

Lighthouse Views

A PUBLICATION OF LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH SERVICES FALL 2010

Lighthouse Plans Homeless Shelter for Older Youth

Lighthouse is no stranger to the plight of the homeless. We operate the Youth Crisis Center in Clifton for runaway and homeless teens as well as Anthony House, a drop-in center located in Coryville, that serves 18-24 year olds who are “couch surfing” or living on the streets. Exciting plans are underway to expand services to include a shelter specific to this older homeless population. After several months of searching for a suitable site for the



shelter, Lighthouse identified property on Highland Avenue, only seven blocks from the current site of Anthony House and only two blocks from Lighthouse Administrative Offices.

Longtime Lighthouse supporters Rhonda and Larry Sheakley generously stepped up to provide the lead gift to fund this important initiative. In April 2010, they met with CEO Bob Mecum to announce their decision to award the agency \$1 million to jump start a capital and operating support campaign. The new 28-bed shelter, named Lighthouse on Highland, will be co-located with an extended day program, currently known as Anthony House.

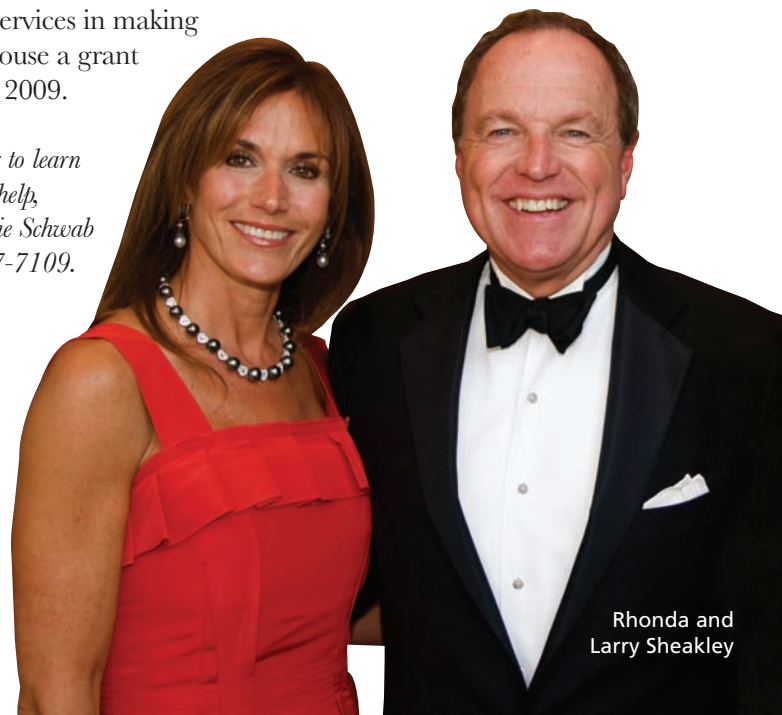
The documented need for such a facility goes back to 2008, when the City of Cincinnati approved an ordinance to create a task force

that would rewrite the homeless plan for Cincinnati. The ordinance required that the task force start from a “blank slate” and develop a new plan to ensure access to appropriate shelter facilities, services, and housing for homeless young adults (ages 18-24) based on local data and nationally recognized best practices.

The Homeless to Homes Steering Committee invited Lighthouse to participate, owing to the lengthy history and success of Lighthouse in its work with homeless youth. Lighthouse CEO, Bob Mecum, represented the agency on the Committee.

The plight of homeless teens was featured by the Cincinnati Enquirer, “Sunday Forum,” February 21, 2010 (available at www.lys.org). Impact 100, a giving circle of over 100 women, further validated the need for additional services in making Anthony House a grant recipient in 2009.

For details, or to learn how you can help, contact Natalie Schwab at (513) 487-7109.



Rhonda and
Larry Sheakley



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“Stars of the City,” 2010 Beacon of Light Humanitarian Awards Gala

Since 1995, Lighthouse Youth Services has been pleased to award a group of deserving community members with the prestigious Beacon of Light Humanitarian Award. This year's awards were presented to Ed & Carol Rigaud and Moe Rouse in recognition of their leadership and involvement with youth, service and philanthropy, and commitment to making brighter lives for youth and families. The evening also included a star-studded performance by Teresa De Zarn & Mark Hardy, and a fabulous Big SurPRIZE by Saks Fifth Avenue.

Moe Rouse,
Ed Rigaud,
Carole Rigaud



“Stars of the City” was a huge success through the efforts and support of many volunteers and donors. Kudos to Beacon Chair Aurelia Candie Simmons, the Beacon Committee, the Sponsorships/Major Gifts Committee, and the following generous sponsors (\$5000 and above):

BEACON OF LIGHT

Claire Phillips
Jack & Moe Rouse
Larry & Rhonda Sheakley

ROLE MODEL

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Linda Lauch
Joseph & Susan Pichler
Edwin & Carole Rigaud
Richard & Lois Rosenthal
Taft Stettinius & Hollister / Jerold A. Fink /
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It's never too early to get into the holiday spirit!

Mark your calendar for the Lighthouse Happy Holidays project! Each holiday season, Lighthouse collects holiday gifts for up to 2,000 youth and families in need. “Many of them have never received a new item, so it's a great way to help Lighthouse clients feel valued,” says project coordinator Andrea Granieri.

The project will kick off in November. For more information, or to sign up early, contact Andrea at (513) 475-5674 or agranieri@lys.org.



Lighthouse Community School Commencement Sees Largest Graduating Class

Pomp and Circumstance always brings tears to the eyes, but this was especially true on May 27, 2010, when 13 graduates of the Lighthouse Community School (LCS) marched down the aisle to receive their high school diplomas.

LCS was established in 2000 to meet the needs of children in the child welfare system who have serious behavioral problems and/or learning disabilities. The school, located in Madisonville, served 76 students in the 2009-2010 academic year. Two-thirds of those students have special educational needs, and all have had problems performing adequately in their previous schools. These students thrive on the individual instruction and commitment of the faculty.

The largest graduating class in the school's history received their diplomas before an audience of family, friends, and LCS supporters. Following a keynote address by Mick Teufel, LCS Career Counselor, each student was honored for his/her unique qualities. Along with diplomas, the students were given duffel bags furnished by The Mathis Foundation and filled with items they will need when they are on their own: pots and pans, dishes, silverware, towels and washcloths, shower curtains, a framed picture, and other household items.

After the ceremony, graduates and guests enjoyed refreshments, and had an opportunity to view a photography exhibition by Lighthouse students.



SAVE THE DATE FOR PUTTIN' ON THE
PRESENTED BY LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH SERVICES

Glitz

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011

HONORING

DR. DAVID & REBECCA BARRON
HON. NATHANIEL R. JONES

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES,
CONTACT NATALIE SCHWAB AT 513-487-7109
OR NSCHWAB@LYS.ORG.



*New this year, a special cabaret after-party
with our guest performer, Hyperion Knight*



Betsy Shapiro
Event Chair
Karen & Fred Abel
Honorary Chairs

WAY Program Announces Sale of Original Note Cards

The Lighthouse Work Appreciation for Youth (WAY) Program provides trained mentors to work one-on-one with severely emotionally disturbed youth over a three-year period. The staff works with youth to cope with their illnesses and learn life skills, such as achieving employment, saving money, and planning for the future.

One component of the program is a workshop in Essex Studios, where youth continue work on employment skills while they take photos, draw, and paint. A collection of their artwork was selected to appear in limited-edition packages of note cards, now available for purchase.

The 6.25 X 4.50" cards showcase eight original pieces of work and are sold in packages of 10 for \$15. Sales from the cards directly benefit the WAY Program. "When the youth saw their artwork portrayed on the cards, their faces lit up!" said Lighthouse Home Based Services Division Director Debbie Bennett. "It is the best boost of self-confidence we could offer them."

Note cards can be ordered online at www.lys.org or by calling Shannon Kinyalocets at (513) 221-0029. Holiday cards designed by WAY clients will be available for pre-sale starting in October.

Fatherhood Conference Sends Message: Fathers Vital to Children, Families, and Communities

Lighthouse Youth Services teamed up with Hamilton County Job & Family Services, Ohio Practitioners' Network for Fathers and Families to present a Fatherhood Conference aimed at strengthening fathers, families and the Greater Cincinnati community.



Lighthouse REAL Dads Program Director, Calvin Williams; Congressman, Steve Driehaus; Executive Director of the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, Tracy Robinson; Lighthouse President/CEO, Bob Mecum

The conference took place Friday, August 13, with nearly 300 participants from a variety of backgrounds: fathers, attorneys, court personnel, probation officers, and social service agencies who work with fathers and families. Lighthouse REAL Dads Program Director Calvin Williams noted, "It was inspiring to see so many individuals come together to learn, share information, and participate in the effort to empower fathers in our community."

The conference featured workshops on child support, parenting, relationships, family violence and mental health. To incorporate August as "Child Support Awareness Month," Judge Thomas Lipps, Presiding Administrative Judge of Hamilton County's Juvenile Court, was presented with the Child Support Hero award for his longtime commitment to furthering child support collection efforts. In addition, former Cincinnati Reds player, Joe Morgan, kicked off the program with his opening remarks, and Congressman Steve Driehaus continued the parade of inspiring speakers with his lunchtime keynote address.

Volunteer Spotlight



In the two years since she began volunteering with Lighthouse, Vickie Lassandro has made a major impact. Vickie's interest in Lighthouse began as a teenager, when she was impressed by television commercials for a Lighthouse runaway

shelter. "When I saw an ad for Happy Holidays in 2008, I was excited that Lighthouse was still around. I wanted to get involved!"

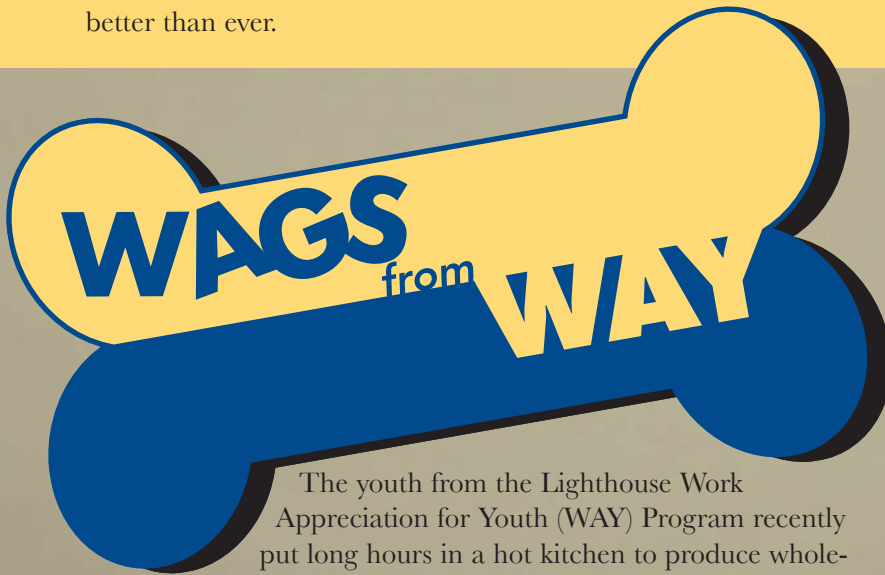
Vickie became an active member of the new CARES Committee, comprised of a group of volunteers who meet monthly to provide hands-on support for Lighthouse programs. Their first project was to help return the drop-in center, Anthony House, to operating order after significant water damage. With new furniture, increased storage space, and a clothing closet organized for easy access by the youth, the CARES Committee members made the center better than ever.

"I'm amazed when I talk to the youth," Vickie says, "and learn that they walk all the way from downtown for air conditioning and a meal. These kids need someone to help them get back on track. Knowing that Lighthouse can help them, and can even provide access to housing and other services, is my reward."

Vickie and the CARES Committee recruited friends and family members to provide meals to the homeless youth at Anthony House. Due to the committee's efforts, nearly every day this year is covered. Now, the CARES Committee is turning its thoughts to new projects, such as a homecoming dance for the students at the Lighthouse Community School.

You are invited to join Vickie, and others like her, in making a difference for the young people of Lighthouse. For more information on the CARES Committee or other volunteer opportunities, contact Lindsay Schoeni at (513) 487-7151 or lschoeni@lys.org.

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The youth from the Lighthouse Work Appreciation for Youth (WAY) Program recently put long hours in a hot kitchen to produce wholesome dog biscuits! We're excited to offer them to you!

If you would like to support our clients in the WAY program and give your dog - or a friend's dog - a special treat, please contact Shannon Kinyalocis at 221-0029 skinyalocis@lys.org or Abena Amoah at 475-5675 aamoah@lys.org

Bags of dog biscuits start at \$1.50

Please note: Contains peanuts



Paint Creek Dedicates Gymnasium

On July 14, 2010, Lighthouse Board of Trustees members, Lighthouse Division Directors, and residents of the Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek gathered to dedicate a newly constructed gymnasium. "Activity is an important component of the comprehensive program at Paint Creek," says Lighthouse Juvenile Justice Division Director Renee Hagan. "After several years of planning, we are excited to complete this project, making it easier for the young men to remain active year-round," she continued.

The heated and air-conditioned facility houses a regulation size basketball court, bleachers, and a timeout area. It can be easily divided in half for practices and transformed into a volleyball court.

The Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek is a 67-bed juvenile corrections facility in Bainbridge, Ohio.

The Center treats 14 – 19 year old male

felony offenders in a program that encourages taking responsibility for personal actions, making good choices, and continuing education in our charter school right on the Paint Creek campus. With no locks on doors or bars on windows and fences, the young men learn to change their lives and attitudes and become responsible adults.

The plaque unveiled during the dedication ceremony sums it up best: "... the board and staff of Lighthouse Youth Services dedicate this building in honor of the young men we serve. Through their continuing achievements, they prove change is possible."



To: Renee Hagan
Lighthouse Juvenile Justice Division Director

Hello, it has been quite some time. I still distinctly remember my days at Paint Creek. I still have dreams of waking up next to my "divider," and asking if I can "speak; get my stuff out, and get my number off the wall." It's funny how quickly I've taken life for granted, especially after those days. Paint Creek taught me a lot, and not just about criminal behavior and victims, but also about who I am and what I'm capable of. I've used the skills learned there to succeed in a variety of ways. I once had a college course (one of many) where I had to give an informative speech; I taught the class the cycle of criminal behavior. They learned about "acting out," "triggers," etc. I got an A.

The real reason I wanted to write is because I believe I take my life for granted now. I'd really like to visit and discover, again, just how much freedom I have. Also, I'd enjoy seeing what has happened, and who is still there....

I hope everyone is well and I'd like to thank everyone for what they've given me, a new perspective on reality, a new perspective on what happens to victims of crime, and a new perspective on myself. Thank you for your time.

– Former Paint Creek Resident

Stay Connected with Lighthouse on Facebook



Although Facebook started off as a social networking site for college students, an increasing number of age groups are taking advantage of what the site offers: reconnecting with

old friends, creating event awareness, and even sharing pictures. Due to the rising interest in Facebook, Lighthouse Youth Services is pleased to have a page that increases awareness of our mission. The Lighthouse Youth Services page is updated with success stories, program news, and event invitations; all of which helps us engage further with our 'fans.' Visitors to the page are able to connect to our website to learn more about the services Lighthouse provides, as well as have online interactions with other Lighthouse supporters.

"It is great to have a means to communicate information and exciting news instantly," says Andrea Granieri, Development & Marketing Coordinator who makes the

daily Facebook updates. "Watching as Lighthouse friends instantly 'like' success stories and share their words of support is so meaningful, and Lighthouse thanks each and every one of our online fans."

Every person who 'likes' Lighthouse Youth Services spreads the awareness of our mission to his or her network of friends, family, and colleagues. Lighthouse Youth Services would love to have you join us online!

facebook 101

Are you asking yourself, "How can I help Lighthouse Youth Services through Facebook?" The answer is simple: just 'like' us! From the Lighthouse Youth Services Facebook page, click the 'like' button that is next to our name. Now, our updates and wall posts will show up on your newsfeed! To help us spread the word even further, you can suggest that your 'friends' 'like' Lighthouse Youth Services, too.

The Cincinnati Public Library offers classes each month for Facebook beginners, or those who would like to learn even more.

Build a Legacy by Making a Planned Gift

"Lighthouse is honored when individuals choose us as the beneficiary of a planned gift," said Lighthouse President Bob Mecum. "Their bequest expresses confidence in our stewardship...that we will continue to provide quality services for young people for years to come."

Make a lasting difference

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 (513) 487-7109 or email nschwab@lys.org.

Lighthouse Announces Grants

The capital campaign, A New Home for Lighthouse, was financially assisted by the Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trusts, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee.

The "Be Ready!" Program, a work preparation program for young adult women, was financially assisted by a partnership of The Women's Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee.

Lighthouse appreciates the generosity of our Cincinnati community.

Fall into Friends, Food, Flowers & Fashion

Thursday, October 7, Noon

Join us this fall for an afternoon of "Autumn Finery" at the stunning Indian Hill home of Monica & Bill Woeste, Jr. Included in this fun-filled day are some of Cincinnati's finest restaurants, flower demonstrations by Jones the Florist, and the latest and greatest fashion trends! Space is limited, and the event has been a sell-out every year. Confirm your participation today!

For information or to purchase tickets, contact Natalie Schwab at 513-487-7109 or nschwab@lys.org.

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Monica & Bill Woeste, Jr.

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