



Georgia Lions
Lighthouse Foundation

Annual Report & Fall Newsletter 2011



September 2011

Better Vision. Better Hearing. Better Georgia.



Lover of Languages Hears Again

David Nguyen appreciates the little pleasures in life: the birds singing on his afternoon walks, listening to sermons on Sundays, and the sound of his footsteps on his wooden floor. With an infectious sunny disposition and unending goodwill, David makes the best of any situation.

After emigrating from Vietnam to Georgia nearly 18 years ago, David found himself faced with not only an entirely new country, but an entirely new life. He had to adapt and eventually found a job teaching French at the high school and elementary school level, until retirement.

Recently, David faced a hard truth: 50% of his hearing was gone. He couldn't communicate clearly with his loved ones. Living on a pension made the \$3,000 price tag on hearing aids an impossibility. David, once again, had to adapt. Then, David was referred to Sharifa Peart in the Lighthouse's hearing aid program. David's family and the members of his church happily helped with the copayment.

Now that David can hear again, he's been able to embrace his first love: languages. He speaks five languages, and he's currently learning Spanish from his pastor in exchange for French lessons. He frequently watches Spanish television, and eagerly looks forward to becoming fluent. He is extremely grateful to the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation for giving him this gift.

***Vous m'avez donné un grand plaisir. —David Nguyen
(You have given me a great pleasure.)***

5,722 People Served Last Year



Lighthouse opens first clinic and infant Haven is first patient to receive glasses. Read more on page 3.



Clinics open in new cities, serving clients in every district. See page 3.



News & Updates



A Note from Our Chair

You can feel the energy when you walk through the front door; phones ringing, new partnerships being forged, excitement brewing beyond each office door. Change is in the air at the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation. We have embraced the “Think Big” mentality over the last few years, and it’s shown.

Thanks to your generosity in the Capital Campaign, we have moved into a new building, which has allowed us to open our first on-site vision clinic and optical shop. We have streamlined the application process by putting vision and hearing applications online. More Georgians than ever are gaining access to the essential services we provide. Your unwavering support has allowed us to make such improvements, and we cannot thank you enough. If you gave a gift in the last year or are a medical provider who has donated their time, please look for your name at

the end of this report. Read through the accomplishments and news so that you may better understand where your Lighthouse has been and where it is heading. Let’s rally behind the Lighthouse this year, and make our big dreams for Georgia residents into a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Vaughters', written over a light blue background.

Gary Vaughters
Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, Board Chair

Wrapping up a \$2.75 million Capital Campaign

The Lighthouse grows into a new home



We began 2010 crowded into offices, sharing phones and lacking storage space. As vision applications increased 27%, and staff nearly doubled, it became clear that we needed a larger space to better handle the demands of an organization on the rise.

And so, in the face of a floundering economy, we began a drive to give the Lighthouse a new home. It was a bold step, but the campaign succeeded beyond all expectations. Finishing in less than a year and quickly surpassing its \$2.75 million goal, the campaign funded not only the purchase and renovation of a 14,000 square foot office, but additions such as an elevator and memorial garden.

To all our generous donors and supporters, we thank you for your efforts. This year’s campaign was just the boost needed to take Lighthouse services to the next level. Thank you again, for your investment in the future of vision and hearing care in Georgia.



Better Vision

Lighthouse Foundation Opens Optical Lab

Over the past few years, the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation has reinvented our service model to provide a growing number of clients quicker access to the care they need.

Two years ago, Lighthouse Board member, Mary Lynch, MD approached Christina Lennon with the idea of creating an on-site optical lab for serving clients based on a similar program offered at the VA.

Last June, that goal was realized, as the Lighthouse opened its first-ever optical lab to work in tandem with the vision clinic. Every Tuesday to Thursday, optician James Brooks—with the assistance of steady volunteer, Hank Ferry—prepares and ships prescription glasses to Georgians all over the state. On a busy day, James and Hank prepare upwards of 50 orders.

The time saved in the optical lab allows the vision clinics to see more people. The Lighthouse has also been able to triple the number of vision clinics at our headquarters. “This is a great direction for the Lighthouse to move in,” says veteran optician James. “The on-site lab helps us improve the quality of our services and reduce costs.”

The future of the clinic and optical lab? Even with the expansion of services, there is still an 8-month waiting list for clients to receive an eye exam. With proper funding, the Lighthouse aims to provide more on-site services than ever, allowing individuals and families access to quality care at a fraction of the conventional cost.



A six month old, Haven, was the first patient to receive eyeglasses from our optical lab. Haven was born with many medical problems including poor vision. She was fitted for a -10 prescription, which means she would be blind without correction.

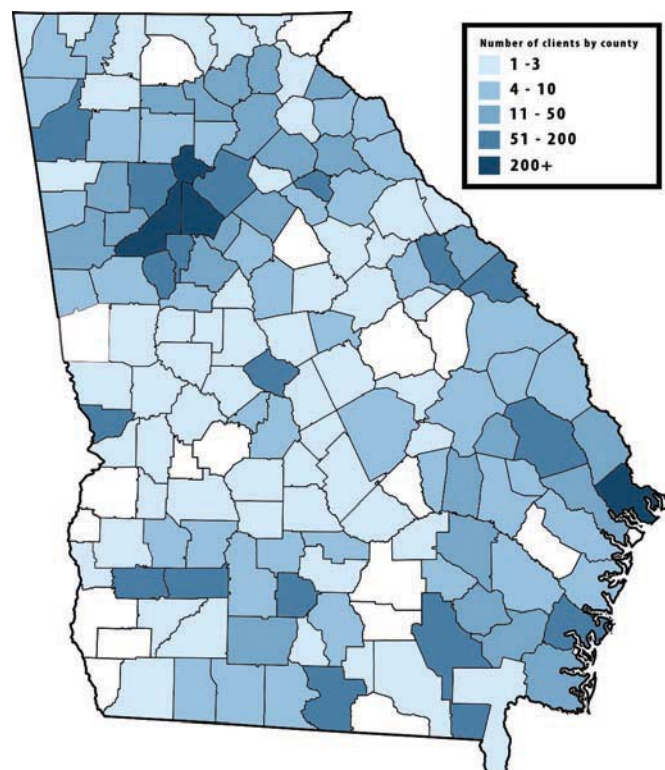
Her mother and grandmother looked on with joy as Haven, wearing her new glasses, opened her eyes and saw clearly for the first time.

In 2011, Clinics Serve More Clients than Ever

The Lighthouse’s vision clinic program has continued growing this past year.

Since January of 2011, the Lighthouse opened new clinic locations in Atlanta, Chatsworth, Temple, and Morrow. These mobile clinics are in constant need of help. Volunteers have the opportunity to make a big difference and to see first-hand the Lighthouse’s impact on the lives of Georgia residents. “We benefit greatly from clinic volunteers,” says Caren Kaplan, one of the clinic coordinators. “Without them, we wouldn’t be able to spend as much time with our patients and ensuring their needs are met.”

To volunteer at a clinic, contact Judith Kerr at jkerr@lionslighthouse.org or by phone at 404-325-3630.



Better Georgia

Making a Difference—The Lighthouse Measures Its Impact

The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation has always worked under the firm conviction that better vision and better hearing leads to a better quality of life. Since 1949, medical partners and volunteers have joined the Lighthouse in this belief, working together to bring sight and hearing to thousands of Georgians.

Since 2008, clients have been presented pre- and post-assistance surveys to gauge our impact. These “outcome measurements” gauge the improvement in our client’s quality of life, additional needs and any improvements can be made.

Many clients were not attending their follow-up appointments, because clients forgot or were too busy, and we had no follow-up system. The Follow-up Care Coordinator position was established this year to address this issue. Now, 80% of patients attend their follow-up appointments.

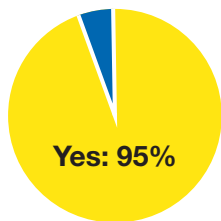
Medical professionals have the opportunity to provide feedback. “Everything we do is through our partnerships,” says Sharifa Peart, the Lighthouse’ Hearing Aid Director who has spearheaded the program. “We try to reach out to everyone, which helps ensure that we continue to provide the best service year after year.”



Eye Surgery Impact

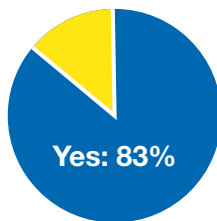
Before Surgery

My vision limits my ability to read

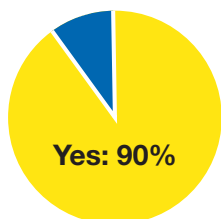


After Surgery

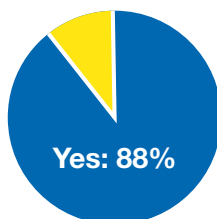
I am able to read again



My vision limits my ability to drive



I am able to drive again



93%

of hearing aid recipients are very satisfied or satisfied with their hearing improvement.

91%

of eye surgery recipients feel more independent.

4 out of 5

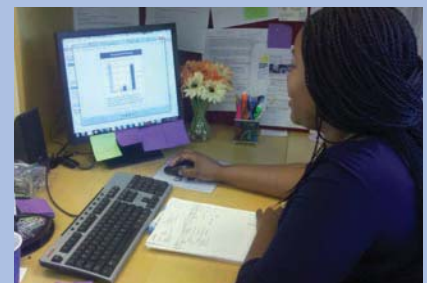
eyeglass recipients feel more confident with their new eyeglasses.

79%

of hearing aid recipients no longer have to struggle to hear and understand questions.

97%

of clients who receive eyeglasses are satisfied with services offered at the Lighthouse.



Sharifa measures service impact on quality of life.



A Year in Photos



Gary and Board sign off on the new building.



Dr. Stephanie Vanderveldt walks the runway at *Night of Spectacles!*



Temple clinic opens.



Dawsonville Lions Club performs a vision screening.



Jacki Dixon and Georgia Taylor relax after a board meeting.



Roswell Lions Club takes medical mission trip to Costa Rica.

Better Hearing

Grady Partnership Makes Ear Care Accessible

This past year, the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation was thrilled to announce a new partnership with Grady Health Systems, our latest effort to bring hearing care to low-income Georgians. Partnering with the Lighthouse Foundation allows Grady to distribute hearing aids for the first time in ten years. Although they were previously hindered by the high cost of hearing aids, Grady can now provide patients with hearing tests, ear molds and fittings, and a central location for follow-up care.

“This expansion of services was made possible through our partnership with the Lighthouse Foundation,” says Dr. Sutherland. “With access to the GLLF’s hearing aid assistance program, our patients receive brand new hearing aids for an average cost of \$120.” Grady Health Systems and the Lighthouse share a strong commitment to serving the poor and disenfranchised.

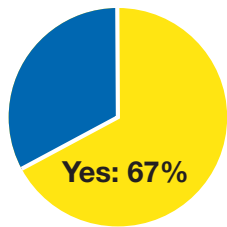
The Lighthouse looks forward to continuing this partnership with Grady to ensure that our clients have access to quality hearing healthcare.

“For me, the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation was the answer to a prayer. My hearing was leaving me, but they helped restore a great joy that I have-communicating with people.”
—Mary, Arlington, Hearing Recipient



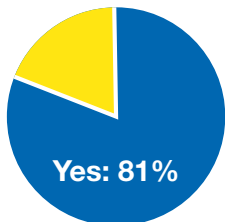
Before Hearing Aids

My hearing loss is a severe handicap

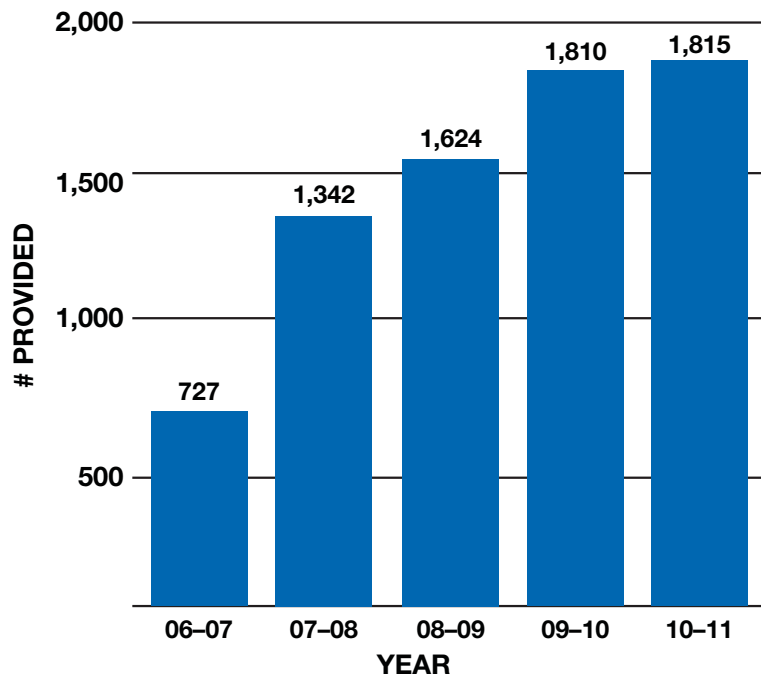


After Hearing Aids

I feel that I have no handicap



Hearing Aids Provided 2006–2011



Eye Surgery Update

Eye surgery helps father keep job



Albert Streete with his family

The Lighthouse's eye surgery program serves uninsured Georgians, below the poverty line, who have been denied Medicaid.

Georgia has the 5th highest uninsured rate in the US.

Albert Streete was worried when he started seeing dark spots in his vision. When he went to the eye doctor, his diagnosis was much more serious than he imagined: he had a detached retina that was torn in four places. Without immediate correction, he would be blind within a few months.

His options were limited. He works at a non-profit home for the developmentally challenged, and though he loves his job, the basic insurance coverage provided through his employer didn't cover eye surgeries.

His doctor referred him to the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation. After applying, he received his surgery within a week. Six months later, his retina tore again, and after receiving another surgery Albert's vision is doing fine.

"I don't know what I would've done," says Albert, who can now enjoy watching his four kids grow up. "What the Lions Lighthouse is doing is tremendous, and I want to thank all that contribute to make sure we can serve all those in desperate need."

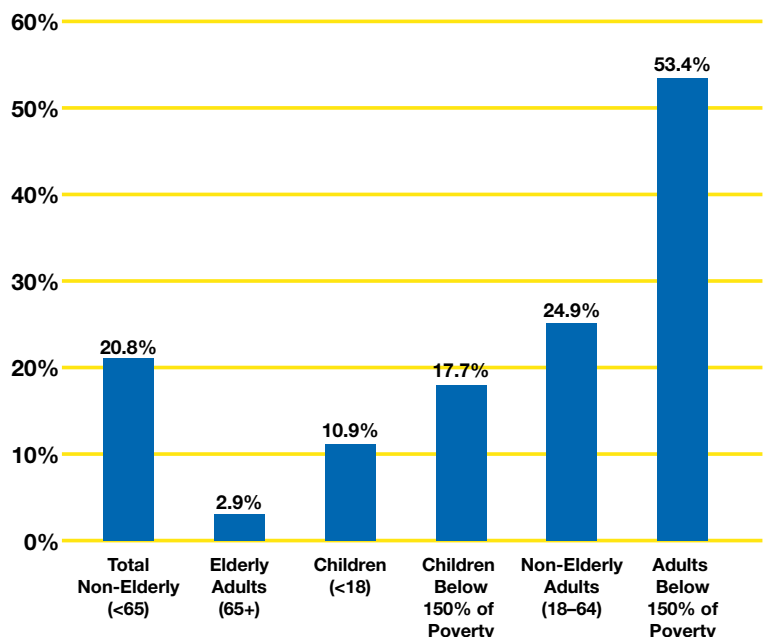
Demand for surgery rises due to economy

As of this year, the Lighthouse is the only organization providing assistance for eye surgery to Georgians in financial need. The Lighthouse partners with ophthalmologists and hospitals to provide over 300 sight-saving surgeries each year.

The need is urgent. With Georgia's high unemployment and uninsured rates, many find themselves in need of procedures and yet unable to pay for them. Countless individuals are visually impaired from cataracts and often not considered disabled, thus are denied Medicaid assistance.

With an ever-growing demand and limited grant funding for eye surgeries, donations are needed more than ever for this program. We are extremely grateful for our medical partners for donating their time and resources to provide these services to Georgians.

Georgia Uninsured Rates for Selected Populations



Supporting the Lighthouse

A Legacy of Service

The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation served 5,722 Georgians last year with the help of the medical community, Lions of Georgia and others engaged in our cause. In order to continue expanding our services, the Lighthouse is looking for 100 individuals to join our Legacy Society.

Charitable gift annuities are the second most frequently chosen method of making a gift after a direct bequest. Consider the benefits:

- 1. A gift annuity can pay 5% to 7%, higher than the highest CD listing.**
- 2. Your gift annuity payments are partially tax-free.**
- 3. Gift annuities have guarantees and the income will not change.**
- 4. A gift annuity can be structured to payout for two people, providing support for your loved one.**

To join the Legacy Society, contact Sarah Epting at septing@lionslighthouse.org or 770-738-4679.

“Creating a legacy of service should be important to all Lions. I urge you to join me by considering designating the Lighthouse in your will or giving a charitable gift annuity.”

– Bill Mundy, Dahlonga Lion & Legacy Society member

The Lighthouse Foundation Relaunches Luminary Society



More than 45% of our funding comes from government grants and foundations, but today’s uncertain economic and political climate makes these channels an increasingly unstable funding source.

Individual gifts to the Lighthouse currently account for less than 2% of Lighthouse’s funding. According to Giving USA, the national average of individual donations to 501(c)3 organizations hovers around 75%.

In order to begin bridging this gap, we are revamping the Luminary Society, and aim to have 100 members by 2012. The members of the Luminary Society make an annual pledge of \$1,000 to the Lighthouse general budget. In acknowledgment of their support, Luminary Society members

receive two tickets to the annual Night of Spectacles, an exclusive membership pin, and recognition in Lighthouse publications.

Luminary Society pledges are a crucial, reliable source of funding for the Lighthouse, and allow us to improve our programs, and provide a safety net against sudden economic downturn.

We hope you will consider making your pledge to ensure our continued growth of vital outreach programs. If you cannot contribute at this level, please read about our 1949 club below. Please visit our website for details about joining the Luminary Society.

1949
Club

Introducing the 1949 Club!

We were founded in 1949, and we want Georgians to be a part of our legacy!

- Donors can give \$49/month or \$588 as a lump sum annually
- 1949 Club members will be recognized in the annual report and with a pin.

Help us reach our goal of 100 Club members!

The Awards Go To...

Joel C. Jenkins, O.D. and Our Own Christina Lennon

Joel C. Jenkins, O.D. received the 2011 Beacon of Hope Award for his exceptional commitment to vision healthcare in Georgia and across the world.

From performing hundreds of free eye exams for Georgians in need to providing vision screenings in local schools to leading international eye care trips, Dr. Jenkins selflessly serves those most in need year after year.

“Joel has sacrificed precious time away from his family, friends, and business, expended personal resources, and at times risked his safety and health to bring quality eye care to the needy,” says Dan Stuart, past Lighthouse president and member of the Oconee Lions Club.

The Lighthouse is proud to have bestowed this year’s to Dr. Joel Jenkins and looks forward to continued partnership with him.



Christina Lennon presents Joel C. Jenkins with the 2011 Beacon of Hope Award.

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Christina Lennon was the grateful recipient of this year’s Andrew Young School Distinguished Alumni award. Georgia State University’s award celebrates outstanding alumni who have made a significant contribution to the nonprofit sector and his or her community.

Under Christina’s direction, the Lighthouse has opened 21 vision clinics statewide, created a new hearing aid program, nearly doubled the number of eye surgeries provided, and has grown from serving 1,000 people a year to over 5,700.

“Georgia State’s continued partnership with the Lighthouse Foundation has meant a lot,” says Christina. “They’ve invested in us, and we are honored that they have recognized the Lighthouse’s impact on the community.” Christina and the staff look forward to continued growth and better and better service for the people of Georgia.

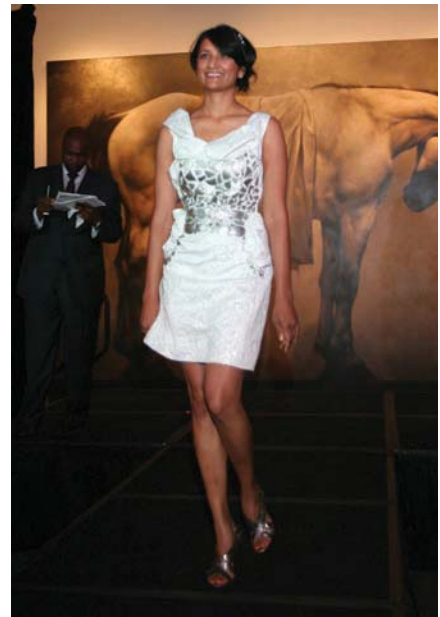
Eye Doctors Take the Runway for Night of Spectacles

Last April, more than 400 attendees packed the Mason Murer Art Gallery in support of the Lighthouse Foundation. Grossing over \$162,000, Night of Spectacles 2011 wowed guests with a juried runway show, silent auction, and celebrity doctor models from the Lighthouse’s partner medical providers. The event was presented by Georgia Retina and chaired by Georgia Retina physician Jay Stallman, M.D., and his wife, Jane.

Local celebrity judges picked the winning dress, designed by Christian Caldwell of SCAD Atlanta. A jewelry design competition was also introduced this year, challenging 17 students to design rings, earrings, bracelets, bangles, and more from recycled glasses. The winners from both competitions received \$1,000 scholarships from the Lighthouse.

All models’ hair and makeup was provided by Balance Salon Services. Doctors from Georgia Retina, Emory Eye Center, Thomas Eye Group, Georgia Eye Partners, and more walked the catwalk to the cheers of their fellow doctors and other Lighthouse supporters.

Stay tuned for news about Night of Spectacles 2012 on April 28 at Buckhead Theatre!



Parul Khator from Georgia Eye Partners walks the runway





Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

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See Now. Hear Now. Run Now. 5k Run/Walk

October 1, 2011
9 a.m.
5582 Peachtree Rd.
Chamblee, GA 30341

Since the Lighthouse opened its new offices in Chamblee, we have been too busy to introduce our mission to each of our neighbors on historic Antique Row. On October 1, that's going to change.

The first Saturday in October will bring the 1st Annual See Now Hear Now Run Now 5k Run/Walk to the neighborhood, and give runners and walkers from all over Georgia the opportunity to explore our new location and spread the word about what we do.

The race will begin and end on the doorsteps of the Lighthouse's new building and runners will have the option to enjoy a 1-mile fun walk or compete in the 5k. The race will be followed by tours of the new building, a barbecue and festivities that will last long into the evening.

Learn more at www.lionslighthouse.org/walk!



Check out the individual fundraising pages at FirstGiving to help our dedicated runners reach their goals! See you in October!

