issues affecting people with vision loss.

Through our Research Institute, we conduct studies designed to translate scientific findings and technological advances into useful solutions for people living with vision loss. We also recognize excellence in vision care and research through our Vision Science Awards.

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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.