

Lighthouse Views

A PUBLICATION OF LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH SERVICES

SUMMER 2011

Grant from Department of Labor

Lighthouse Youth Services has been awarded a \$1.3 million 30-month grant through the U.S. Department of Labor to create the Lighthouse Civic Justice Corps.

“We were notified by Senator Rob Portman’s office that Lighthouse Youth Services is one of 15 organizations from across the nation that has been awarded this grant,” said Bob Mecum, President and CEO of Lighthouse. The purpose of the Civic Justice Corps is to help formerly incarcerated individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 “reconnect with their communities and find pathways to success through community service and educational opportunities.”

“The grants... will directly support young people looking to improve their skills and long-term employment prospects,” stated Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “The Civic Justice

Corps includes learning through community service and valuable experiences that serve not only participants, but also the families and communities to which they are returning.”

The Civic Justice Corps participants will focus their activities in two partner communities, Mt. Auburn and Corryville. Both of these communities will engage directly through their community councils with Civic Justice Corps participants to identify projects the Corps members will address.

Another key element in the Community Justice Corps program will be an opportunity for Corps participants to gain employment through Lawn Life, a not-for-profit landscaping and home improvement organization led by Tim Arnold, a former resident of Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek.

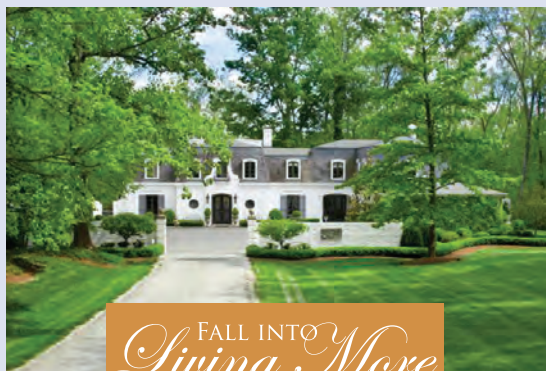
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Celebrate the season by *Fall into Living More Beautifully*

“*Fall into Living More Beautifully* will be an afternoon in an exquisite, beautifully appointed home with some of Cincinnati’s finest chefs preparing their signature foods, and elegant boutiques from near and far selling their fashions and jewels, all donating a percentage to Lighthouse. The raffle prizes are awesome! The Fall Event is nothing short of over the moon!”

~Mady Gordon, event chair



FALL INTO
*Living More
Beautifully*
BENEFITING LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH SERVICES

author of *Let’s Go Home*, at noon on Wednesday, October 5.

A committee of 45 women plan the day. As a special thank you to upper level donors, Mady Gordon is inviting sponsors at the \$500 “Maison” level and above, along with one guest, to her river-view penthouse for cocktails and dinner by the bite on September 15, 2011.

Proceeds will benefit the residential programs of Lighthouse Youth Services.

The Lighthouse Fall Event is held annually in a beautiful home, and it sells out every year. This year’s fête will take place at the Indian Hill home of Macy Kirkland,

For more information or to make a reservation, visit on-line at www.lys.org or call 513-487-7109.

Lighthouse announces new program

Lighthouse has started providing intensive case management services to adolescents with severe mental health problems through a new contract with the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board.

April Barker Casey, formerly our foster care supervisor, has been promoted to Program Director of this new initiative, which is the Lighthouse Assertive Community Treatment Program (ACT). The ACT model is an evidence-based model of service delivery, an approach that has documented effectiveness through numerous research studies. The ACT team will include case managers, a vocational specialist, a chemical dependency specialist and a registered nurse.

“Lighthouse Youth Services is committed to serving youth and families with programs and practices that have proven a cost benefit for our consumers and communities,” stated Lighthouse Chief Operating Officer Jean Sepate.

The program plans to serve 50 youth per year.

Children’s Law Center Highlights Lighthouse Juvenile Justice Programs

The Children’s Law Center (KY) presented a live online “show,” *Innovative Programming for Juveniles*, which highlighted three Lighthouse programs: The Youth Center at Paint Creek, a juvenile corrections facility that provides extensive cognitive behavioral intervention; Community Management, an intensive program for the rehabilitation and supervision of low-to-moderate-risk sex offenders and other juvenile offenders returning from correctional institutions; and Lighthouse Youth Counseling Services, a Dayton-based program working with juvenile sex offenders.

Featured guests included Program Directors Richard Gulley (Youth Counseling Services, Dayton, OH); Nathan Lynch (Community Management Program) and Juvenile Justice Division Director Renee Hagan.

The “show” was another example of Lighthouse demonstrating leadership through innovative programming in the juvenile justice system.

CARES Committee Implements Mentoring Program

The Mathis Family Foundation for Children Board of Directors and the Lighthouse Board have completed an agreement through which the Mathis Family Foundation for Children will merge with Lighthouse.

The cornerstone of the Mathis Family Foundation for Children is a mentoring program specifically geared to youth in foster care. This will soon become a sub-committee of the CARES Committee with Sherrie Mathis as its chair. A staff person will recruit, screen and train mentors and mentees.

Sherrie and Mike Mathis will continue to lead the Mathis Golf Classic, which, in turn, will continue to support the mentoring program and scholarships for foster children.

This merger, which should be great for Lighthouse and other area youth, provides yet another exciting volunteer opportunity.

Left to right: Mike Mathis, Monte Mathis, Rick Carlisle, head coach of the Dallas Mavericks, and Sherrie Mathis at the 2011 Golf Classic



Make a difference in our community with a Planned Gift
By including Lighthouse in your estate plans, you give young people brighter futures. The development staff is pleased to help you explore planned giving opportunities. Contact Natalie Schwab at 513-487-7109 or email nschwab@lys.org.

Volunteers engage with the Community School

This summer, the Lighthouse Community School subcommittee of the CARES Committee welcomed incoming students by sending postcards and hosting a barbecue at the school for students and their families. The CARES Committee also implemented an onsite “store” with donated new school supplies and served breakfast on the first day of school.

The Committee plans to play a role with tutoring, a birthday board, fall dance, parent’s night and safety night (with talks on internet safety, domestic abuse and child safety restraints). Once again, the committee will stuff goodie bags to encourage students taking the Ohio Graduation Tests.



CARES Committee members Linda Little and Alex Bailey

Dr. David Greenfield, a Community School Hero

In December 2010, Dr. David Greenfield approached the Community School with an idea of how he might assist our students to prepare for their future. Fourteen students signed up for his class, which emphasized discussion and exploration of basic financial topics.

In addition to the topics mentioned in the flyer (to the right), Dr. Greenfield discussed savings accounts, stocks, mutual funds, bonds and startup companies as well as the real cost of “rent to own” and the dangers of credit card debt. He also used the internet and illustrated to students how comparison shopping for insurance, cars, electronic devices and other items can often save money – at times over 50 percent!



During one of the sessions, Dr. Greenfield shared with students what he looks for when hiring and deciding who receives promotions. He discussed the importance of an interview and how to prepare for one. During two of his visits, he introduced educational games. The first was a stock market game where teams of students traded stocks. The other, “The Settlers of Catan,” was a game teaching skills and economics.

The relationship Dr. Greenfield developed with the students was evident as the weeks went by. Students shared their Ohio Graduation Test scores and their plans for life after high school. Through their time with Dr. Greenfield, these students learned new information and were exposed to new and different ways of thinking about their future.

Exploring Financial Topics

- Dollar Value of Education – why do some workers get paid \$7.30 an hour while others make \$500 an hour?
- Compound Interest – how long does it take to double your money?
- Importance of math in real life.
- Reality Check – how much income does it take to live on your own?
- Reality Check – how much money does it take to insure and maintain a car?
- Income tax – is the government holding your money? How do you get your money back?

Lighthouse on Highland Nears Completion

Having experienced firsthand the needs of homeless young adults who visit the Lighthouse drop-in center in Corryville, Lighthouse became committed to providing an overnight shelter specific to young adults 18-24 years of age. Longtime Lighthouse supporters Rhonda and Larry Sheakley generously stepped up to provide the lead gift to fund this important initiative. The new 28-bed shelter, Lighthouse on Highland, 2522 Highland Avenue, will be co-located with the existing daytime drop-in center. Lighthouse is in the final stages of renovating the building.

Lighthouse on Highland will open in two phases. Initially, Lighthouse on Highland will operate the day program. It will provide a daily meal Monday through Friday, showers, clothing, computers, laundry facilities, medical care and full case management services.

Lighthouse on Highland will also operate as a host location for numerous other agencies serving this population. This phase will be in operation early this fall.

The second phase, the overnight shelter, is scheduled to be in operation at the end of 2011. Young people who use shelter beds will be required to develop specific plans to overcome the underlying causes of their homelessness and to follow through on their plans. Continued use of shelter beds will be contingent on demonstrated effort.

Last year, there were nearly 4,000 visits to the Lighthouse drop-in center to eat a warm meal, take a shower or visit a nurse. Many, if not most, of the youth returned to the street to sleep, thus demonstrating the need for a full-service facility.

Recent Grants

Lighthouse Youth Services has received a \$100,000 grant from The Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) to help fund Lighthouse on Highland, the new homeless shelter specifically for young adults, ages 18 to 24 years old. The donations from the Thurza R. Sternberg Memorial Fund and the Underwriters' Salvage Corps Fund, both unrestricted funds of GCF, totaling \$100,000, will be used to fund the capital expenses for the new fire safety sprinkler system for Lighthouse on Highland.

Other private gifts and anonymous foundation gifts have also been received to support the Capital Campaign for Lighthouse on Highland. These gifts are in addition to the \$1 million leadership gift from the Sheakley Family Foundation and \$420,000 received from the Federal Home Loan Bank, both previously announced.



Future courtyard at Lighthouse on Highland



Tour of future office space

Walk the Walk



Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls addresses the walkers before the event

On August 13, to create awareness around the opening of Lighthouse on Highland, the Lighthouse CARES Committee held "Walk the Walk," a 2.4 mile walk, replicating the trek

that some homeless young adults take in all kinds of weather, day after day, from the downtown area where they sleep to the Lighthouse drop-in center for shelter, food and services. In addition to bringing awareness to the obstacles homeless youth face each day, walkers raised funds to provide crucial items, such as shoes, socks and bus tokens.

The walk concluded at the new shelter for this age population, scheduled to open this fall. Cincinnati Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls said, "The weather was hot and the climb was uphill, but spirits were high. Walkers were excited about being the first to tour the new Lighthouse on Highland. The walk helped everyone to envision how relieved these young people must feel when they arrive at an 'oasis' where food, drink and basic medical care are available."

Event chair Vickie Lassandro planned the walk with a wonderful committee including: Wendy Braff, Holly Dees, Liz Fuller, Gina Gartner, Linda Little, Michelle Nader, Juli Niles, Erin Straits, Maria Szczepanski and Tina Wagner.



Walkers gather at Fountain Square



Walk Chair Vickie Lassandro with Police Chief James Craig and Lighthouse President/CEO Bob Mecum



Event committee greet walkers at Lighthouse on Highland

"Puttin' on the Glitz," 2011 Beacon of Light Humanitarian Awards Gala

"Lighthouse Youth Services was pleased to present a Beacon of Light Humanitarian Award to Dr. David & Rebecca Barron and the Honorable Nathaniel R. Jones at the 2011 Awards Gala, 'Puttin' on the Glitz.' Dr. & Mrs. Barron and Judge Jones join the roster of past honorees who have distinguished themselves with their generous giving of self for the betterment of our community," said Beacon Chair Betsy Shapiro.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the evening of glitz included a cocktail reception at Saks Fifth Avenue, a special testimonial from a handful of Lighthouse clients, the Big SurPRIZE by Saks Fifth Avenue and dazzling entertainment by pianist Hyperion Knight.

Special thanks to the Beacon Committee, donors and the following generous sponsors (\$5000 and above):

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Dr. David & Rebecca Barron
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Larry & Rhonda Sheakley
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Richard & Lois Rosenthal
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Robert E. Rich & J. Mack Swigert



Left to right: Dr. David & Rebecca Barron, Bob Mecum, Lillian Jones and the Hon. Nathaniel R. Jones



Saks Fifth Avenue General Manager Kevin Shibley stands with Event Chair Betsy Shapiro after presenting a generous check to Lighthouse

The Lighthouse Strategic Plan Progress Report

In 2010, after much research and input from Lighthouse stakeholders, the Board and staff created a three-year strategic plan. The plan was launched in July 2010, and at the July 2011 Board meeting, the results of the first year's efforts were shared.

The four major initiatives are as follows:

1. Lighthouse will improve communication, coordination and overall quality of services so that we can improve, by 20%, outcomes for transition age youth in academic achievement, sustainable housing, recidivism reduction, employment and substance abuse/mental health.

- Over the first year of the plan, Lighthouse staff, led by Clinical Director Norman Townsel, established a current baseline for each outcome in programs serving transition age youth. In year two, Lighthouse will focus on improving outcomes in those domains.

2. Lighthouse will reduce disproportionate minority out of home placement and confinement of Hamilton County youth by 25% from current baseline.

- Lighthouse, the Ohio Department of Youth Services and Hamilton County Juvenile Court collaborated in the development of a new contract through which over 28 youth annually will be diverted to Paint Creek.

- The Functional Family Therapy program diverted 26 youth from possible Department of Youth Services commitments in the past year.

- The Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program awarded to Lighthouse on July 1, 2011, will allow 50 youth per year with severe emotional disturbances to receive intensive mental health services, and thus, be diverted from the juvenile justice system.

3. Lighthouse will develop and implement core competency training for at least 75% of all staff levels and positions.

- Core competencies with an eight-hour training module and an accompanying test were created for all youth worker and case manager positions.

- The training is offered twice a year to ensure that all staff can achieve this competency in the first year of employment.

4. Lighthouse will continue to advance evidence-based practice, and all Lighthouse programs will use evidence-based practices.

- Lighthouse has developed a core group of clinical leaders who are trained in "Motivational Interviewing."

- Lighthouse continues to increase the number of clients served using Functional Family Therapy.

- A team of Lighthouse staff members are being trained in the evidence-based Assertive Community Treatment and will maintain fidelity to the model.

As evidenced by the above, we set a high bar for improving our work and making a major contribution to the community. Over the next two years, we will continue to report on our progress toward achieving these goals.



FORE KIDS

A CHARITY GOLF
TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 3, 2011

Calendar

September 7 – 9

Mickey's Camp

Camp Kern

Learn more at www.mickeyscamp.com

October 3

FORE KIDS Charity Golf Outing

1 PM Shotgun start

Wetherington Golf & Country Club

Register by calling (513) 475-5674

October 5

Fall into Living More Beautifully

12 Noon

The Indian Hill home of Macy Kirkland

8625 Hopewell Road

Register online at www.lys.org or

phone (513) 487-7109

November 8*

REAL Dads Graduation

6 – 8 PM

New Thought Unity Center

1401 East McMillan Street

RSVP Lindsay Schoeni (513) 487-7151

*Date to be confirmed

November 29

Share on the Square with the

Cincinnati Bengals

Drop off your holiday gifts for

Lighthouse clients

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Fountain Square

December 10

Happy Holidays gift drop-off

Only Saturday holiday gift drop-off date

10 AM – 2 PM

Lighthouse Administrative Offices

401 East McMillan Street

Supporting Cincinnati Youth

Mark your calendar and enjoy a fun golf experience on Monday, October 3, 2011, at Wetherington Golf & Country Club. FORE KIDS is a new charity tournament with proceeds supporting two local not-for-profit organizations serving youth, Lighthouse and Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates. Messer Construction and Cintas Corporation are presenting sponsors.

Registration will begin at 11:30 AM, and a 1:00 PM shotgun start will kick off the foursome scramble. The day will begin with lunch and conclude with dinner and prizes— with lots of great golf in between.

Cost is \$125 per individual player and \$495 per foursome. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, contact Andrea Granieri at (513) 475-5674 or email agranieri@lys.org



LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH SERVICES

BRIGHTER LIVES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES

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e-newsletter, contact
Andrea Granieri at
(513) 475-5674 or
agranieri@lys.org.



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A **United Way** Agency Partner

A Hamilton County Mental Health
and Recovery Services
Board Agency

Accredited by
CARF International



Get your Santa Hat out of the Attic!

Calling all elves! Lighthouse Youth Services, in partnership with WKRC-Local 12, will kick off the annual Happy Holidays campaign on November 1, but it's never too early to get started! Happy Holidays strives to collect holiday gifts for all 2,000 youth currently receiving services from Lighthouse. Many of the young people we serve have never received a new gift, which gives the community a wonderful way to make a huge impact.

Sign up to help today! Volunteers are needed in
the following ways:

- Join the Happy Holidays planning committee
- Volunteer to help collect items or sort gifts
- Become Santa by sponsoring a youth or family for the holidays

To sign up for any of these opportunities,
or for more information, contact
Andrea Granieri at (513) 475-5674
or agranieri@lys.org.