

# Lighthouse Views

A PUBLICATION OF LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH SERVICES

SPRING 2007

## Lighthouse Receives \$2.5 Million Federal Grant for Fatherhood Initiative

*Lighthouse was chosen among 1,650 applicants as one of 100 agencies nationwide to be awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF).*

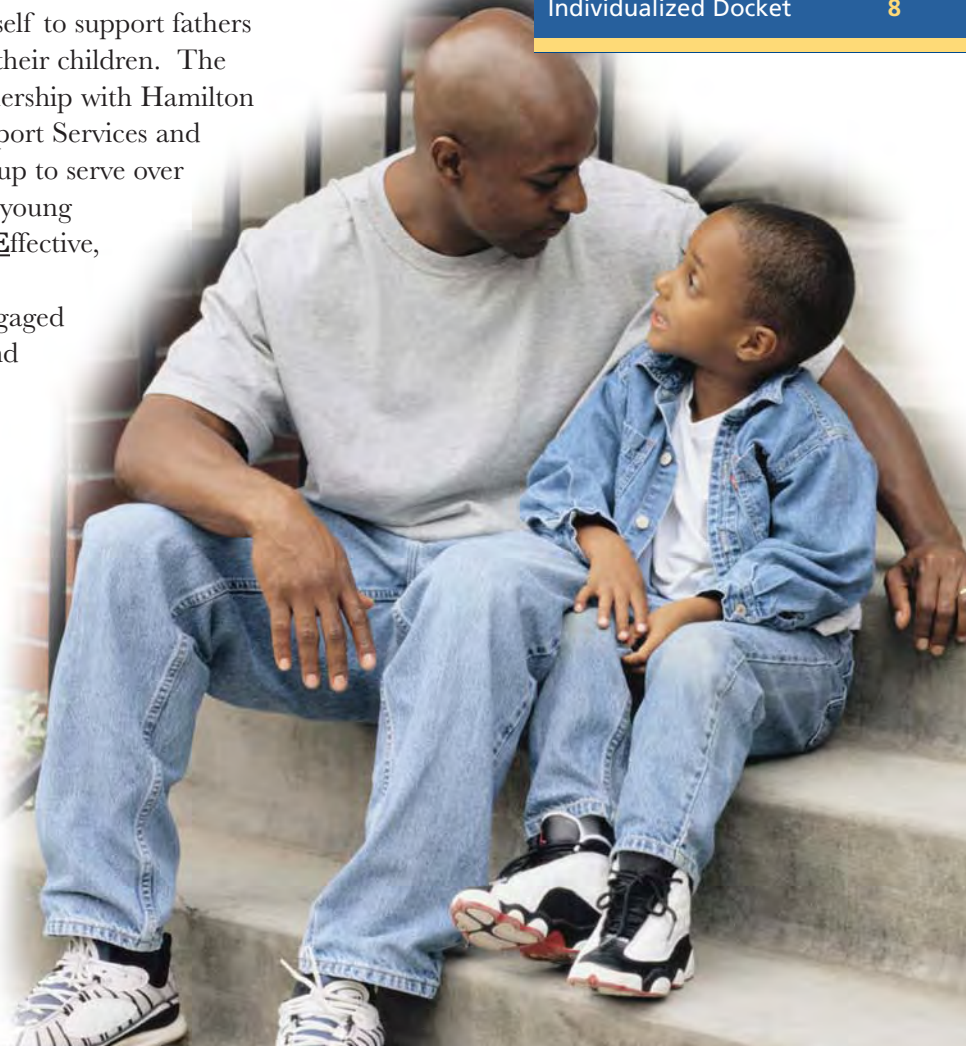
Lighthouse Youth Services is positioning itself to support fathers in the critical role they play in the lives of their children. The Lighthouse REAL Dads Program, in partnership with Hamilton County Jobs & Family Services' Child Support Services and Messer Construction Company, is gearing up to serve over 120 fathers annually. The goal is to assist young fathers, ages 17 to 24, to be **(R)esponsible, (E)ffective, (A)ccountable & (L)oving** REAL Dads!

Research has proven that active and engaged fathers produce balanced, self-sufficient, and confident children. Lighthouse staff will work with young fathers in four critical areas: child support, employment, parenting, and life skills.

The program will serve fathers referred from Child Support Services, who are in arrears (\$2,000 and more) in child-support payments. Lighthouse REAL Dads Program Director Calvin Williams is confident that the partnership and service model will make a difference in many lives. According to Williams, "The fathers we are serving are typically non-custodial dads with younger children. Providing support at this juncture will impact their families and our community in positive ways."

### IN THIS ISSUE

|                                                      |   |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|
| The Beacon of Light Honors Humanitarians             | 2 |
| Lighthouse Plans Training Center                     | 3 |
| Lighthouse Youth & Families Enjoy Happy Holidays!    | 4 |
| Lighthouse Institutes "Every Child Succeeds" Program | 5 |
| Lighthouse Receives Major Bequest                    | 5 |
| Community Care Week 2006                             | 6 |
| Hats Off Too...                                      | 7 |
| Individualized Docket                                | 8 |



# The Beacon of Light Honors Humanitarians



Albert "Buzz" Brown, Jr.

In recognition of their leadership and service to Greater Cincinnati, Lighthouse Youth Services will honor **Paul & Cynthia Booth, Snowden & Marianne Rowe, and Albert "Buzz" Brown, Jr.** with its prestigious Beacon of Light Humanitarian Award.

This recognition will take place at a black tie gala on the evening of Saturday, April 14, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Cincinnati. The evening will kickoff with a cocktail reception at 6:30 PM. A gourmet dinner and awards ceremony will follow.

The theme of this year's event, "There are two ways

of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it," is a call to action. In supporting Lighthouse, donors become "candles," helping to heal abused, neglected and abandoned youth and troubled families in our area. Last year over 4,000 families, youth and children were served.

A committee of 40, with **Jan Feldkamp** as chair, works year round to bring the Beacon of Light Awards gala to our community. This marks the twelfth year that Lighthouse has presented this award.



Jan Feldkamp, Beacon Chair



Snowden & Marianne Rowe

**There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.**



Paul & Cynthia Booth

For sponsorship or ticket information or for more information about Lighthouse Youth Services, please contact Natalie Schwab (513) 487-7109 or Denise Bryers (513) 487-7109 or visit the Lighthouse website [www.lys.org](http://www.lys.org).

# Lighthouse Plans Training Center

*Lighthouse has been a leader in providing effective and innovative child welfare, juvenile justice and mental health services in the greater Cincinnati region for over 35 years. We have achieved prominence at the state and national levels especially in the areas of research-supported effectiveness with juvenile sexual offenders and self-sufficiency services for older youth.*

The **Lighthouse Training Center** is a social enterprise dedicated to providing evidence-based best practice training for professionals and providers and to generating income to enhance services. Nationally recognized as experts in juvenile justice, child welfare, and mental health, Lighthouse has developed model programs worthy of replication.

The Agency has a long history of providing training and consultation to our own employees, interns and volunteers. In addition to these activities, Lighthouse leaders and staff have frequently been invited to provide training and consultation to organizations throughout the region, state and nation. Lighthouse programs have garnered awards and attracted national attention.

For example, for over 25 years, the Lighthouse Independent and Transitional Living Programs have helped thousands of young people transition from public care to self-sufficiency. In 2003, National Independent Living Association's (NILA) recognized Lighthouse with its Organization of the Year Award—the only private community-based agency ever to receive this honor. Self-Sufficiency Division Director Mark Kroner has been prominent at the national level, testifying before congress regarding independent living legislation. In 1999, President Clinton invited Mr. Kroner, Lighthouse President Bob Mecum, and Lighthouse clients to the White House to witness the signing of the Foster Care Independence Act.

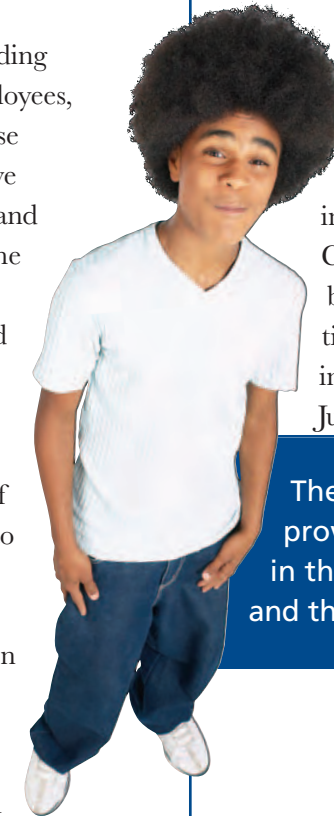
Lighthouse Youth Services has also developed expertise in our work with juvenile felony offenders. The Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek is the only private agency under contract to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) to provide these services. Our effectiveness has been documented by the Rand

Corporation, the University of Cincinnati, and Virginia Commonwealth University, with research consistently demonstrating success rates more than double that of other institutions. In 2006, these services received a rare "Exemplary" rating from the accrediting agency

CARF International as well as commendations from the ODYS and Ohio's Correctional Institution Inspection Committee: "The Lighthouse Youth Center is unquestionably one of, if not the best of all DYS facilities..."

It is strongly recommended that DYS look into the extent to which the Lighthouse Youth Center program, methods and staff training can benefit the current staff in the DYS institutions." We will begin offering a three-day training to professionals on "Working with the Juvenile Sexual Offender" in May 2007.

The vision for the Training Center is that it will provide myriad opportunities for professionals in the field. Plans are on the drawing board, and there will be more news in the months ahead.



**For over 25 years, the Lighthouse Independent and Transitional Living Programs have helped thousands of young people transition from public care to self-sufficiency.**



# Lighthouse Youth and Families Enjoy Happy Holidays!

The **2006 Happy Holidays Gift Drive** was our most successful ever, providing gifts for more than 1000 Lighthouse children and families. Lighthouse thanks the many generous donors, volunteers, and staff who contributed in making the holiday season a bright and bountiful one. Special thanks to **Maria Szczepanski** and **Stephen Peterson** who have spearheaded the Happy Holidays Project for more than ten years.

Kudos to our generous friends at Cincinnati Financial Corporation, Procter & Gamble, Hamilton County Pre-Trial Services, Mid City Pediatrics, Skyline Chili (Centerville), Validex Employment Screening Services, Midwest Ultrasound, University of Cincinnati College of Business, OfficeWare, GE, Health Alliance Medical Transport Services, Dan Pinger Public Relations, Junior League, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Cincinnati Better Business Bureau, Greater Cincinnati Gastroenterology Associates, Hauser Corporate



BEAM volunteers: Cristi Cunningham, Tynisha Worthy, Nicole Zappanti, Kimberly Holland

# Lighthouse Institutes “Every Child Succeeds” Program

The Lighthouse Early Childhood Services Division received funding from the United Way to increase the services provided to families with children ages 0-3 years. Lighthouse will duplicate the Every Child Succeeds model but will not limit services to first time moms. An additional 75 families will be served.

Lighthouse Youth Services Early Childhood Division believes that caring parents are the primary agents in securing the well-being and success of their children. By collaborating with Babies Milk Fund Pediatric Care and incorporating the Every Child Succeeds program model with the Growing Great Kids curriculum, Lighthouse will support parents’ efforts to ensure that children are healthy, safe, and ready to learn. The goal is to enhance children’s development in the home before they transition to preschool.

This initiative will benefit families by providing “hands on” learning experiences, which are progressively and sequentially build on interactive modules, selected to meet the unique needs of each child and family. While building on strengths, the modules are, at the same time, focused on solutions.



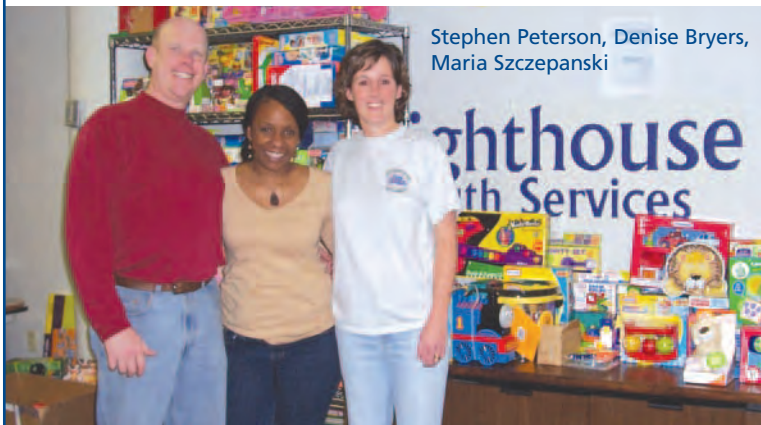
EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS

According to the outcome reports generated by Every Child Succeeds, evidence-based practices lead to positive outcomes. We anticipate achieving the following:

- Families will learn how to utilize resources to effectively engage and interact with their children.
- Children will enter kindergarten better prepared.
- Parents will be more knowledgeable about child development



Top: Procter & Gamble’s Young William Cooper Procter Society



Stephen Peterson, Denise Bryers, Maria Szczepanski

Solutions, T-Shirt City, Beechwood Homes, the law firm of Katz, Teller, Brant & Hild, and many others.

A special thanks to the many schools, churches, foundations, and organizations for making it happen... Mathis Foundation for Children, The Sheakley Foundation, the Compass School in Mason, Montgomery Presbyterian Church, Celebrate the Child Ministries, the Wise Temple Brotherhood, and Men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Last but not least, kudos to the many individuals, companies, firms, schools, churches, foundations, and organizations—to numerous to mention—that sent gift cards and/or cash donations. Please look for your name in our Annual Report Donor Roll!

**THANKS TO A GENEROUS COMMUNITY FOR BRIGHTENING SO MANY LIVES!**

# Lighthouse Receives Major Bequest



## MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE...

By including Lighthouse in your estate plans, you too help young people face the future with hope. The development staff can provide you with verbiage to include Lighthouse in your will, or if you would like to explore other planned giving opportunities, the staff can assist with that too. Please call Natalie Schwab at (513) 487-7109.

Also, if you have taken the step and included Lighthouse in your estate plans, please let us know so we can recognize you in our Legacy Society. Please call (number above) or email [nschwab@lys.org](mailto:nschwab@lys.org).

“Lighthouse is honored that **Polly Anne Drury** chose Lighthouse as a beneficiary of her estate, leaving us a bequest of over \$500,000. Her gift is an affirmation. It expresses confidence in our stewardship... that we will continue to provide quality services for young people for years to come. It also tells us how much Ms. Drury cared about the young people of our community and the importance she gave to providing brighter futures,” stated Lighthouse President & CEO Bob Mecum.

# Community Care Week 2006

Each fall, local companies partner with United Way agencies to perform service projects, which range from drives and collections to building improvements. Three Lighthouse projects were implemented:

## BABY SHOWER PROJECT

Volunteers from Ethicon Endo-Surgery selected the Baby Shower Project to benefit formerly homeless young adults and their children, now living in Lighthouse supervised apartments. Volunteers collected baby items and made baskets and then delivered them to clients. The volunteers enjoyed an afternoon of cupcakes, snacks, and interaction with the appreciative recipients.



## PAINT THE DOORS

Volunteers from the Cincinnati Public Library went to "Paint the Doors" at the Youth Development Center, a therapeutic residential program for teenage boys who suffer from emotional, behavioral, and other mental health problems. Approximately eighteen doors within the facility received fresh coats of paint.



## WINTER CLEANUP

Volunteers from Fifth Third Bank participated in a Winter Cleanup. They raked leaves, washed windows, sorted clothes, and cleaned the bedrooms of the Youth Crisis Center, the community's only direct-access emergency shelter for distressed youth, open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The day ended with a Thanksgiving Decoration Party complete with pizza, games and activities.



# Hats Off to...

## MVK

Lighthouse Youth Services appreciates the gift of tickets. By providing admission to the zoo and amusement parks and opportunities to enjoy plays, puppet shows, concerts, movies and sporting events, **MVK (Most Valuable Kids)** has opened a new and fabulous world to our Lighthouse youth. If you have unused tickets, please consider donating to MVK. A tax-deductible receipt will be e-mailed to you.



Special thanks go to Tedd and Sherri Friedman for their vision and efforts on behalf of our community's young people as well as to the board members, advisors, and sponsors of MVK. A special thank you also goes to Jones the Florist for the door-to-door delivery service that makes it all possible.

Log on to [www.mostvaluablekids.org](http://www.mostvaluablekids.org) and become a donor. For more information, call (513) 484-3017.

## DESIGNER DONATIONS FOR CINCINNATI CHARITIES

Designer Donations for Cincinnati Charities is a generous supporter of Lighthouse. Please consider gifting new and gently used, high-end women's clothing and accessories. Designer Dress Days will affordably price and sell the articles. Shoppers find bargains galore, and Lighthouse and other non-profits benefit from the proceeds.



Founder Moe Rouse makes it easy to donate. When you have giveaways, please call (513) 281-3704. Gifts to Designer Donations are tax-deductible.



## AMERICAN CORNHOLE

Lighthouse would like to give **American Cornhole** a big round of applause! The first annual Carson Palmer Cornhole Classic, held June 2006, was made possible by the help of this new enterprise. Dedicated to elevating the sport to a new and higher level, the American Cornhole team—Frank Geers, Frank Batsche, Joel Warnecke, Greg Fehrenbach, and others—orchestrated a first class tournament.

Encouraged by the interest expressed the day of the tournament, American Cornhole and Lighthouse joined together to produce and sell the official, deluxe Carson Palmer Classic cornhole boards. These boards are made of beautifully finished wood, expertly crafted. They sell for \$295, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit youth in Lighthouse programs.



This item is bound to please cornhole fans... dedicated and recreational players alike! For more information, please visit the website at [www.americancornhole.com](http://www.americancornhole.com).

# Lighthouse Individualized Docket Services Completes First Year

The Lighthouse Individualized Docket Services has grown by leaps and bounds in the first year and plans another small expansion over the next several months. In partnership with one of only thirteen Juvenile Mental Health Courts in the country, Lighthouse, together with the Hamilton County Juvenile Court, is committed to keeping youth with serious mental health issues out of the juvenile justice system and connecting them to needed and sustainable services within four to six months.

Albeit challenging, we are experiencing successes. Lighthouse partners with the Hamilton County Juvenile Court and the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board in an effort to provide a team approach to these youth and their families. The team concept has proven so successful that the Court and Lighthouse, using the same service model, are partnering again to help more youth with mental health issues receive this service. This new effort is in the final planning stages, and projections are that it will be up and running in May 2007.



## Better Business Bureau Selects Lighthouse as Torch Award Finalist

An independent panel of judges selected Lighthouse Youth Services as a finalist for the Better Business Bureau's 2006 Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics. The Torch Awards honor businesses and organizations who fully commit to ethical practices in all aspects of their business dealings.



Partially Funded by  
the City of Cincinnati  
A United Way Agency Partner

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Cincinnati, OH  
Permit No. 4429

**LIGHTHOUSE**  
YOUTH SERVICES  
BRIGHTER LIVES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES  
1501 MADISON ROAD  
CINCINNATI, OH 45206