



The Beacon

June 2010

The Light Shines Twice—Sandy Mercer's Story

Sandra Mercer was a mother of three and a dental assistant when she started to develop cataracts. She did her best to continue her career, but she strained to work with small instruments even while wearing both glasses and contacts. Sandy later lost her job, making it impossible to afford the expensive eyewear she needed. She turned to the Lighthouse for help.



All Sandy wanted was a pair of glasses in order to get by. She wound up speaking with associate director Victoria Jordan, who knew the Lighthouse could provide much more. "We're not just going to get you glasses," said Victoria. "We're going to get you surgery."

Sandra's cataract surgery was a success, and she has resumed her career as a dental assistant. "When things look dark and despairing," she says, "we just need to keep our eyes on God. Everything is so bright and clear now."

The cataract surgery was not the first time Sandy's life was changed by the Lighthouse. When she was 18-months old, measles left Sandy's eyes crossed. All her life, children had teased her. "You know the saying, 'Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me?'" Well it's just not true. My self-esteem was very damaged by name-calling."

As a fourth-grader, Sandy was walking home from school when Lion Curtis Proveaux took note of her crossed eyes. Determined to help, he talked to her parents about surgeries provided by the Georgia Lions Lighthouse. Her parents were thrilled beyond words. Four surgeries later, Sandra went back to school "looking just like everyone else."

"Twice, the Lions Lighthouse has given me a new life with clear vision. I've been blessed with two miracles."

Sandy's story is possibly only because of the generosity of donors and volunteers at the Lighthouse. If you would like to get involved, please contact us at 404-325-3630 or visit us online at www.lionslighthouse.org. Thank you!

LaVista Lions Find an 'All-Star' Way to 'Assist' the Hearing Impaired!

The nation's first basketball camp for the hearing impaired will celebrate its thirty-first anniversary this summer. Former NBA player Mike Glenn was first introduced to the deaf community in the 1950s when his father accepted a teaching position at the Georgia School for the Deaf. Members of his father's basketball team adopted Mike into their culture and taught him sign language, later becoming some of Mike's first heroes. Mike knew from a young age that he wanted to contribute to the deaf community by giving deaf athletes chances they have not had before.

Years later, the result is the annual Mike Glenn Hearing Impaired Basketball Camp. It is a free, week-long camp open to approximately 100 hearing challenged kids aged 13-18 that starts in the third week of June. The camp is held right here in Atlanta with participants from multiple states in the Southeast and Southwest. Our own LaVista Lions Club has been actively involved with the camp for ten years. Lions members hold a banquet for parents and campers on the last day of camp. Helping with the camp is a unique way to aid the hearing challenged community. Program Chair of the LaVista Lions, Don Smith, summarizes the camp philosophy aptly when he says "Sports transcend some of the differences in life more than anything else." Anyone who is interested in contributing to the camp can contact Don Smith at (404)-633-4648.



The Lions Lighthouse hearing aid recycling program is another worthwhile project for those looking to aid the hearing impaired of Georgia. Over the past four years, income generated from recycled hearing aids has drastically decreased from \$14,000 to approximately \$5,000. Getting involved with the recycling program or holding a hearing screening are excellent causes to consider if you want to assist the hearing impaired community of Georgia. If you are aware of any audiologists interested in working with the Lighthouse, or if you are interested in one of the above mentioned projects, please contact Sharifa Peart, Director of Hearing Services at the Lions Lighthouse, at (404) 325-3630 ext 305.

Lions State Convention a Success

The 2010 Lighthouse meeting at the Lions' State Convention was an emotional event. Mark Miller gave his final address as Lighthouse Board Chair, and he passed the torch on to Gary Vaughters. Mark also presented a picture of a bear to several people for the work they have put into the Lighthouse over the last year. The Lighthouse staff very much appreciate all the work the board members have put into the foundation this year. You all are wonderful!

Three Lions Clubs—LaGrange, Cartersville, and Dalton—pledged a total of \$20,000 to the Lighthouse Capital Campaign. Those funds will be put to great use helping fund the Lighthouse's expansion. We are grateful to all the Lions, Lions Clubs, and friends of the foundation who are helping us bring the future into focus!

The Lighthouse's guest for the evening was Tommy Mullis. Tommy and his wife Mary both received hearing aids through the Lighthouse in March. He is a retired farmer, and the two currently run a daycare out of their home in Tifton. It is work they certainly could not do without the ability to hear the kids. While Tommy complains that he may now be able to hear his grandchildren too much, he is grateful for the problem. He also appreciates that he is able to hear the sermon in church again, an impossible feat six months ago.

Phillip Feibish and Associates, LLC Donates Hours of I.T. Consulting

The staff at the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation would like to thank Phillip Feibish for his generous and unexpected donation of dozens of hours of Information Technology consulting. Phillip submitted an invoice of \$0 after doing over \$3,500 worth of work on our IT systems. His work is helping the Lighthouse run much more efficiently and effectively. He enclosed the following letter:

Dear Christina and Sarah:

I have attached an invoice for my recent work at Georgia Lions Lighthouse. It has been a pleasure working with your entire team.

You may wonder about the invoice total. My father suffers from diabetic retinopathy and is legally blind. His blindness and routine dialysis, transportation, accessibility, and related medical needs have significantly impacted his lifestyle and the lifestyle/schedule of our entire family. We have learned to appreciate those who help.

I have been overwhelmingly impressed with the service the Lions Lighthouse provides to the community. Your work is important, and your team is tremendous. I understand first-hand that it makes a difference.

Please consider this small amount of work my way of saying thank you. I apologize that I cannot continue to volunteer all of my services, but I hope we've managed to get your IT systems more settled.

I would be honored to be considered to help you meet your future IT needs, but I also understand that Georgia Lions Lighthouse may require a vendor with better short-notice availability. This transition between vendors has been unusual, but a planned and funded project would be more predictable and easier to execute. If I can help in any way, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Phillip Feibish
Phillip Feibish & Associates, LLC
pfeibish@gmail.com



Leave a Legacy with the Lighthouse



You can provide now for a future gift to the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation by including a bequest provision in your will or revocable trust. Planned gifts provide valuable resources that will help sustain the Lighthouse as we strive to provide all Georgians with vision and hearing care. Some of the benefits of a bequest are:

- Your assets remain in your control during your lifetime.
- You can modify your bequest if your circumstances change.
- There is no upper limit on the estate tax deduction for charitable bequests given to the Lighthouse Foundation.
- You can have the satisfaction now of knowing that the legacy of your bequest is our continued work that will help change lives for years to come.

You may also consider making a gift of appreciated securities. For more information, please consult your tax advisor and contact Sarah at 404-325-3630 x 306.

The Lions' Den

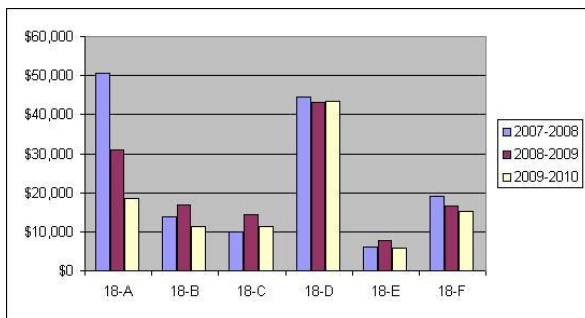
There are Two Weeks Left to Make White Cane Donations this Fiscal Year!

We truly appreciate every Lion and every Lions Club that has worked to fund sight-saving surgeries for Georgians in financial need. This year, White Cane fundraisers have brought in \$115,000. Without those funds, hundreds of Georgians would not have received surgery. However, if we do not meet our goal, there will be eligible clients who do not receive surgeries in the future.



If your Lions Club has not yet donated to White Cane, please encourage them to give any amount that is meaningful to them. To date, 112 of the 247 Lions Clubs in the state have given. Over the last three years, the number of clubs giving and the amount of the donation has decreased in many districts.

The graph at the left represents giving in each of the last three years for each district. As you can see, donations in every district except 18D are down from 2008-2009, and our goal was not met last year. We understand that fundraisers are not bringing in as much as they have in the past, which means we need to meet the decrease in contributions per club with an increase in clubs participating.



Any contribution, no matter the amount, is greatly appreciated. A \$1,000 gift would change a life dramatically by making a cataract surgery possible. But a \$25 gift could also improve someone's quality of life and help them find or keep a job by making a pair of glasses available.

What can you do to help prevent Georgians from having to use a white cane?

Congratulations to All the 2009-2010 Award Winners!

The following awards were presented at the State Convention over Memorial Day weekend:

Mildred Bingham Award

Conny Shirley

District Director Award

Fletcher Dunn

District Governor Award

Grace Clower

Ken Massingale Award

LaVista Lions Club

Hearing Award

LaVista Lions Club

Highest Increase in Total Giving

Towns County Lions Club

Leo Club Award

Clarke County Middle School Leo Club

Lighthouse Contribution Award

Large Clubs:

1st—Towns County Lions Club

2nd—Jasper Lions Club

3rd—Ellijay Lions Club

Medium Clubs:

1st—Forsyth County Lions Club

2nd—Dawsonville Lions Club

3rd—East Cobb Lions Club

Small Clubs:

1st—Rincon Lions Club

2nd—Albany Lions Club

3rd—Hephzibah Lions Club

White Cane Contribution Award

Large Clubs:

1st—Union County Lions Club

2nd—Towns County Lions Club

3rd—Atlanta Metro Lions Club

Medium Clubs:

1st—South Cobb Lions Club

2nd—Clarksville Lions Club

3rd—Toccoa Lions Club

Small Clubs:

1st—Albany Lions Club

2nd(T)—Tifton Lions Club

2nd(T)—Rincon Lions Club