



Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

Saving Lives: Bruce Lynn's Story

Bruce Lynn is determined to work, against all odds. He had worked in construction for two years, despite rapidly developing cataracts. Although he could eventually only see a few feet in front of him, Bruce kept working until his company was downsized and he was laid off.

Bruce found another job, in a restaurant, although it paid much less than he had earned in construction. He lost his home and moved in with his mother. By this time, his vision was so bad that co-workers had to clock him in and out, and driving in daylight had become impossible. So Bruce worked the night shift.

“Like Dracula, I had to race home before the sun came up. I kept six pairs of sunglasses in the truck. To be able to stay on dark roads, my route included a one-lane bridge. One night, the bridge was being repaired and I couldn't see that it was closed. I finally heard a policeman running after me and hollering for me to stop. When I pulled over, he came up to my widow to tell me to make a U-turn. If he'd given me a ticket, I wouldn't have been able to sign it. Another time I came up on a lane closed for construction and drove right past the worker with a sign telling cars in my lane to stop. Suddenly cars were coming straight at me and I had to drive into a ditch. That guy with the sign is probably still blessing me out. After that, I knew I had to stop driving. And I thank God I didn't kill someone.”



Bruce's only hope for continued employment was cataract surgeries. He went to a Medicaid office, explaining that he wasn't looking for a handout and would pay back the cost of surgeries.

“They said they don't loan money. And that I didn't qualify for Medicaid because cataracts aren't a permanent disability. Then I heard about the Lighthouse. I knew the Lord touched the blind so they could see. Through the Lighthouse, the Lord touched my eyes.”

Now Bruce drives himself to work and back, even in daylight. He also looks forward to returning to construction, when the economy recovers. In addition to changing his life, Bruce credits the Lighthouse with saving his mother as well. Bruce was at home after his surgery when he heard banging on the table behind him. He turned to see his mother choking on a piece of steak. He says if he had not been able to see, he would not have known she was in trouble. Instead, as he puts it, “Because of the Lighthouse, because I could see, I was able to do the Heimlich maneuver and save her life. She's fine right now, and it's all because of the Lord and the Lighthouse and all that you all do. And I surely do thank you.”

To hear Bruce's story in his own words, go to www.lionslighthouse.org/lions, then click on “Lighthouse Meetings” on the left.





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Extending the Lighthouse's Beacon of Hope

The Lighthouse is fully focused on serving more people who are in desperate need of vision and hearing services that no one else provides. We recently launched a \$2.75 million capital campaign to bring this brighter future into focus by providing the space and equipment for enhanced programmatic capacity, including:

- A 14,000 square foot facility that will more than double the current space. A portion of the facility will be leased for three years, providing earned income and the option for future growth;
- A fully-equipped onsite eye clinic with two exam lanes;
- An optical shop that will give the Lighthouse the ability to fit, adjust, and dispense eyewear, reducing the cost of eyeglasses from \$35 to \$5 per pair; and
- A second mobile eye clinic van to significantly increase vision services.

As a result of the campaign, it is anticipated that program volume will increase by 67 percent by 2013, from a total of 4,317 to 7,200 people each year. If you have any questions about the Lighthouse's capital campaign, please contact Kyle at kgalenski@lionslighthouse.org, or visit our website at www.lionslighthouse.org.

2009 Service Numbers

Our 2009 service numbers are in!

- **2,854** Georgians received **4,448** points of service through our mobile clinic program
- **1** new clinic was opened in Rome, bringing the state-wide total to **13**.
- **933** Georgians received **1700** hearing aids. **92** of them are 18D residents.
- **295** eye surgeries were provided by the Lighthouse.
- More than **100,000** pairs of glasses were received in our eyeglass recycling center to be distributed overseas on mission trips, at nursing homes, homeless shelters, and migrant worker camps.

White Cane Days are Upon Us!

White Cane Days are in full swing! We would like to thank the many clubs who have already hosted White Cane events to help fund your Lighthouse's eye surgery program. The goal this year is to raise \$167,500 through the program.

So far, we have received White Cane goals from eight of 18D's 43 clubs. We use the White Cane goals to help set the surgery budget for the year, so it would be very helpful if they were submitted as soon as possible. You can submit your club's White Cane chair and goal online at www.lionslighthouse.org/lions (then click on "White Cane" on the left).



Sandy Mercer, Cataract Surgery

Go Green with Your Fundraiser!

Support the Lighthouse and help clean up your community with recycling drives. Fundingfactory.com will buy your businesses' used ink cartridges. Pirkle, Inc buys and recycles aluminum cans and used appliances. They can be reached at 404-525-1464 or online at pirkleinc.com. You can also recycle used electronics and jewelry at green-recycling-fundraiser.org.

Need Help with a Grant or Press Release?

If you are writing a grant request or press release, and you would like service numbers or success stories from your area, please contact Kim at kfletcher@lionslighthouse.org. Thank you for all you do for your Lighthouse!