



Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

White Cane Update

Lions of Georgia provide support for the Lighthouse in many ways. You volunteer at vision clinics, collect and sort used eyeglasses, fundraise for the capital campaign, and participate in White Cane. Lions are the backbone of the Lighthouse. And while each of these activities is important, only White Cane is essential to the continued operation of the Lighthouse eye surgery program.

This year, we set the goal for White Cane at \$167,500. As of March 15th, we are at \$23,422 for the year. So far, only one club from District B has contributed.

Why is White Cane so important?

Your Lighthouse has many wonderful programs. Underinsured Georgians receive eyeglasses, exams, and hearing aids because of the work you do with the Lighthouse. People all over the world receive their first pair of glasses through the recycled eyeglass program. While each of these programs impacts lives, we have few chances to make as big a difference as a simple cataract surgery. Prior to a cataract surgery, many patients cannot see to drive, to read, or to work. They describe cataracts as “having a cloud” over their eyes. However, the procedure often allows them to completely regain their sight.

Lighthouse surgery recipient Bruce Lynn worked in construction before developing cataracts. He was determined to work, so when he could not see well enough to be on rooftops he started a job at a restaurant instead. Bruce worked the night shift and drove back streets home, because bright light blinded him completely. Now that he has had his surgery he can drive during the day, and he is trying to return to working in the construction business. To the Lions of Georgia the surgery was \$1,000. To Bruce it was his life.

Nearly 20 years ago, Cheryl “Deedee” Tisdale was working at a manufacturing plant when she injured her right eye. She received a corneal tissue transplant to save her sight, but her visual acuity was still only 20/200. Last year, her body started to reject the graft. She suffered through intense pain until the Lighthouse was able to provide a transplant. Today the forty-four year old is pain free, has 20/40 vision in her right eye, and is back in school studying for her degree in business. All of this was made possible through contributions from White Cane fundraisers.



At your Lighthouse, we understand that now is a tough time for fundraising. Many Georgians are counting every penny. However, that is precisely why White Cane more important now than it has ever been. Unemployment in Georgia is over 10%. When the unemployed develop eye diseases, it makes it that much more difficult for them to return to work. Help a Georgian regain his or her life. Hold a White Cane fundraiser.



Brian McCann Joins the Capital Campaign Team



Georgia Lions
Lighthouse Foundation

With the support of the Georgia Lions, we are over one-third of the way to our \$2.75 million goal! Over a million dollars have been raised for our capital campaign. In addition, Atlanta Braves catcher Brian McCann agreed to be our honorary campaign chair.



Brian McCann
Honorary Campaign Chair
Atlanta Braves Catcher

McCann suffered from blurry vision last year after a LASIK surgery in 2007. He was only able to continue playing professional baseball because of a special pair of glasses made to fit under his mask and to give him peripheral vision.



“Losing my sight could have cost me my job,” he says. “Fortunately, I had access to quality eye care that kept me in the game and doing what I love. Each year, the Georgia Lions Lighthouse helps thousands of Georgians to see and hear the sights and sounds that help them to be productive and fulfilled. Please support their efforts.”

We are excited about the addition of McCann to our campaign team. Keep an eye on our new website at www.lionslighthouse.org to see a video with McCann’s reasons for supporting the Lighthouse’s capital campaign. To learn more about the campaign and discover where the funds are going, please visit our website or contact Kyle at 404-325-3630 x 334 or at kgalenski@lionslighthouse.org.

Lighthouse Capital Campaign FAQ:

How will individuals be recognized for their capital campaign contributions?

There will be a recognition wall at the new home of the Lighthouse. Permanent recognition for individuals starts at \$2,500. There will also be a directory of all donors in the new building. Please remember that pledges can be fulfilled over three years.

How will my club be recognized for its capital campaign contribution?

All clubs giving over \$1,000 will receive a commemorative banner patch. Clubs giving at the \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$15,000 levels will receive permanent recognition in the building. Naming opportunities are available from \$20,000.

Will my individual contribution count for my club?

On the recognition wall, individual and club contributions can be double-counted. For example, say John Doe from Roaring Rock Lions Club contributes \$5,000 and his club contributes \$10,000. Lion John will be recognized as an individual at the \$5,000 level, and Roaring Rock will be recognized at the \$15,000 level.

Can my individual contribution count toward my club’s pledged amount?

No. When Lions Clubs make pledges to the capital campaign, it is with the expectation that the amount of the pledge will come from the club’s account. Any additional funds given by the individuals in a club will count toward the amount the club is recognized for in the end, but not toward the club’s original pledge.

To find out more about recognition and naming opportunities, please contact Kyle at kgalenski@lionslighthouse.org.

Lighthouse Awards

Qualifications for Lighthouse awards are now on our website at lionslighthouse.org/lions/awards. There are awards available for individuals, Lions Clubs, Lioness Clubs, and Leo Clubs.

For the awards that ask for applications, please send in a letter describing why you think your club (or an individual in your club) is the most qualified for the award.

The deadline for award nominations is April 30th. Please send your nominations and applications to:

Kyle Galenski
Georgia Lions Lighthouse
1775 Clairmont Rd.
Decatur, GA 30033

Or e-mail him at kgalenski@lionslighthouse.org.