



We Serve All Ages &
All Stages of Vision Loss

ILLUMINATIONS

The quarterly newsletter of The Lighthouse of Houston

Summer 2022

LIGHTHOUSE SUMMER CAMP IS HERE!

The Lighthouse of Houston will once again offer its Summer Youth Camps beginning in June. Camp will be held at our main facility, located at 3602 West Dallas Street in Houston. Camp activities will include on-site swimming, games, music, arts & crafts, and fun in-house special events. Camps may be booked per week, and are for blind and low vision children from ages 5 to 10. For more information, or to reserve a spot for your child, please contact Krystian Colley, Activity Director, by emailing kcolley@houstonlighthouse.org or call (713) 284-8424 today!

IN THIS ISSUE:

Summer Camp Is Here!	- p.1
Beeping Easter Egg Hunt	- p.1
Chef Christine Hà	- p.2
Donate Stock to LOH	- p.2
Donations Help Us Shine	- p.2
Dr. Maureen Croft	- p.3
Summer Games in Store	- p.3
Assistive Tech Focus	- p.4
Volunteer with Us	- p.4
Contact the Lighthouse	- p.4



SUMMER CAMP FAST FACTS:
Camp Dates: (weeks of) 6/13, 6/20
6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25

Camp Hours: 7am-6pm, Mon to Fri

Camp Costs: \$250/week per child
Book 3 weeks for a \$50 Discount

For Blind & Low Vision Kids
Ages 5-10



Beeping Easter Egg Hunt Makes Its Return!

On Saturday, April 9, the famous Beeping Easter Hug Hunt made its 40th anniversary return to The Lighthouse of Houston! Children, both blind and sighted, engaged in egg hunts, games, crafts and Easter-themed fun! The event was supported by our partners at BP, Torchy's Tacos (Westchase & Memorial City locations) and Dave & Buster's. Guests were treated to visits from Pinky and Sweetie Bunny for photos. We look forward to even more egg hunt fun in 2023!

Celebrity Chef Christine Hà Visits The Lighthouse

Chef Christine Hà, the first blind contestant and winner of Season 3 of TV's MasterChef, visited The Lighthouse of Houston during April's Beeping Easter Egg Hunt. Chef Hà, who owns two Houston-based restaurants, The Blind Goat and Xin Chào, gave a brief welcome address, and then joined in the fun of the Beeping Easter Egg Hunt.

Chef Hà, an accomplished speaker and writer with degrees from both UT-Austin and the University of Houston, has neuromyelitis optica or NMOSD, in which a person's own immune system attacks the optic nerves and spinal cord. She began losing her vision in 2004, and had nearly complete loss of vision by 2007. Following her triumphant appearance on MasterChef in 2012, Chef Hà was named the winner of the Helen Keller Personal Achievement Award in 2014, an award given to people and organizations that "demonstrated outstanding achievement in improving quality of life for people with vision loss."



Support the Lighthouse of Houston by Donating Stock

The Lighthouse of Houston partners with Donate Stock to make charitable giving of appreciated stock easy and fast. When donating, simply select "The Lighthouse of Houston" as your chosen charitable recipient and complete the brief donor registration. Using Donate Stock is an effective, safe and economical way to support the programs and services that The Lighthouse of Houston provides to the blind and low-vision population. For more information about Donate Stock and all other methods to support our mission, visit our Donate page at www.houstonlighthouse.org/donate.



Your Donations Help Us Shine Brightly!

The mission of The Lighthouse of Houston is to assist people who are blind or low vision to be independent members of society. Each year, approximately 5,000 persons receive services from The Lighthouse. The donations received from our network of companies, foundations and individual donors enable us to provide world-class services and programs. To show your support by making a donation online, simply visit www.houstonlighthouse.org/donate.



Spotlight on Dr. Maureen Croft

A Message from Our Outgoing Chairman of the Board



I am proud to have been associated with the Lighthouse of Houston as a volunteer for the past 21 years. The Lighthouse is a model agency for service provision and advocacy. Our programs are unique, comprehensive, and impactful. We work to maximize functional independence, enhance the quality of life and improve employment opportunities for the thousands of blind and visually impaired children and adults we serve every year.

As our U.S. population ages, more individuals in our community will be diagnosed with visual impairments that threaten to erode their independence and quality of life, especially as a result of macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. The need to provide education, counseling, care, and advocacy remains as critical today as it was 80 years ago when the Lighthouse first opened its doors. Thank you for being part of our mission.

- Maureen Croft, Ph.D is an Associate Professor of Social Work at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

A Message from Our President



The mission of The Lighthouse of Houston is to assist people who are blind or visually impaired to be independent members of society. The past two years, Maureen has served as the Chair for the Board of Directors for the Lighthouse of Houston. Maureen's passion for service and love for the mission was evident in every discussion and decision made during her years of service.

Thank you Maureen for your passion and energy. We are grateful for your service to the mission. Your contributions have made a tangible difference in the lives of our those we serve. Thank You!

- Jenna Dhayer, President

It's Summer! Let the Games Begin!

With the official kick-off of the Summer season this month, it's a good time to remind our readers that our Reflections retail store offers over 20 accessible items in the Games category! We carry everything from classics like Braille Uno, Scrabble and Monopoly to large print playing cards, BINGO and even a tactile Rubik's Cube!



Visit our Reflections store at The Lighthouse of Houston main campus at 3602 W. Dallas St., from Monday to Friday, 9am until 4pm or shop online any time by visiting [our web store!](#)

Assistive Tech Focus: Be My Eyes App

Be My Eyes is a free app, available for download from the Apple App Store and the Google Play store, that connects blind and low-vision people with sighted volunteers and company representatives for visual assistance through a live video call. That assistance can be anything from distinguishing colors, checking expiration dates, or navigating a busy crosswalk.



The idea for Be My Eyes came from Danish furniture craftsman, Hans Jørgen Wiberg. Wiberg, while working with the Danish Association for the Blind, connected the need of the blind and low-vision population in performing everyday tasks to the ubiquity and accessibility of mobile phones and real-time video calls. After receiving support in its start-up phase, Be My Eyes launched in 2015. The app now boasts over 400,000 blind and low-vision users and over 10 times that number of volunteers. Assistance calls are generally answered within seconds. For more information on Be My Eyes, [click here](#) to view a brief demonstration video or visit www.bemyeyes.com.

Volunteers Are the Lifeblood of The Lighthouse!

The Lighthouse of Houston offers volunteer opportunities to support the blind community. The Lighthouse can fit any schedule, and works with individual as well as group volunteers. All volunteers are required to complete a volunteer application, background check and attend a volunteer orientation. Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age.

Volunteer activities include: Telephone Reassurance, Adult Day Care Program, Reflections Store, Living Center Grocery Shopper and more!

Visit the [Volunteer](#) page of our website for more information.



3602 W. Dallas St.
Houston, TX 77019
(713) 527-9561

www.houstonlighthouse.org

