



Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

The Surgery Program Needs Your Support!

While your Lighthouse has many vision and hearing programs, the surgery program stands out for making a huge impact in a very short amount of time. Many of the clients in the program would have gone blind without intervention. Their surgeries allow them to return to work, regain their independence, and in at least one case, save another's life*.

Support for the program comes from two major sources—the doctors and White Cane. Our volunteer doctors deeply discount their services, providing their surgeries at about one-fifth the market value. Therefore, it costs the Lighthouse around \$1,000 for a cataract surgery that would normally cost \$5,000. However, the discounts are not enough to ensure every eligible Georgian can receive a surgery; we need your help!

White Cane makes the surgery program possible. Our goal this year was \$167,000 for the fundraiser. So far, we have raised just over \$100,000. It is a great start, but we need your help to get the rest of the way there. We do not want to have to turn eligible applicants away because we are not able to fund their surgeries.

At last count, 21 of District F's 42 clubs had contributed to White Cane. The ultimate goal is to have 100 percent participation. Can you help get your club involved? Every donation, no matter the amount, helps a Georgian in need.

If your club already participated in White Cane, thank you! If you haven't, we would love to help you get started! To request White Cane bookmarks, flyers, or posters, please contact Kim at kfletcher@lionslighthouse.org or 404-325-3630. To order mini white canes or buckets for a bucket drive, please contact White Cane Days, Inc. at 626-307-9569. Thank you!

* Find out how Bruce Lynn's surgery saved his mother's life by watching his video testimonial on our website!

Night of Spectacles a Success!

The third annual Night of Spectacles was a great success! The event grossed over \$105,000 for our vision and hearing programs. There were a record 17 dresses in the design competition, with students from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), Brenau University, and Georgia Southern University. Congratulations to SCAD students Mariana Gutierrez and Rebecca Fahrner for winning the competition and a \$1,000 scholarship!

The auctions also went very well, with items including an incredible wooden table hand-crafted by Lion John Rudert, a two-night stay at the Ritz-Carlton on Lake Oconee, a number of date nights in Atlanta, and LASIK surgery from some of the best doctors in the Southeast. Many thanks to everyone who donated to the auctions!



May is Better Hearing Month!



Even when people have insurance, hearing aids are often considered “cosmetic” and are not covered. At \$1,500 to \$5,000, they are out of reach for most low-income and many middle-income families. The Lighthouse and the Georgia Public Service Commission partner to make these essential devices accessible to Georgians in financial need. We are currently the only provider of low-cost hearing aids in the state.

Hearing aids truly change lives. Seventy percent of our employed hearing clients say their aids helped them keep their job. Almost 90 percent believe the hearing aids helped them perform better on the job. One of our clients, George McElrath, often relays his story of looking for employment and being unable to hear. He sat in a room with an interviewer, and couldn't understand the questions the man was asking him. As frightening as interviewing can be, no one should have to endure it with a limiting condition that can be treated so easily.

If you or someone you know has a hearing disability but is unable to afford hearing aids, please contact the Lighthouse. To donate to the hearing program, please contact us at 404-325-3630 or visit us online at www.lionslighthouse.org.

Service Numbers Update

From July 1—March 31:

729 Georgians received **1336** hearing aids through the Lighthouse's digital hearing aid program.

1,482 people had their eyes tested at a Lighthouse vision clinic, a 27 percent increase over last year.

2475 Georgians received a pair of glasses at Lighthouse clinics and optical shops, a 33 percent increase over last year.

211 sight saving surgeries were performed, and **7** people received a lens to correct keratoconus or a prosthetic eye.

North Georgia—Mountain City Warrior Dash



We are looking for 25 volunteers to work at the Warrior Dash in Mountain City (about 2 hours north of Atlanta) on Saturday, May 22nd. The shift is from 8:00am—2:00 pm.

Location:

Blue Ridge Camp & Resort
355 Playhouse Dr.
Mountain City, GA 30562

What you get for volunteering:

If we can get 25 people to the event, Warrior Dash will donate \$1,000 to the Lighthouse. Each volunteer also receives a Warrior Dash t-shirt, and a helmet like the one pictured. In addition, we will credit your club with the

appropriate proportion of the \$1,000 depending on the number of people you bring (e.g., if 10 of the 25 volunteers are in your club, the club be credited with \$400).

What is expected from the volunteers:

All volunteers must be over 18 years old. Volunteers will devote full-time attention and energies to Warrior Dash and during the agreed time slot, will not engage in any other activity. Warrior Dash is an extreme event bringing along an intense work environment. Your duties, along with the event staff's, involve maintaining a safe atmosphere for all participants, spectators, etc. Duties may include packet pick up, answering participant questions, managing parking, overseeing obstacles, taking photos, etc. The event will go on rain or shine.

If you would like to help the Lighthouse by volunteering at the Warrior Dash, please contact Kim at 404-325-3620 or at kfletcher@lionslighthouse.org with your name, e-mail address, and phone number. Thank you!