The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

Foundation Board Member Description

Mission

We empower people who are blind, DeafBlind, and blind with other disabilities by creating diverse, sustainable, and meaningful employment opportunities.

Position

Foundation Board Members are skilled volunteers who act as primary liaisons into the community, and live the mission through their work with the Lighthouse. Foundation Board Members are given unique opportunities to be fully immersed in the Lighthouse community through connection and cultivation activities, continuing education opportunities, and interaction with Lighthouse staff and donors. The Foundation Board exists to serve the Lighthouse by supporting its fundraising activities, networking in the community, establishing new relationships with individuals and businesses, and serving the mission of the Lighthouse.

In the United States today, 70% of individuals who are blind are unemployed and one third live in poverty.

The Lighthouse stands as one of Seattle's oldest social enterprises and is changing the landscape of employment among the blind and DeafBlind communities. The Lighthouse is a frontrunner in breaking down barriers to employment by utilizing assistive and adaptive technologies and providing comprehensive supportive services to all employees.

The Foundation Board does not set or decide on specific organizational strategies but does give feedback on fundraising and marketing (to donors) approach. They do not have budget oversight.

The Foundation Board is supported directly by the Development Team in their yearly activities.

Desired Qualities

- Positivity and passion for the Lighthouse mission
- A desire to develop relationships with the people the Lighthouse serves
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, dedication, and enthusiasm
- Initiative and motivation to tap into new funding sources and work with development staff to implement appropriate funding strategies
- Commitment and eagerness to attend and participate in meetings
- Desire to build relationships with and steward existing donors
- Ability to commit four hours monthly to Lighthouse and stewardship activities

Responsibilities

- Primary responsibilities include:
    - Enthusiastically attend fundraising meetings and activities and events

    - Introduce new people to the Lighthouse
    - Represent the Lighthouse in the community to raise awareness about the mission
    - Participate in the Lighthouse main event in a meaningful way
    - Thank donors, community partners, and other volunteers
- Participate in all four board meetings per year (in person or via conference call)
- With the support of the Development team build relationships with assigned portfolio of Lighthouse donors
- Collaborate with Development Team:
    - Complete annual Commitment Form that includes goals for event involvement, donor stewardship, donor cultivation, marketing and public relations, and continuing education opportunities
- Participate on at least one Foundation Committee per three year term
    - i.e. Events Committee or Corporate Committee (other committees TBD)
- Participate in Lighthouse activities outside of meetings that demonstrate a commitment to the Lighthouse and a willingness to build relationships with those that the Lighthouse exists to serve
- Invest in building the future of the Lighthouse at a personally significant level

Onboarding Process

In order to make sure the Lighthouse is the right fit for you, we ask that Foundation Board prospects take part in a few activities before your commitment to serve as a member of the Foundation Board is confirmed. Some of these activities include:

- Completion of Foundation Board Membership Application
- Attend a tour of the Lighthouse
- Meet with Foundation Board President, Development Team, and Senior Staff
- Participate in one or two volunteer opportunities
- Attend one Foundation Board Meeting as a guest

Questions?

Please contact Kate Wiegel, Senior Director of Institutional Relations, at (206) 436-2116 or kwiegel@LHBlind.org