



# The Beacon

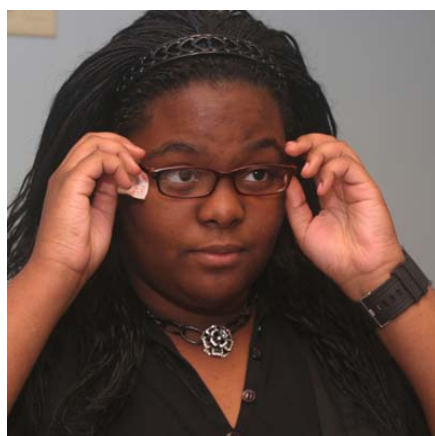
December 2009

## Focused on her Ambitions: Nicole Cox

Nicole Cox is an active, ambitious, sixteen-year-old who needs glasses every year. Nicole had been wearing the same glasses for three years and suffered from blurred vision and migraine headaches that resulted in repeated days out of school. A clinic doctor suggested that the headaches were caused by vision strain, and referred Nicole to the Lions Lighthouse for an eye exam and new glasses.

Nicole has been living with her aunt the past five years, since her mother's debilitating stroke. Although determined to raise Nicole well, Auntie Jackie is disabled and the only income the two of them have is disability insurance. This, in no way, dampens Nicole's enthusiasm for activities she loves.

**"I was so excited when my glasses came in the mail! I didn't know how bad my vision had been until I put the new glasses on".**



At the top of the list is community service, which she began years before it was a school requirement. Nicole volunteers weekly at her church suppers, "sometimes they even let me peel potatoes." She also regularly visits nursing homes, has volunteered for river clean-up projects, and has built bookshelves in primary schools. With all these activities, Nicole still finds time for creative outlets. In a school talent show, she sang a song in Japanese, which she taught herself. And for the past year-and-a-half, she has daily been working on a novel about social issues. Several of Nicole's teachers have offered to edit the completed book, which is already 600 pages long. This 10<sup>th</sup> grader is someone who needed the Lighthouse to be able to see. Nicole Cox is also someone to watch!

"I was so excited when my glasses came in the mail!" said Nicole. "I didn't know how bad my vision had been until I put the new glasses on. It took a few days of wearing them, but now my headaches are completely gone. And they look great on me! I got to pick out the exact frames I wanted."

## Dr. Nikki DeGeorge, Lighthouse Audiologist Partner

*In her own words...*



I've been a hearing aid provider, with Georgia Lions Lighthouse, three of the four years in which I've owned my own practice. It's very important to me that the Lighthouse offers choices and good technology to Georgians who otherwise couldn't afford hearing aids.

My interest in hearing impairment began at a very young age. I have two older cousins who are completely deaf, making them ineligible for hearing aids. My grandmother taught herself sign language and then taught me. I was able to communicate with my cousins before I could even verbalize words.

I've always wanted to work with the hearing impaired. As a child, I thought I would become an interpreter. In high school, I volunteered in hospitals and in speech and rehab clinics, where I discovered the field of audiology. I was excited by this field because it helps people with all degrees of hearing impairment.

Through my cousins and their friends, I closely observed the deaf community and was intrigued by how different deaf culture is from hearing culture. Volunteer work introduced me to a group of people who are not completely deaf, yet are sufficiently hearing impaired to prevent easy communication with people who hear well. The isolation of these people especially moved me. With Georgia Lions Lighthouse, I am able to serve this community by helping underinsured patients gain access to the hearing world.

### Announcement: Provider Training

**January 25th, 2009**  
**Marriot Courtyard**  
**Training sessions by Unitron.**

To sign up, contact Sharifa Peart at:

404-325-3630 x 305 or  
speart@lionslighthouse.org



#### About the list:

- Visit [www.checkittwice.org](http://www.checkittwice.org) to get started!
- Nominate someone for Santa's Naughty or Nice list for \$20.
- The nominee will receive an email to inform them of their nomination, and he or she will be listed on our website.
- All nominees receive a letter from Santa.
- People on the "Nice" List will also receive a special pin that says, "Santa Says I'm Nice."
- Send a gift-wrapped lump of coal to your "Naughty" List nominee for an extra \$5.
- All donations are 100% tax deductible. Each \$20 donation pays for a pair of glasses this holiday season.

#### Add To Santa's List:

Go to [www.checkittwice.org/nominate](http://www.checkittwice.org/nominate), or send a check to:  
Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation  
1775 Clairmont Rd.  
Decatur, GA 30033.

Be sure to include:

- Your name and address.
- Your nominee's name, address, and e-mail address (if applicable).
- Your personal message (optional).
- Whether you want your nominee on the naughty or the nice list, and at what level (each additional level is \$20).

Additional Levels:

Naughty	Nice
Abomin. Snowman	Twice as Nice
Grinch	Frosty's Favorites
Mr. Potter	Rudolph's Fav.
Scrooge	Santa's Favorites

## New Hearing Aid Program Enters Third Year

The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation celebrates the second anniversary of its new hearing program. We are very grateful to our donors and partner hearing professionals, who have made it possible for us to achieve all of the two-year goals established in November, 2007:

- **Introduce digital hearing aids.** All Lighthouse hearing clients now receive new, digital aids. Before the program was initiated, we only offered refurbished, analog aids.
- **Double the number of hearing aids provided.** 1,624 hearing aids were Lighthouse provided between June 2008 and July 2009; up from 730 aids provided the year before the new program was launched.
- **Expand areas of service, especially in rural Georgia.** Hearing aids are now provided in 147 Georgia counties, compared with 101 counties before the new program.
- **Develop more and stronger partnerships with providers.** We now work with 170 partner audiologists and hearing-aid dispensers, who offer services at reduced rates.
- **Increase community engagement and education.** The Lighthouse now participates in community church and health fairs, in addition to screenings at senior citizen centers, throughout Georgia.



Sharifa Peart, Lighthouse Hearing Program Director

Sharifa Peart, our Hearing Program Director, began working with the Lighthouse in 2006. She helped develop goals for the new program and was a primary force behind the achievement of those goals.

"I especially enjoy the community component of our new program," said Ms. Peart. "It's great getting to know the people we serve, while bringing hearing-loss awareness to Georgians. I also love getting to work and opening letters and emails about how the Lighthouse has changed lives. We couldn't do this without the tremendous support we get from our audiologist and hearing-aid dispenser partners. Because of our generous providers, I go into our third year knowing that the Lighthouse will continue to bring the gift of sound, to more and more Georgians in need, for many years to come."

### Marion McTyre

Marion McTyre passed away October 30, 2009 at the age of 82. Lion Marion joined the South Cobb Lions Club February 7, 1966 and served as its President from 1969-1970. He was elected District Governor of 18A and served 1975-1976.

Lion Marion also demonstrated exemplary leadership as the elected President of the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation from 1982-1985. During his presidency, the existing Lighthouse facility was built and occupied.

Lion Marion was a dedicated husband, father, church member, Lion, and citizen. Even when he didn't serve in an official capacity, Marion McTyre remained an active Lion and strong supporter of the Lighthouse.

### Join the Luminary Society

The Luminary Society is a special group of donors who make a financial commitment of \$1,000 or more to the Lighthouse. If \$1,000 is too much to give at once, you can still be a Luminary Society member if you pledge the full amount and remain on track to fulfill the pledge in four years or less.

As a Luminary Society member you will be recognized in our annual report, receive special updates, and be invited to our Luminary reception. You will also receive a distinctive Luminary pin and a limited edition print of one of Georgia's lighthouses.

#### How will my donation be used?

The Lighthouse operates at six percent overhead, so for every dollar you donate, 94 cents go to our vision and hearing programs.

- Vision Services
- Hearing Services
- Administrative Costs



## A Legacy of Sight

Miss Mary Emma helped bring clearer sight to 1,766 people, between January 2007 and September 2009, and the numbers keep growing. Her bequest to the Lighthouse provided the necessary funds to open a vision clinic in Savannah, now one of the largest Lighthouse clinics in Georgia. Each of the patients, who have been given a free eye exam and pair of glasses, has a story to tell: returning to work, improving school performance, or simply being able to look into the eyes of their loved ones and experience all the beauty life has to offer.

Miss Mary was not a wealthy woman. She worked for more than thirty years as a teller in a Savannah bank and retired with a pension of only \$199 a month. Her generous bequests to her family, in addition to \$100,000 each to six charities including the Lighthouse, was possible because Miss Mary was frugal and made very deliberate and careful investments. She felt a deep responsibility to her community and understood that money has the power to change lives.

Miss Mary lived in Savannah for over 80 years. As an adult, she could be seen walking almost every morning, at five a.m., picking up debris and litter. When her neighborhood declined, she refused to move because she wanted to remain a force promoting safety and community values. She lived her life loving and caring for others. Her spirit still lives in the Lighthouse clinic held twice a month at St. Mary's Community Center. Most patients, who have received glasses at the clinic, probably don't remember Mary Emma's name. But it's doubtful she would mind.

The Lighthouse's Legacy Society is comprised of men and women who plan a gift that will change the lives of Georgians who cannot access vision or hearing services without the Lions Lighthouse. Each Legacy Society member chooses a plan consistent with his or her total legacy goals.

## The Lions' Den

### The January Meeting

The Lighthouse's Winter Meeting will be on **Saturday, January 23rd** at Clairmont Presbyterian Church.

Breakout meetings will include discussions on Planned Giving, White Cane, and a board meeting that is open to the public.

There will also be a special announcement about your Lighthouse's Capital Campaign!

### Letter from JC Coefield

Honorary White Cane Chair J.C. Coefield wrote a letter to all Lions reminding, "Not only is [White Cane] a time to raise funds for the Lighthouse, it also gives us an opportunity to be out in our communities and to educate people about the services that we, as Lions of Georgia, can offer. A chance to put hands and feet to our motto, "We Serve".

To read the full-text of Lion Coefield's letter, go to the "Resources for Lions" section at [www.lionslighthouse.org/](http://www.lionslighthouse.org/)

## Choose the Gift Plan that is Right for You

What is it?	Tax Benefits?	Other Benefits?
<b>Bequest:</b> A gift you make by naming the Lighthouse Foundation in your will.	<b>Estate tax deduction</b> for the value of your bequest to the Lighthouse Foundation.	<b>Flexibility</b> in size, to assure that your family's needs are met first.
<b>Life Insurance:</b> A gift of an old or new policy with the Lighthouse Foundation named as a beneficiary.	<b>Immediate income tax deduction</b> for the gift's value, plus possible estate tax savings.	<b>Provides</b> a significant gift with less expenditure.
<b>Retirement Planned Gift:</b> A gift made by naming the Lighthouse Foundation the remainder beneficiary after your death and/or the death of your spouse.	<b>Avoids tax</b> on "income in respect of a descendent" as well as estate tax on the plan.	<b>Preserves</b> the plan's value and allows you to leave heirs less costly bequests.

For more information on our Planned Giving program please contact Sarah Epting at 404-325-3630 x 306.