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The Beacon

October 2009

Regaining Work and Bumblebees—Brian Carr’s Story

Brian Carr is one tough, determined man. For three years he endured cataracts that left his vision blurry and right eye nearly blind, but he wasn’t about to give up. Brian had been an architectural draftsman for 25 years, and he refused to let blindness keep him from working. He painted the keys on his keyboard white, and used a black marker to identify each key with a large, black, readable letter. Well, almost readable.

Brian still could not work at his usual speed, and he admits to misspelling a lot. It took him all day to complete a project that he could have done previously in 30 minutes. But he kept right on working at the fastest pace his vision allowed.

His cataracts later made driving impossible, so Brian did the only thing he knows how to do — the best he can. He started walking everywhere he needed to go, and discovered that he loved it. In fact, he enjoys walking so much that he intends to keep it up even with clear vision and car keys in his pocket.

In March 2009 Brian submitted an application to attend an eye clinic through the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation. He went to the clinic in April, and by May was having his initial appointments for his cataract surgery. In August of 2009 Brian’s surgery was complete and his life was changed. He now walks through a full Technicolor world. “Since the surgery, I can see all the colors. For three years, I couldn’t see blues or purples. Pretty much all I saw was shades of yellow and white.”

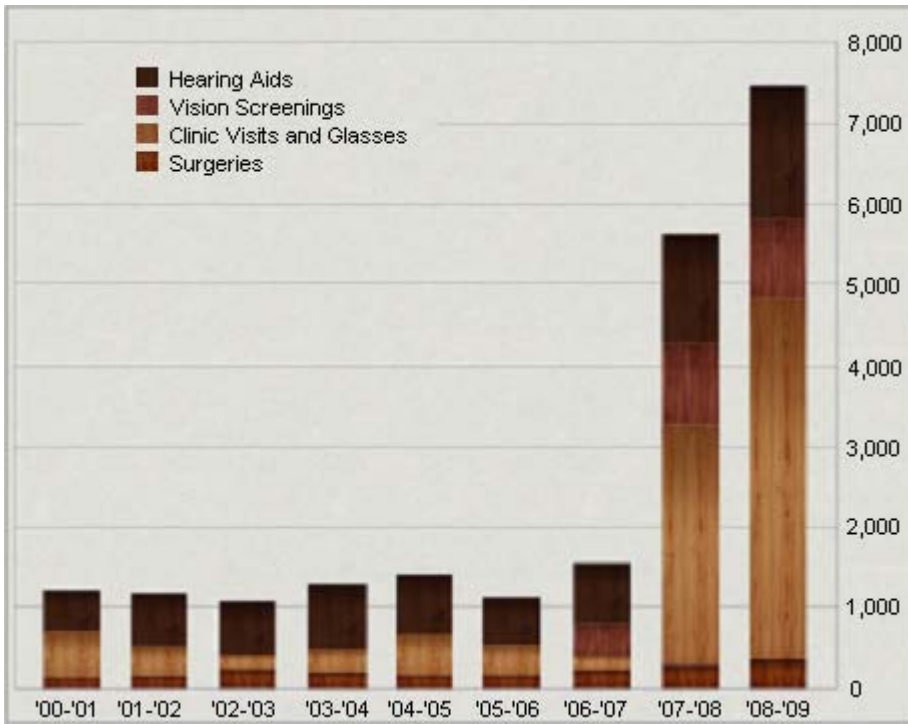


Brian has washed the paint and black marker off his keyboard, and he can produce in a day what he was able to do before he developed cataracts. Equally important, he can break from work to gaze out the window and watch bumblebees in the bushes beyond. “It’s amazing!” He says. “I can see a bumblebee 20 yards away! No one can possibly imagine what a thrill it can be to watch a fat, black and gold bumblebee zooming around in green leaves.”



**Georgia Lions
Lighthouse
Foundation**

Lighthouse Service Growth 2000-2009



The Lighthouse in Your District



Luminary Guidelines

You are considered a member of the Luminary Society if:

- You pledge to donate \$1,000 to your Lighthouse.
- You are on track to fulfill that pledge in four years or fewer.

Your individual contribution is also credited toward your club. You may designate whether you want your contribution to be considered “regular” club giving, or a White Cane gift.

Ask the Lighthouse

Do you have questions about the Lighthouse or any of its programs? Did you recently discover something about the Lighthouse that you think other clubs may not know? Please write to Kim at kfletcher@lionslighthouse.org with your questions or comments so they can be published in The Beacon, your district newsletter, or the state magazine. For example, the following questions were asked in Tifton:

Can Luminary contributions count toward White Cane or other club giving?

Yes, any individual contribution can also count toward your club. Just be sure to include your club’s name on the check, and whether you want the contribution to go toward White Cane or regular club giving.

What is the difference between regular club giving and White Cane giving?

When your club gives a “regular” contribution it goes into the Lighthouse’s general funds. From there it can be used for eye clinics, eye glasses, the hearing aid program, the eye surgery program, or administrative costs. Your Lighthouse operates at 6% overhead, so \$0.94 of every dollar donated goes directly to programs and services. When your club donates to White Cane, 100% of the donation is used for the eye surgery program to help save a Georgian’s sight.

When your club gives to the Lighthouse, make sure the check is designated “White Cane” or “regular.” The designation will help ensure that your funds are used the way you intend.

Can we get posters or other printed materials from the Lighthouse for White Cane days or other events?

Yes, we have 3 posters per club that we would be happy to send to you for White Cane. We also have bookmarks, pamphlets, brochures, and a short video that help explain what your Lighthouse does throughout Georgia. To request any of those items, please contact Kim at 404-325-3630 x 313 or at kfletcher@lionslighthouse.org.

Thank you!

A Great Loss: George Crumbley

Beloved Lion, Cherished Friend



Lion George Crumbley, Jr., PID, an invaluable volunteer to the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, passed away on September 15, 2009. Those who knew George knew him as a passionate leader, but more important, a cherished friend.

He joined the Atlanta Lions Club in 1950, just one year after the Lighthouse Foundation was formed. George spent countless hours fundraising and forming partnerships on behalf of the Lions Clubs of Georgia and the Lighthouse Foundation over the last 60 years.

One of his most notable achievements was founding the Peach Bowl as a benefit to the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation. The first game, which took place in 1968, was very successful and gave much publicity to the Lions and the Lighthouse Foundation. He served as executive director of the bowl from 1968-1985.

In recent years George was an instrumental volunteer for the Lighthouse's planned giving program, the Legacy Society, as well as a regular Lighthouse clinic volunteer. He was able to secure a substantial gift from the Chick-fil-A Bowl and always took the time to spread the good word about Lionism and the Lighthouse.

Christina Lennon, Lighthouse executive director remarked, "George leaves this earth with one of the richest legacies I can think of: his family, Lionism, the Bowl, and of course the Lighthouse. He is finally able to rest, but it leaves such a void for all who knew him."

We all will miss him dearly, but his legacy of service will live on.



Limited Edition Signed Art Print

by Tonia and Gable Marynell, Lighthouse Eye Surgery Recipients

Tonia and her son Gable are both artists who have studied at the Ringley School of Design, one of the top design schools in the country. The painting "The Lion and the Lighthouse" was a joint effort on their part to express appreciation to the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation. Limited edition signed copies of the print are now on sale for \$40.



When Gable was a young boy, he needed multiple eye surgeries. As a single mother on a fixed income Tonia could not afford to pay for the surgery, and she turned to the Lighthouse. Years later, Tonia's own vision started to rapidly decline due to cataracts. Through the foundation's eye surgery program, both she and her son were pulled out of their worlds of darkness. Gable will soon graduate from Ringley with a degree in computer animation, and Tonia teaches painting to seniors in her community. Through art, she strives to help her students learn to see in a whole new way.

If you are interested in supporting the Lighthouse by purchasing one of these paintings, please contact Kim Fletcher at 404-325-3630 or kfletcher@lionslighthouse.org.

60th Anniversary Pin

In celebration of your Lighthouse's 60th anniversary, we have made a special edition pin. There are two ways to receive a pin:

1. You may honor someone you know by purchasing a pin for them. They will receive the pin, a letter letting them know you honored them, and a special 60th anniversary certificate.



2. In the 2009-2010 Lion's year, give 6 hours of your time as a volunteer to the Lighthouse by: serving at a vision clinic, hosting a vision or hearing screening, collecting eyeglasses for recycling, working in our eyeglass recycling center, participating in your club's White Cane campaign, or performing administrative tasks for the Lighthouse.

Fun in Tifton

We would like to thank everyone who helped make the joint Lighthouse/Camp for the Blind meeting in Tifton a success! If you weren't able to attend, here are some of the moments you missed:



Thank you to all of the Lions for a fun and productive weekend!