



# The Beacon

Fall 2009

## A Better Father and Son: Adam Eisenbeil's Story

Adam Eisenbeil, a 29 year old Savannah resident, was in a car accident in 2007 that resulted in a traumatic brain injury and severe hearing impairment.

After emerging from a coma, Adam needed extensive therapies to relearn how to perform even the most routine daily activities. He moved in with his parents, and his mother forfeited her job to assist her son's recovery. "My parents are still in financial trouble because

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**"I can now return to building a life in which it's possible to be the father and son I want to be."**

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of me," says Adam. "I'm doing everything I can to help them get out of their tight situation."

Yet no one regrets the time or money it has taken to help Adam recover. He is

now working in retail and earning an online business degree, remarkable achievements for a brain-injury victim. He was on his way to rebuilding his life when his hearing aids were stolen. With his family savings depleted, they could not afford replacements.

Before Adam found the Lighthouse, he spent several months struggling to keep his job. It was almost impossible to hear co-workers and customers. Most painful however was the effect this had on Makayla, his 6 year old daughter. "I constantly had to remind her that Daddy can't hear. I'm so grateful to Georgia Lions Lighthouse for giving communication back to me, I can now return to building a life in which it's possible to be the father and son I want to be." Adam received his new hearing aids in August.



## To Give is to Receive: Dr. Christie McGhee


Dr. Christie McGhee is a volunteer optometrist for Georgia Lions Lighthouse. In addition to maintaining her own practice, she works at Lighthouse eye clinics, providing free comprehensive eye exams.

"I think of this as selfish, selfless work," says Dr. McGhee, because I probably receive more than I give. Lighthouse patients are in dire need of eye care and have nowhere else to turn. I know that working with the Lighthouse is exactly what I should be doing because it means so much to me."




Dr. McGhee could volunteer with any number of organizations, but she chose the Georgia Lions Lighthouse. "It's a truly great nonprofit; so well run, efficient, and organized. From patient intake to dispensation of glasses, everyone working with the Lighthouse is dedicated to helping people. I know that Lighthouse patients get quality care, which is very, very important to me. I'm looking forward to many more years of service with the Georgia Lions Lighthouse because I believe that when you receive blessings, it's your obligation to return them."

## Join Us Online

 The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation is now on Facebook! Become a fan to find out about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and recent success stories. You can also post about your experiences with the Lighthouse to help spread the word on all the good things we are doing together!

 You can also follow us on Twitter to stay up to date on the latest events and post your reactions to what is happening at the Lighthouse. Sign on at: [www.twitter.com/LionsLighthouse](http://www.twitter.com/LionsLighthouse).

 Do you sell items on eBay? Get more bids, and have your items go for a higher price by using eBay's giving works program. You can elect to donate 10-100% of the proceeds from your sale to the Lighthouse Foundation. To get started, visit [http://donations.ebay.com/charity/charity.jsp?NP\\_ID=33501](http://donations.ebay.com/charity/charity.jsp?NP_ID=33501)

## A Great Lion: George Crumbley

1923-2009

A cherished friend of the Lighthouse, Lion George Crumbley Jr., PID, passed away September 15, 2009.



To generate financial support for the Lighthouse and other charities for the blind, this passionate leader founded the Peach Bowl and served as its executive director from 1968-1985. He was also instrumental in the development of the Lighthouse's Legacy Society and routinely worked directly with patients as a clinic volunteer.

Lighthouse executive director Christina Lennon 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 remains an inspiration to all of us."

## Join the Luminary Society

The Luminary Society is a special group of donors that make a financial commitment of \$1,000 or more to the Lighthouse. If \$1,000 is too much to give, 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. When you give to the Lighthouse you are showing others how much you value your vision and hearing.

As a Luminary member you are recognized in our annual report (any gift of over \$250), and you receive special updates and an invitation to the 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 6 percent overhead, so for every dollar you donate, 94 cents go to our vision and hearing programs.

- Vision Services
- Hearing Services
- Administrative Costs



## Lighthouse Recognized as a “Revolutionary” Nonprofit

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers of the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, our own Christina Lennon accepted the “Revolutionary Leader” of the year award from the Georgia Center for Nonprofits (GCN). The Lighthouse was recognized as best among a long list of paramount nonprofits in Georgia.

Says Karen Beavor, President and CEO of GCN, “The purpose of these awards is to acknowledge, recognize, and celebrate revolutionary and innovative leaders and organizations within Georgia’s nonprofit sector. Revolutions Awards winners are examples of what truly inspires and motivates our community everyday and reminds us why we do the work we do.”

In just three years, the Lighthouse has increased the number of underinsured Georgians receiving eye exams and eyeglasses from 400 annually to over 4,000. The Lighthouse has also doubled the number of eye surgeries and hearing aids it provides. In addition, the quality of care continues to improve. Patients now receive new digital hearing aids instead of refurbished analog aids, and wait times between application and service delivery are shorter in all services provided.



Christina Lennon (center) is honored with other winners. From left: Beth Finnerty of Skyland Trail for “Outstanding Nonprofit”, R&B artist Usher for “Emerging Philanthropist”, and Ingrid Saunders Jones, EVP of Coca-Cola for “Philanthropic Leader”.

“The Lighthouse has been able to dramatically increase the number of Georgians served,” said Ms. Lennon, “because of the generosity of donors and volunteers who give what they can, with an amazing spirit of gratitude for their blessings and compassion for those in need.”

**Nice or Naughty?**

Recognize someone in your community by adding them to Santa’s nice list!

Put a friend on the naughty list and send them lump of coal!

Make holiday shopping easy and support the Lighthouse at

[www.lionslighthouse.org/list](http://www.lionslighthouse.org/list)

**Yes, I would like to support the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation’s vision and hearing programs.**

To invest in a Georgian’s sight or hearing, I (we) enclose a gift of:

- \$1,000     \$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     \$25     Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**  
 Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation  
 1775 Clairmont Rd  
 Decatur, GA 30033

**Or donate online at:**  
[www.lionslighthouse.org](http://www.lionslighthouse.org)  
**CFC number:** 52771  
**SCCP number:** 122000



**Georgia Lions  
Lighthouse Foundation**

1775 Clairmont Rd.  
Decatur, GA 30102

## Looking Forward: Lighthouse Capital Campaign

The Lighthouse Foundation recently underwent a feasibility study to test the viability of launching a \$2.6 million campaign. The campaign funds would secure a new property and cover the renovations and equipment needed to further expand our services throughout Georgia. This campaign would allow us to move from helping 6,200 people each year to over 10,000.

We are pleased to announce that the community response was positive and planning efforts to launch the campaign are now underway. Immediate tasks required to advance this vision include:

- Securing an ideal property to meet all of the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation's anticipated needs as defined in our strategic plan.
- Identifying full architectural and equipment needs for the new building and planned operations.
- Recruiting the necessary Lions and community volunteer leadership to head up this campaign.

The leadership of the Lighthouse will also be seeking lead gifts and challenge grants over the next few months from the Foundation's closet friends and supporters. The full campaign will kickoff in January 2010.

## Did You Know?

Applications to the Lighthouse have increased 30% since last year.

During the 2008-2009 fiscal year:

- The Lighthouse served residents in 152 of the 159 counties in Georgia.
- 362 eye surgeries were performed, an 18% increase over 2007-2008.
- The Lighthouse had 4,228 eye clinic touches last year, which represents a 20% increase.
- 1,625 hearing aids were dispensed through Lighthouse providers; a 21% increase.