



The Beacon

February 2010

Renewed Independence: Helen Johnson's Story



Helen Johnson broke her bifocals, which she could not afford to replace. She struggled for five years, trying to use over-the-counter glasses for reading and to correct myopia. Helen thought that she would never be able to see clearly again.

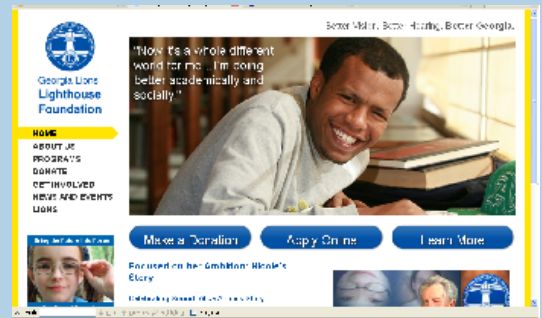
"None of the glasses I tried were even close to what I needed," said Helen. "My husband and I live month-to-month, on a fixed income, and we were never able to save the

cost of filling my prescription. I couldn't read the paper or the Sunday school lesson. I drove as little as possible and only close to home, where I know all the roads, because I couldn't read a street sign without getting right up on it."

Then Helen heard about the Georgia Lions Lighthouse and applied for glasses. "I'm cherishing my Lighthouse bifocals, for sure. It's so amazing to be able to see again, even small writing! Now I go to Sunday school having read the whole lesson. And I'd forgotten what it's like to watch television, instead of just listening to it. I'm as excited as a child learning to walk. It's a whole new world! I have two grandbabies in Jacksonville and the next time I see them, I will actually see the expressions on their faces. I can hardly wait! The Lighthouse, and everyone who has a part in it, is a God-send. It's a blessing to know there are still people in the world who give a helping hand. I hope many more people will be able to see with the Lighthouse's help, to be able to do what's important in their lives."

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Lighthouse Launches a New Website



The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation launched a new website in January. It is still at www.lionslighthouse.org, but it has been redesigned and reorganized to be easier to navigate for clients, donors, and volunteers.

Service Update

July 1—December 31, 2009:

475 Georgians received **870** hearing aids through our digital aid program.

853 people received eye exams, and **1454** eyeglasses were dispensed at our clinics throughout the state.

131 sight-saving surgeries were performed across Georgia.

Bring the Future into Focus

The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation has brightened the lives of thousands of Georgians with the gift of restored sight and hearing. As the economy continues to struggle, the demand for the Lighthouse's services will intensify, all at a time when we are unable to meet the existing need.

If we remain in our current facility, we simply cannot continue to grow as an organization. The Lighthouse has planned well for this expansion. The new location is a cost-effective option that will meet the Lighthouse's current needs while providing flexibility for future growth.

The campaign will enable the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation to bring our vision for a brighter future into focus, impacting thousands more Georgians. With your investment, we can shine the light of hope into their lives, opening a new, vivid world of possibilities.

To learn more about this once in a lifetime opportunity, or to pledge your commitment to our capital campaign, please visit www.lionslighthouse.org.



First Annual Lighthouse Hearing Provider Training!

Hosted by Unitron and Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, January 25, 2010

The training session was well attended by hearing professionals that currently partner with the Lighthouse and a few new faces that would like to partner with us in the near future. It was not only a time for Lighthouse Providers to learn about the hearing products offered under the program and gain CEU credits, but also an opportunity for the Lighthouse to sincerely thank our providers for all they do for the Hearing Aid Program. All in attendance thought the training was helpful and should be offered every year. They all loved the food too!

We would like to thank Mike Winkler, Mary Kay Hess, and Natasha McPherson of Unitron hearing for hosting this session. Special thanks to the Lighthouse Advisory Committee members for attending the session, providing insight on coordinating the event, and spreading the word. If you weren't able to attend, be sure to come next year!



Pictured, from left to right: Terri Siegel of Audiological Consultants of Atlanta, Day Petersen of Atlanta Speech School, and Angeline Lockhart of Advanced Hearing Care.



Dr. Carla Spyies of Grady Health Systems

Inside the Lighthouse: Volunteer Coordinator Tiffany Ellerbee

When Tiffany Ellerbee joined the Lighthouse in July 2009 she was charged with increasing the number of volunteers by 30 percent. Since then she has doubled the number of volunteers who perform vision screenings, recycle eyeglasses, and help with administrative tasks. In only six months, she has proven herself an indispensable part of the team at the Lighthouse.

Tiffany is greatly expanding the Lighthouse's volunteer base. She helped the foundation partner with Disney in their "Give a Day, Get a Day" program, which has brought over 65 new faces to the Lighthouse to help wash and sort recycled eyeglasses. She also brought in volunteers from Emory University and a Korean American Coalition.

Prior to coming to the Lighthouse Foundation, Tiffany worked as an Americorps member at the Metro Atlanta Taskforce for the Homeless, the largest shelter in the Atlanta area. In addition to serving as the volunteer coordinator and orientation facilitator for the Taskforce, she worked with the Atlanta Street Soccer Team for the Homeless. The team was put together as a support system for the men, and at the end of the year they had to recruit an entirely new squad because every member had started a job.

"I enjoy performing my service at the Lighthouse Foundation," Tiffany says. "Volunteering is a joy to me, and Lighthouse volunteers are essential to our organization. Without them, we would not be able to provide service to the thousands of Georgians who rely on us each year."



Night of Spectacles

Our third annual Night of Spectacles will be Thursday, April 22nd at Mason Murer Fine Art.

The Night of Spectacles is a combination fashion show and silent auction, in which local design students create wearable dresses out of broken and scratched glasses. The students compete for a \$1,000 scholarship, and all proceeds from the event benefit our vision and hearing programs.

We are currently seeking sponsors and silent auction items. Sponsors are recognized in our communications, and are able to advertise at the event. The donated items are tax-deductible, and may include products, services, experiences, or gift certificates.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, sponsoring the event, or if you would like to submit a silent auction item, please contact Sarah Epting at 404-325-3630 x 306 or at septing@lionslighthouse.org.



A Legacy of Sight

Less than half of all adult Americans have a will. Those individuals are giving up their right to decide how their possessions are distributed, and passing that right over to the state. With a bit of advanced planning, you can exercise your rights and impact thousands of lives for generations to come.

The Lighthouse Foundation has a new tool to help you organize information and record your possessions. It helps you provide a clear, precise record of your personal and financial information. It can be used to prepare an estate plan, and it is also a convenient way of organizing information for your loved ones.

If you would like to help your family members or executor leave the legacy you choose, please contact Sarah Epting at 404-325-3630 x 306 or at septing@lionslighthouse.org.

For more information on the planned giving options at the Lighthouse, please visit www.lionslighthouse.org.

The Lions' Den

White Cane Packets Available Now!

We will be sending a White Cane Packet to your White Cane Chair, Associate Director, or club President soon. The 2010 White Cane Packet, letterhead, and samples for a letter-writing campaign can also be downloaded off our new website at www.lionslighthouse.org/lions (then click "White Cane" on the left). The packet includes an information sheet about the Lighthouse Foundation, new fundraising ideas, and other information to help plan and organize your fundraiser. You can also submit your White Cane Chair and goal online.

In addition, we have up to three Lighthouse eye surgery posters for each club. Please contact Kim at kfletcher@lionslighthouse.org or at 404-325-3630 x 313 to request White Cane supplies and to submit your club's White Cane Chair and Goal.

The January Meeting and Capital Campaign Kick Off

The Lighthouse is pleased to announce that this year's January meeting went very well! Attendees were able to tour both the current Lighthouse and our future home. They also had the chance to listen to three client speakers. If you were not able to attend, you can view videos from the lunch on our new website at www.lionslighthouse.org/lions (then click on "Lighthouse Meetings" on the left).



Ask the Lighthouse

Our boxes for recycling eye-glasses at Wal-Mart were removed. What happened?

Wal-Mart recently announced a new partnership with Lions Clubs International for collecting eyeglasses. Wal-Mart is still collecting the glasses, and they are going on overseas mission trips through Lions Clubs International, so they are still going toward the same goal. They just will not be using the boxes from the local Lions Clubs. The Lions and the Lighthouse will continue the eyeglass recycling efforts in other places.

If you would like a box for your eye-glass recycling drive, please contact Tiffany at 404-325-3636 x 308 or at tellerbee@lionslighthouse.org.

Thank you!

