

125 years of vision

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION · SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS



Columbia
Lighthouse
for the **Blind**

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A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

A message of gratitude.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, a small group of Washingtonians founded Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind with a simple and radical belief: that blindness and visual impairment should never limit a person's potential for an independent, fulfilling life.

This year, on October 1st, we will gather to celebrate that legacy, but more importantly, to look forward to the future. Our 125th Anniversary Celebration is not simply a commemoration; it is a rededication to the mission and the community that make it possible.

The work is not finished. If anything, **the need is greater than ever**. Vision loss does not pause and neither does CLB.

Every person who has learned to navigate their neighborhood independently, secured meaningful employment, discovered the tools to read their child a bedtime story, or simply regained confidence after a life-altering diagnosis; they are why we are here. They were the inspiration for CLB, and even more importantly, they are the inspiration for the next one hundred and twenty-five years.

Your sponsorship of this celebration is a direct investment in that work - the programs, the technologies, the training, and the people who carry this mission forward every single day. But more than that, it is a statement. A statement that **independence is not a privilege**. That access is not optional. That **one hundred twenty-five more years of this work is not only possible, but also necessary**.

We are honored to invite you to be a part of our story, and we are deeply grateful that you are here. Thank you for your support.

Rebecca Liko

President & Chief Executive Officer



REBECCA LIKO
PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OUR STORY

A Legacy of Light

FOUNDED
1900

REGIONS SERVED
DC • MD • VA

YEARS OF SERVICE
125

In 1900, two blind men from Connecticut arrived in Washington with a belief that would prove both simple and revolutionary: that blindness should *never* stand between a person and a productive, independent life.



Doug Strobel at Camp Lighthouse

David Snider

**DOUG STROBEL AT CAMP LIGHTHOUSE
DAVID SNIDER**

Francis R. Cleveland and H.R. Miles founded what would become Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind in a small Northwest Washington building, with a Congressional appropriation of \$5,000 and an ambition far larger than their budget. Their goal was not merely to serve; it was to demonstrate to a sighted world what blind individuals were truly capable of.

For one hundred and twenty-five years, that founding conviction has never wavered. Through two World Wars- during which CLB retooled to serve blinded veterans returning home - through the Great Depression, through the sweeping technological revolutions of the late twentieth century, CLB adapted, expanded, and endured. A Braille instruction program launched in 1933. A workforce expanded to meet defense contracts in the 1940s. A complete reorganization in the 1950s, with a new name, a new headquarters, and a renewed commitment to the region.

Today, CLB serves the entire Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia region from two locations, offering assistive technology training, career services, low vision care, orientation and mobility instruction, children's programming, and more. More than half of those we serve retain some usable vision; a testament to how broadly and how precisely CLB has always defined its mission.

The name has changed. The address has changed. The tools have changed beyond anything Cleveland and Miles could have imagined in 1900.

What hasn't changed, is our mission.

AT A GLANCE

Our Impact

~20 million

Americans currently living with visual impairment which is 8% of the population¹

15%

Percentage of people with visual impairments who have an annual income under \$20,000 compared to only 6% of people with an annual income of \$55,000 or more¹

2.5x

People with visual impairment are 2.5 times more likely to be unemployed than their sighted peers²

\$130 billion

Annual economic costs attributable to vision loss in the U.S. including both direct expenses and indirect social burdens³

77,463

Number of blind or visually impaired people living in the DC region⁴

21,659

Number of direct service hours provided by CLB through Adult Services from 2020-2025⁵

13

Number of CLB programs and services for visually impaired community members of all ages⁵

2,293

Number of direct service hours provided by CLB through Youth Services from 2020-2024⁵

¹ Health Policy Institute, Georgetown University. "Visual Impairment." hpi.georgetown.edu. Accessed May 2, 2026.

² American Foundation for the Blind. "Employment Statistics for People with Visual Disabilities." afb.org. Accessed May 2, 2026. Note: 2.5x figure represents the ratio of unemployment rate for people with visual impairment (10%) to sighted peers (4%), 2025 data.

³ Vision Center. "Cost of Vision Loss." visioncenter.org. Accessed May 2, 2026.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. "American Community Survey." census.gov. Accessed May 2, 2026.

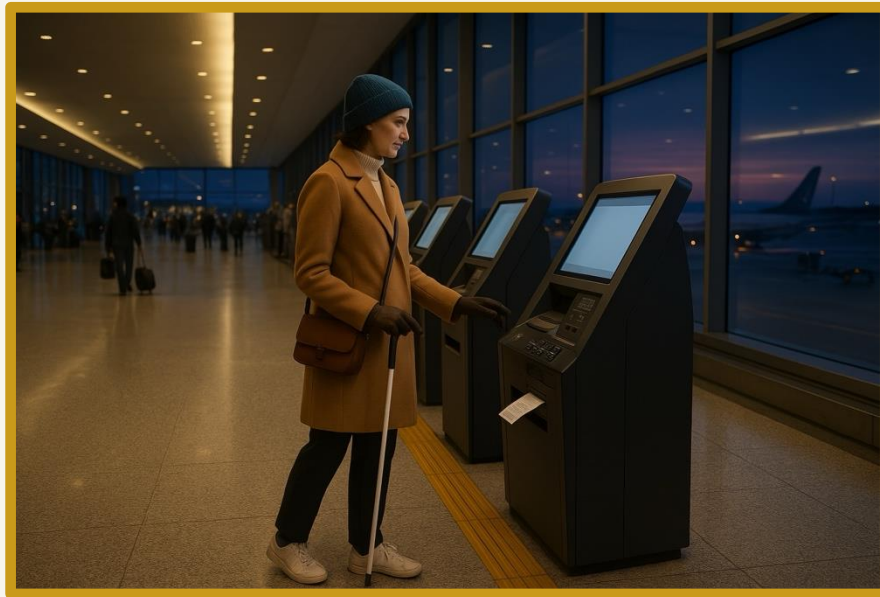
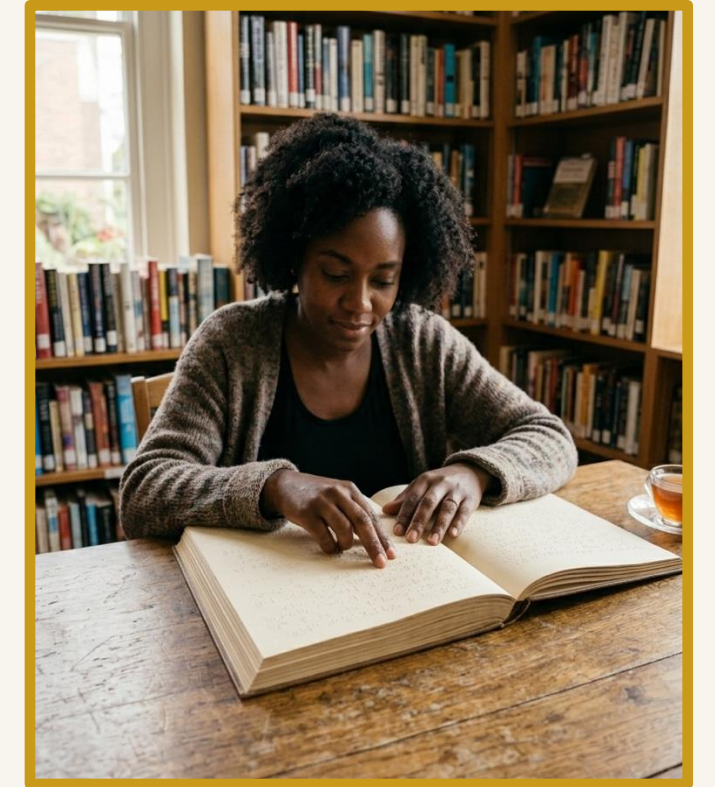
⁵ Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind. Internal program data and organizational records, 2015-2025. Washington, DC.

The Heart of Our Work

"I started my journey of volunteering with CLB as a way to show my son the importance of serving others. I want him to grow up knowing that volunteering should be a part of everyday life."

In my past, my volunteer work has been within a group setting, but with CLB, I spend my time with one client. This is where I fully understand the saying – volunteering will change your life. The woman I was matched up with from CLB has given more to me than I could ever give her in return. She has taught me things about living with a disability, about giving to others and about understanding life in general. She goes through her life without seeing, but she has a remarkable vision on life."

- CLB Volunteer



"Blindness is not the end of the world. You can make it anywhere you go. Come to Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind and you will meet people who welcome you like their own – who will teach you, train you, and help you communicate with the world. I came, and here I am today. Any other person can come, and they too will be welcome as I am welcome."

- CLB Consumer

The Ripple Effect

"Where do I go from here? That's what I asked my doctor when I realized I was losing my sight. He told me about Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind. Once I went, I met some wonderful people who started me with mobility training and gave me my first white cane, which I resisted to no end, but now it's my best friend. My eyes. You just have to learn how to do things different. That concept gave me wings and I've been flying ever since."

- CLB Alumni & Community Advocate



"CLB has always found a way to show up for me – whether it was online or in person. I feel like I am more prepared, more competent, and more capable. I can go where I want, whenever I want to. When it comes to CLB, nothing is holding me back from what I really want to do."

- CLB Youth Alumni, Finance Major at Howard University

Lighting the Future

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind's 125th anniversary is more than just a milestone for our organization and the community we serve. It is where our legacy becomes our momentum. With new branding, new contracts, and new technologies, CLB will continue to build on the same unwavering mission that has guided us since 1900. In the years ahead, we are committed to:



SUSTAINING OUR FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

The Foundations of Adjustment to Blindness program remains the cornerstone of CLB's mission – providing essential, customized training to individuals navigating vision loss. Without CLB, accessing the equivalent one-on-one training can take up to six months. We are here to make sure that wait doesn't define someone's future.



REVITALIZING YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS

CLB is renewing its commitment to the next generation of community members that will experience visual impairments. Our team will be working on rebuilding and expanding youth programming for greater reach and deeper impact, so that children with vision loss have the skills and confidence to thrive.



EXPANDING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

As technology transforms what's possible for people with vision loss, including emerging tools like Meta smart glasses that provide real-time assistance in everyday situations, CLB will ensure our clients have access to and training with the cutting-edge tools that have the power to change their lives.



GROWING WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIPS

Building on our recently awarded federal contract, CLB will be actively exploring opportunities for expanding the training and opportunities for our clients. Through targeted skills development, assistive technology integration, and growing our network of partnerships, we are committed to preparing individuals with vision loss for meaningful, lasting careers.

THE CELEBRATION

An Evening to Remember

Please join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating one hundred and twenty-five years of independence, innovation, and impact.

The CLB 125th Anniversary Celebration is an intimate, invitation-only gathering bringing together supporters, partners, and community leaders for a milestone evening that honors our past and ignites our future.

DATE: Thursday, October 1, 2026

TIME: 6:00pm until 9:00pm

PLACE: National Industries of the Blind
2nd Floor
3000 Potomac Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22305

Event dress code will be business cocktail.

The evening will include:

- ★ *Cocktail reception with light hors d'oeuvres*
- ★ *Keynote remarks from leadership*
- ★ *Silent auction featuring curated experiences and one-of-a-kind items*
- ★ *Recognition of CLB honorees and community partners*
- ★ *A first look at the next chapter of CLB's mission*
- ★ *Live music from local musicians*



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Partner With Us

In her letter, our CEO said it simply: your partnership doesn't just celebrate where we have been, it helps determine where we go next. From our founders to our staff, from our clients to our volunteers, from our board to our community partners – everyone involved with Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind's mission shares one common belief:

Independence is worth fighting for. Access is worth investing in.

Sponsorship of the CLB 125th Anniversary Celebration is an investment in that future. It is a statement that independence is not a privilege, and that access is not optional. With your support, the next 125 years of this work is not only possible, but also necessary.

Every level of support makes a difference. Every partner becomes a part of our story and the lives of those we serve.

We cannot do this alone.

Will you join us?



VINTAGE MOBILITY PHOTO
PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

All gifts and donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit • EIN: 530196609

SPONSORSHIP TIERS

Light the Way With Us



Luminary

The beacon that guides the others to follow

\$25,000+

Includes up to 8 complimentary event tickets

Sponsorship includes:

- ★ Speaking opportunity at celebration (2 minutes)
- ★ Premier logo on event materials (including marketing materials)
- ★ Named personally in CEO remarks
- ★ Dedicated social media feature with custom graphic
- ★ Prominent logo on CLB website for one year from event date
- ★ Press release acknowledgement
- ★ Behind the Mission: A Day with CLB (an exclusive experience)
- ★ Customized commemorative event keepsake



Illumination

Brightening the path for all who follow

\$10,000

Includes up to 6 complimentary event tickets

Sponsorship includes:

- ★ Premier logo on event materials (including marketing materials)
- ★ Named personally in CEO remarks
- ★ Dedicated social media feature with custom graphic
- ★ Prominent logo on CLB website for one year from event date
- ★ Press release acknowledgement
- ★ Mission in Action: Technology Training (an observation experience)
- ★ Customized commemorative event keepsake

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SPONSORSHIP TIERS

Light the Way With Us



Beacon

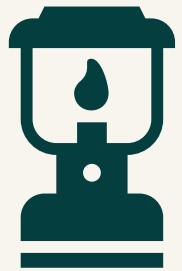
A steady light in the community

\$5,000

Includes up to 4 complimentary event tickets

Sponsorship includes:

- ★ Logo on event materials
- ★ Recognized from the stage during the event
- ★ Social media mention
- ★ Logo on CLB website for one year from event date
- ★ Customized commemorative event keepsake



Lantern

Lighting the way, one step at a time

\$2,500

Includes 2 complimentary event tickets

Sponsorship includes:

- ★ Name on event materials
- ★ Recognized from the stage during the event
- ★ Social media mention
- ★ Name on CLB website for one year from event date
- ★ Customized commemorative event keepsake

Have a bigger vision? Custom sponsorship packages are available for investments above our listed tiers. Reach out and let's build something extraordinary together.

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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Illuminate the Details

EVENT ELEMENT	AMOUNT	INCLUDES
Dining & Dessert	\$25,000	Named as Official Dining & Dessert Sponsor, signage at food stations, logo on cocktail napkins, premier program listing with logo, premier logo on website
Silent Auction	\$20,000	Named as Official Silent Auction Sponsor, signage at auction table, logo on virtual auction site, program listing, logo on website
Bar & Beverage	\$15,000	Named as Official Bar & Beverage Sponsor, signage at bar, logo on cocktail napkins , program listing with logo , logo on website
Anniversary Booklet	\$10,000	Named as Official Anniversary Booklet Sponsor, full page recognition in program, logo on website
Photography & Videography	\$2,500	Named as Official Photography Sponsor, signage at stage, program listing
Entertainment <i>(Live Music)</i>	\$1,500	Named as Official Entertainment Sponsor, signage at stage, program listing
Valet Parking	\$1,500	Named as Official Valet Parking Sponsor, signage at valet, program listing
Coat Check	\$1,500	Named as Official Coat Check Sponsor, signage at coat check, program listing

Element sponsorships are available on a first-come, first-served basis and may be combined with tier sponsorships for enhanced recognition.

SILENT AUCTION

Bid for a Brighter Future

No CLB celebration would be complete without the opportunity to come together around a cause that matters and walk away with something meaningful with a wonderful memory attached.

Our 125th Anniversary Celebration will include a silent auction featuring a curated selection of experiences, artwork, dining, and one-of-a-kind items donated by partners, supporters, and members of the CLB community. Every bid directly supports the clients and programs at the heart of our mission.

Donating to the silent auction is more than generosity, it's also visibility. Your item, your brand, or your experience will be seen and coveted by an exclusive room of community leaders, corporate partners, and philanthropists who are already invested in making a difference.

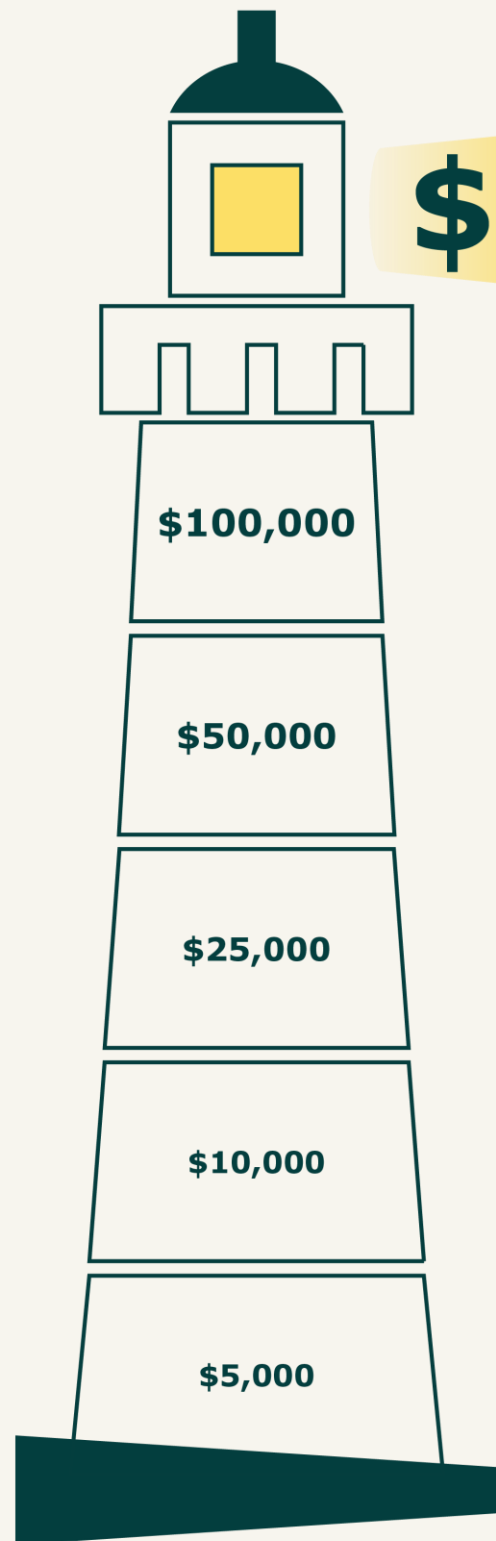
Interested in donating an auction item?

We would love to hear from you. Auction donations of any kind – experiences, services, artwork, travel opportunities, and more – are all welcome and tax-deductible. Every item expands the impact of the evening, and more importantly, helps us get one step closer to funding the future.



THE CAMPAIGN

In Honor of 125 Years



\$125,000

In honor of Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind's Anniversary Celebration, we have set an ambitious target of raising \$125,000 in donations – \$1,000 for each year of service to the community.

The 125 for 125 campaign represents more than just a fundraising target, it is a declaration of intent. A statement that CLB is not simply marking a milestone but building towards the next one. Every dollar raised funds the programs, the technology, the training, and the people that will carry this mission into its next chapter.

Every gift, at every level, moves our mission forward.

For more information or to donate, visit our Anniversary Celebration website at www.CLB.org/125years. You may also mail donations to:

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
1825 K Street NW –Suite 510
Washington, DC 20006

For all mailed donations, please include a note that says "125th."

Ambition is how we got here. Ambitious is how we go further.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Our Event Team



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For more information on Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, please visit our website at www.CLB.org.

 [Linkedin.com/columbialight](https://www.linkedin.com/company/columbialight)

 [facebook.com/columbialight](https://www.facebook.com/columbialight)

 [youtube.com/@ColumbiaLighthouse](https://www.youtube.com/@ColumbiaLighthouse)

 [x.com/columbialight](https://www.x.com/columbialight)