

lighting the way

LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

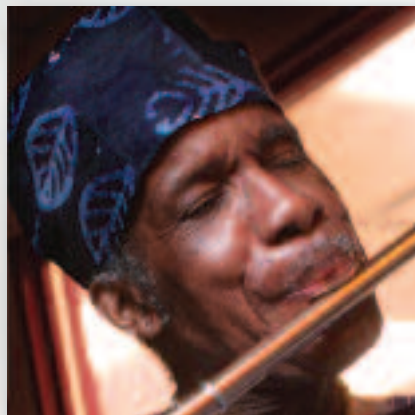
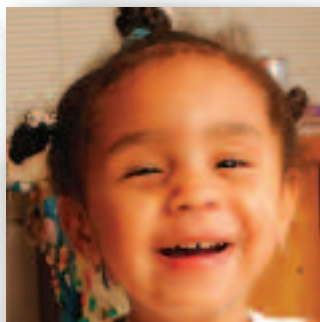
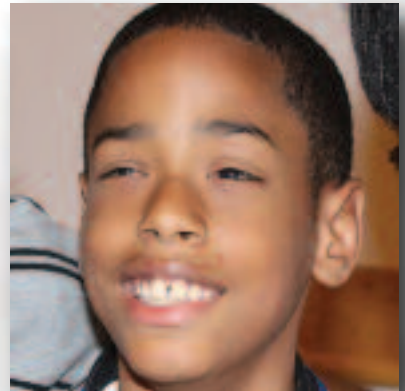


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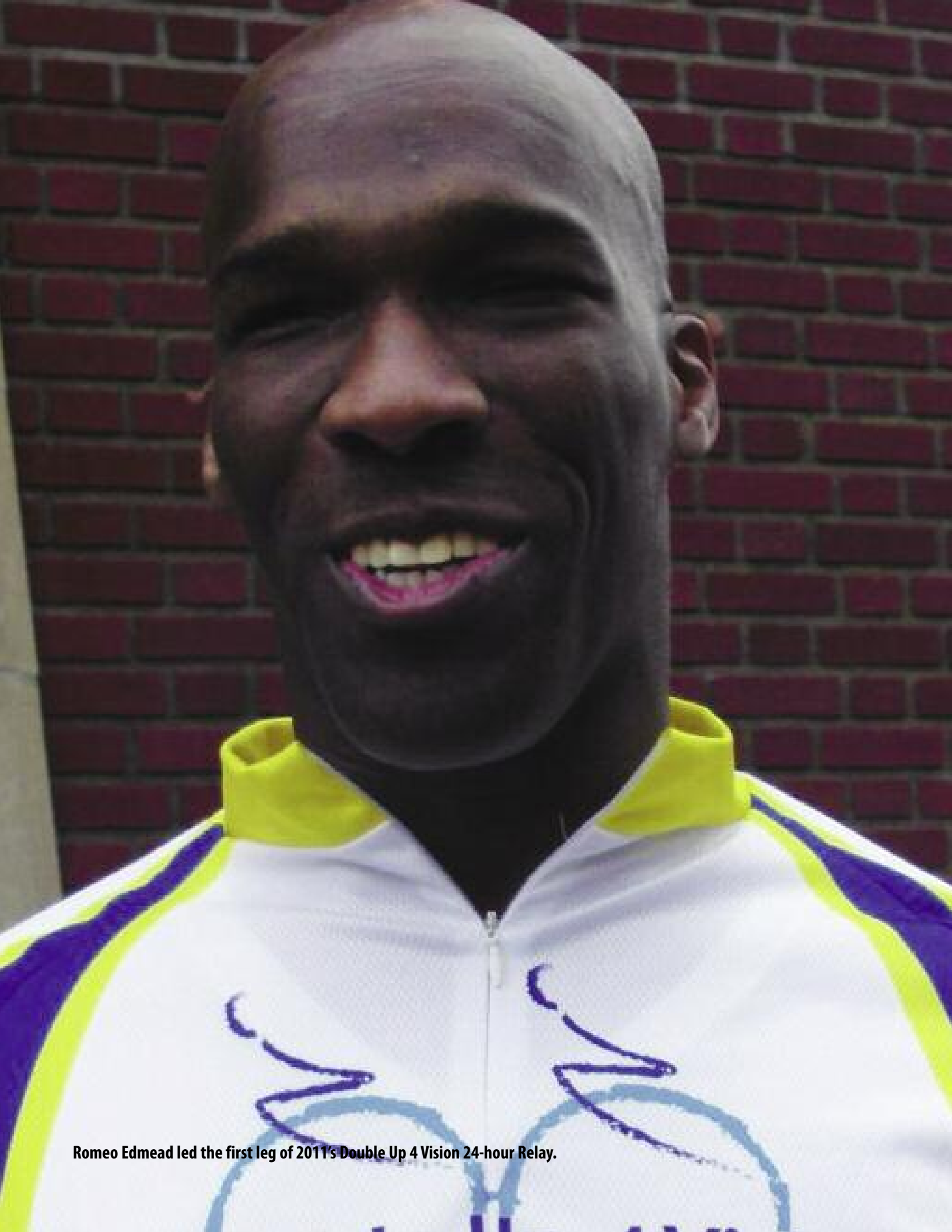
Leading lights

Lighthouse International has led the charge in the care and rehabilitation of people who are visually impaired since the pioneering sisters, Winifred and Edith Holt, founded the organization in 1905. They opened up a world of unprecedented possibilities for people who had lost their vision — and began a long legacy of firsts, which continues to this day.

More than a century later, we remain **dedicated to helping people of all ages overcome the challenges of vision loss**. Despite the strides in both medical science and greater public awareness for inclusion and opportunities, there is still much to be done to ensure that people with impaired vision lead independent, safe and fulfilled lives.

Today, more than 61 million Americans are at high risk for serious vision loss; that means **61 million people at risk of losing their jobs and livelihood**, at risk of **severe clinical depression**, and at risk of **disabling falls and injuries**. While we take great pride in our storied history of providing hope to those most in need, with this imminent vision loss epidemic on our doorstep, the Lighthouse will not sit by idly. We are committed to taking bold action to meet the challenges created by this pressing public health problem.

However, our life-enhancing work is only possible because of the extraordinarily generous support of the **thousands of friends and benefactors who help us provide help, hope and resources** to people who are blind or have vision loss.



Romeo Edmead led the first leg of 2011's Double Up 4 Vision 24-hour Relay.

romeo edmead: a bright start

Romeo Edmead, 32, lives alone and makes his living as a journalist — two things that might never have happened if he hadn't connected with the Lighthouse in 1983. Romeo became blind from glaucoma at age two, and was enrolled in The Ethel and Samuel J. LeFrak School at age three. From 1988-95, he took part in the Saturday Youth Transition Program, which helps students learn to live independently with vision loss. The programs were "instrumental in my mental approach to life as a blind child," Romeo says. "Many blind children are put in corners and told to sit and wait. The Lighthouse doesn't do that. Kids want to do what kids want to do — jump and run and climb. We had tricycles, and we did bump into each other, but they never tried to delay us. They never spoon-fed us, ever, and that's a big reason why I'm confident and independent." Today, Romeo is a writer for the Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind and through Lighthouse career services, is working as a guide for Dialog in the Dark, an exhibit experience in which blind or visually impaired people lead visitors through a series of New York City environments in total darkness, giving them an intense experience of what city life is like without sight.

"The Lighthouse is still an instrumental part of my life every day because of what it provided from my toddler through my teenage years. Our childhood shapes our adult life, and the Lighthouse shaped mine."

— Romeo Edmead



Dina and George Perry help light the way for others through the Perry Fund.

dina and george perry: lighting the way forward

George L. Perry, a leading American economist, is the co-founder of the Panel on Economic Activity at the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization in Washington, D.C. When a successful heart bypass operation had the unexpected side effect of severely and permanently damaging his optic nerve, his functional vision was significantly compromised. He wasn't sure where to turn. He consulted with experts at Johns Hopkins. "They said, you really should get in touch with a good place that takes care of people with serious and unusual eye problems — and the Lighthouse had that kind of facility," Perry says. He and his wife, Dina, connected with Bruce P. Rosenthal, OD, FAAO, chief of low vision programs at the Lighthouse, who helped Perry to best utilize the vision that he retained. "We really appreciated the help we were getting, and we noticed there were quite a few people who had similar problems to mine. Dina thought we should make a contribution." Accordingly, the couple made a personal donation of over \$200,000 to establish the Perry Fund, which provides special glasses and devices for those who can't afford them on their own. Perry is adjusting to the accommodations and technology that the Lighthouse recommended.



Thanks to the Perrys, Dr. Bruce Rosenthal can help Caroline maintain her independence.

"We're glad that our gift does some useful things, and that more people can get the help we were able to get at the Lighthouse."

— George Perry



Lauren Oplinger with fellow Double Up 4 Vision 24-hour Relay rider, 3-year old Lauren Calvo.

lauren m. oplinger: fundraising phenomenon

Lauren Oplinger is an all-star. In high school she won a New Jersey State Championship with The Pingry School soccer team and a bronze medal with the New Jersey Colonials at the USA Hockey Girl's National Championship. At the College of the Holy Cross, she double majored in math and economics — and stuck with hockey. After graduation, Lauren began a career at JPMorgan Chase.

Then, in March 2009, severe illness left her with optic neuropathy. She lost significant functional vision in both eyes and is legally blind. Lauren worked hard to regain her independence and return to work on the trading floor. After overcoming the challenges from her vision loss, she is partnering with the Lighthouse as a way to give back.

Today, she remains an all-star. The 26-year-old professional has used her story to become a premier fundraiser for the Lighthouse. Still a passionate athlete, Lauren focused her efforts on Double Up 4 Vision, Lighthouse International's 5K tandem bike ride and walk, reaching out to her family, friends, teachers, co-workers and neighbors for support. She brought in 184 individual gifts, including 17 major gifts of \$1,000 and up, for a total of \$91,870. Lighthouse was honored to recognize Lauren for her multiple contributions by having her ring the Opening Bell on our behalf at the New York Stock Exchange to help promote greater awareness of vision loss.

“Through Double Up 4 Vision, I raised awareness for individuals like myself who are visually impaired and in need of aid and understanding to overcome everyday obstacles.”

– Lauren Oplinger



Andrew Fisher of the Lavelle Fund for the Blind with the Sisters of St. Joseph.

lavelle fund for the blind: giving back to the givers

For nearly a decade, generous support from the Lavelle Fund has brought light into the lives of people who spent their lives helping others. Initially, the grant supported services to members of the Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, the order that for most of the 20th century led and staffed the Lavelle School for the Blind, which serves visually impaired children with one or more other disabilities. “We knew that many of the sisters were now elderly and in need of quality vision care,” says Andrew Fisher, executive director of the Lavelle Fund. The success of the effort led to expanding the program to include priests and other religious of the Archdiocese of New York and the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre. Nearly 1,000 individuals have received direct services, and many clergy and religious residences have been made safe and easier to navigate. Fisher says the Lighthouse has “been very caring and good listeners and have grown to understand the communities that make up the religious and clergy world. They tailored their services to meet those needs. We have a lot of respect for the professionalism with which the Lighthouse has staged every part of the program, from the direct services for low vision, to the education and outreach activities they have done in these communities.”

“We wanted to honor the Dominican sisters and their selfless and excellent leadership and staffing of the Lavelle School. These are people who have given so much to society, and to some of the most vulnerable children in our city.”

– Andrew S. Fisher, PhD, Executive Director,
Lavelle Fund for the Blind, Inc.

A MESSAGE FROM THE

president and chairman of the board

This year, we are once again inspired by the generosity of the thousands of leading lights who make our work possible — our donors, friends and volunteers who support Lighthouse International so generously and in so many ways. Their continued commitment to the Lighthouse and our mission are greatly appreciated and valued. Every contribution makes a difference in the lives of those we serve. We are fortunate to see every day the impact that Lighthouse has on the lives of those most in need. We hope you visit us, if not in person, then through our newsletters and website, to learn more of these stories and see first-hand the impact of your generosity.

GENEROSITY

In the past 20 years, countless generous donors have made an investment in the Lighthouse. In 2011, more than 15,000 donors contributed just over \$12 million. These past and continued investments have created a legacy of service and compassion that resonates throughout the Lighthouse's history.

In this report, we are proud to feature the stories of remarkable people whose lives have been forever changed because of the Lighthouse.

We are grateful to know that the love and learning Romeo Edmead experienced when he was a student here as a young child and later as a teenager are being paid forward as he does his work as a magazine writer and a tour guide at Dialog in the Dark, where he enjoys helping others understand the challenges and resourcefulness of people with vision loss. We are so grateful that Romeo is contributing to the community in such tangible and important ways.

We are overwhelmed that Dina and George Perry translated their gratitude for the services George received from our low vision program into a generous personal gift of over \$200,000. These are just two examples of the creativity and generosity that typifies Lighthouse volunteers and donors.

We are grateful for the energy and entrepreneurship that fueled volunteer Lauren Oplinger's inspiring fundraising for our second annual Double Up 4 Vision 5K tandem bike ride/walk. Lauren raised \$91,870, a remarkable sum for one fundraiser. Together with the other 800 participants, the event raised more than \$340,000.

We also celebrate the wide-ranging and long-term support of the Lavelle Fund for the Blind. The Fund's ongoing generosity has allowed the Lighthouse to bring a range of vision programs to communities of clergy and religious in greater New York. The Fund's support has meant that the

active and retired clergy and religious in the Archdiocese of New York and the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre received well-deserved thanks for their dedication.

STEWARDSHIP

We recognize the importance of your investment in the Lighthouse and work every day to ensure that your dollars are put to work helping those most in need of our services. The Lighthouse is truly a partnership among our Board, staff, volunteers, friends and donors. It is a partnership that ensures the value of every philanthropic donation is multiplied.



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



Mark G. Ackermann
Mark G. Ackermann
President and CEO

COMMITMENT

The Lighthouse is an organization that inspires deep connection. Our 2,500 volunteers last year donated more than 45,000 hours of time, the most valuable of resources. They help with our POSH® events, the Volunteer Reading Services program, our tandem bike ride/walk event, Double Up 4 Vision, and a range of other activities. Each member of the Board devotes more than 20 hours per month to oversight and advancement.

THE NEXT 100 YEARS

Our Board of Directors remains deeply committed to ensuring that the Lighthouse continues to be a resource for those who face the challenges of vision loss. We value and respect our responsibility to be vigilant and effective stewards of our philanthropic resources. We appreciate the confidence that you place in us and we assure you that your financial support is deployed in an effective and efficient manner.

More than a century ago, the Holt sisters founded the Lighthouse to ensure that people who were blind and those with vision loss would find the support, understanding and help they needed. In 2011, we expanded our services and programs to provide help, hope and resources so that people with vision loss can lead full, successful lives without limitations. With your continuing support, we will provide those critically important services again in 2012 — as we will do for the next 100 years. **Thanks to you, the Lighthouse beacon continues to burn bright.**



We thank former Chairman of the Board and current Chairman Emeritus, Roger O. Goldman, for his outstanding contributions and leadership.



Dr. Bruce Rosenthal and Caroline, a recipient of the Perry's generosity, during a low vision exam.

programs and services at a glance

Lighthouse International is dedicated to helping people of all ages overcome the challenges of vision loss. We further our mission 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 & Mobility Instruction
- Social Services
- Assistive Technology Services
- Geriatric Services
- Print Access Center



A proud graduate of The Ethel and Samuel J. LeFrak School

SCHOOLS

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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

VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

THE LIGHTHOUSE STORE AND EYEWEAR BOUTIQUE



Members of The Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School's Vocal Ensemble performing at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

VISIONARY PHILANTHROPY

helps light the way

The Lighthouse is always an active place filled with volunteers, clients, students from our schools, and supporters. There are many ways to be involved to share the fellowship of the work we do and help raise funds to support our programs and services. We are proud to share some of the notable events of 2011.

PISART VISION AWARD

Established in 1981, the Lighthouse annually presents this prestigious award to an individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to the prevention, treatment or cure of severe vision impairment or blindness. The recipient in 2011 was Gregory S. Hageman, PhD. Dr. Hageman is the John A. Moran Presidential Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Utah John Moran Eye Center, where he is also the Director of the Moran Center for Translational Medicine.

THE DOROTHY STRELSIN SOCIETY EVENTS

The Lighthouse's Dorothy Strelsin Society is a special group of dedicated friends and supporters whose generous contributions help make our work possible. Strelsin Society members are invited to a series of unique social and educational events including an **Authors Series** where attendees meet and interact with renowned authors discussing the ideas and inspiration behind their best selling novels and non-fiction publications. The 2011 series featured notable authors such as Byron Janis, Amy E. Goodman and Susan Fales Hill. Supported by several major film studios, the Lighthouse is pleased to host **The Dorothy Strelsin Society Film Screenings**, where Strelsin Society members have the opportunity to see first run motion pictures in The Academy Theater.



Lighthouse President and CEO, Mark G. Ackermann, thanking Mrs. Ethel LeFrak for her extraordinary support of Lighthouse International's The Ethel and Samuel J. LeFrak School

DEDICATION OF THE ETHEL AND SAMUEL J. LEFRAK SCHOOL

In June, Lighthouse International's Board, staff and students were honored to recognize the generosity of a truly extraordinary woman, Mrs. Ethel LeFrak. Mrs. LeFrak's leadership gift to name the Child Development Center and preschool in honor of her and her late husband, Samuel, was celebrated with a touching ceremony where our students from the preschool played their musical instruments, sang songs and presented Mrs. LeFrak with numerous notes of gratitude and flowers. The Ethel and Samuel J. LeFrak School provides an enriching educational experience where preschoolers who are visually impaired learn side by side with their sighted peers.



From left: honoree Linda Fargo with presenter Iris Apfel, presenter Carolina Herrera with honoree Amy Fine Collins and honoree Kim Baker Campbell with presenter Pauline Pitt at the POSH® New York gala

POSH®

A 40-year Lighthouse tradition, POSH® brings together loyal volunteers and supporters to build on the savvy of our founders, sisters Winifred and Edith Holt, who created the concept of fashionable philanthropy.

In February, we hosted the **POSH® Tea** at The Plaza Hotel for descendents of our founders, earliest Board members and benefactors. Also in February, the 4th annual **POSH® Palm Beach** Dinner and Sale was held. Arlene Dahl served as Honorary Chair of the gala dinner aided by POSH® Co-Chairs Catherine Adler, Iris B. Apfel, Kathy Bleznak, Kim Baker Campbell, Linda Donahue, Michele Kessler, Carla Mann, Talbott Maxey, Grace Meigher, Lucia N. Musso, Kit Pannil, Nancy Paul-Tsai, Tricia Quick and Jacqueline Togut.

In May, POSH® was back in Manhattan at The Plaza Hotel. On the evening prior to the sale, POSH® Hosts Hamish Bowles, Michael Bruno, Lorry Newhouse and Pauline Pitt, honored Kim Baker Campbell, POSH® Co-Founder, Amy Fine Collins, and Linda Fargo. Rosanna Scotto, Co-Host of Good Day New York on WNYW/FOX 5TV welcomed guests to this most **POSH® Affair**.

The year ended with a special **POSH® Holiday Sale** at The Plaza Hotel. Honorary Chairman Mario Buatta and Chairmen Geoffrey Bradfield, Deborah Buck, Clo Cohen, Mica Ertegun, Diane Fisher and Beatrice Pei combined Fashionable Philanthropy with holiday spirit, style and sparkle.



Lighthouse Board Vice Chair and Secretary, Jonathan M. Wainwright and Louise Grunwald at the 2010 Grunwald Award Luncheon



Liz Smith, honoree Bruce P. Rosenthal, OD, FAO and Lighthouse President and CEO, Mark G. Ackermann at the 2011 Grunwald Award Luncheon

THE HENRY A. GRUNWALD AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE LUNCHEON

In the fall, Lighthouse was privileged to present the Henry A. Grunwald Award for Public Service to two individuals committed to advancing public awareness of vision impairment and vision rehabilitation. Named for the late Henry A. Grunwald, former Editor-in-Chief of Time Inc., Managing Editor of Time, and United States Ambassador to Austria, whose personal account of visual impairment and losing sight with the onset of macular degeneration, *Twilight: Losing Sight, Gaining Insight*, has given a much-needed public voice to the private struggles shared by millions of Americans.

The annual event was attended by 190 guests with Liz Smith returning as master of ceremonies. Honorary Chair, Louise Grunwald and Co-Chairs Richard and Gail Elden, and Jonathan and Candace Wainwright honored Bruce P. Rosenthal, OD, FAO, Chief, Low Vision Programs of Lighthouse International and Anita Volz Wien, Vice Chairman, Observatory Group, and member of the Lighthouse International New York Board of Advisors.

WHITE PLAINS OFFICE RIBBON CUTTING

The Lighthouse was pleased to dedicate our new facility in White Plains, where we are once again offering low vision services, in addition to the ongoing vision rehabilitation services we provide to the Westchester community. Attendees included Mae Carpenter, former Vice Chair of Lighthouse International and current and long-time Commissioner, Westchester County



From left: Wendy Buckler, District Manager, NYS OCFS/CBVH, Mayor Roach, Mae Carpenter, Eleanor E. Faye, MD, FACS, Lighthouse Medical Director, Assemblyman Castelli, Mark G. Ackermann and Brian Wallach cutting the ribbon for Lighthouse International's White Plains Office



Award winners, the Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney and Mark G. Ackermann at the Lighthouse International Scholarships and Career Awards Luncheon

Department of Senior Programs and Services, White Plains Mayor Thomas M. Roach, Assemblyman Robert Castelli and Brian Wallach, longtime friend of the Lighthouse and co-founder of the Lighthouse in Westchester.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND CAREER AWARDS

Established by Lighthouse International's Women's Committee, this time-honored tradition recognizes and rewards excellence, opens doors to new opportunities, and helps young people with impaired vision realize their dreams. In June, with Julie Chang entertainment reporter, WNYW/FOX 5TV as master of ceremonies, the Lighthouse awarded seven scholarships. The luncheon concluded with moving remarks by the Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, U.S. House of Representatives.

DOUBLE UP 4 VISION

Over 800 cyclists and walkers came out in October to support Double Up 4 Vision, Lighthouse International's second annual 5K tandem bike ride and walk. The event paired people with and without sight on tandem bikes or as walking partners. Family, friends and supporters of the Lighthouse walked from Riverside Park in Harlem to Pier 1 in Manhattan in order to raise awareness of vision loss. A six team 24-hour, 5 borough tandem bike relay kicked off the event and created great excitement. Double Up 4 Vision was a big success, raising awareness as well as funds.

the honor roll of donors

January 1 – December 31, 2011

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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(\$5,000 – \$9,999)

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Ms. JoAnn Cooley
Mr. Joseph D. Corio
Mr. Robert Couturier
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“Recognizing the impact that the Lighthouse has on the lives of those most in need, our family is proud to continue its long tradition of support to this most critical organization.”

– Stephanie Goldman-Pittel, Lighthouse Board member

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“The Lighthouse has a vibrant arts program for the visually impaired. It brings much enrichment and joy — to enthusiastic supporters as well as those who are participating.”

— Barbara Tober, Lighthouse Advisory Board member

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“My husband, Henry, suffered from macular degeneration,
and Lighthouse International provided him with an
educational resource and a vital sense of kinship.”

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– Jerry A. Tishman, Philanthropist

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By including a bequest to Lighthouse International in their will or trust, these contributors expressed an ultimate commitment to our mission.

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at the Lighthouse, how blessed we are.”**

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