

METROPOLIS PLANET

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Metropolis' Hope Light turns 10

The Hope Light Foundation is recognizing the 10-year anniversary of the Metropolis Hope Light Lighthouse — the world's only lighthouse designed, built and dedicated to the fight against cancer.

Located on the bank of the Ohio River in Metropolis, at the entrance to Dorothy Miller Park, the 30 foot tall lighthouse was erected at the site on June 4, 2014, and officially dedicated to the fight against cancer in a Nov. 5, 2014, ceremony. Since then, the lighthouse has become an official Illinois State Attraction, a “Beacon of Hope” for cancer patients and survivors and a memorial of the lives lost to cancer as can be seen by more than 600 personalized bricks in the walkway surrounding the lighthouse



This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Hope Light Lighthouse. Located at Dorothy Miller Park on the Metropolis riverfront, it is the only lighthouse in the world designed, built and dedicated to the fight against cancer.

The lighthouse project began with Metropolis City Council approval in 2005 when then-Mayor Billy McDaniel appointed alderman Bill Carrell to lead the Metropolis Hope Light Project. Carrell later became the official Lighthouse Keeper.

“Although construction of the lighthouse was a dream of Beverly and mine for years, it would not have been possible without the many donors of time, money and materials, including the pro-bono design by Eggemeyer Associates Architects of Herrin, the real estate provided by the City of Metropolis and significant grants from the George A. Bates Memorial Foundation and the Metropolis Area Tourism Commission,” said Rudy Bess, founding director of The Hope Light Foundation.

The lighthouse is the flagship of The Hope Light Foundation and a symbol of hope for all people in their fight against all cancers. Its characteristics are its conical shaped white tower and its teal daymark band below a black lantern room with a flashing white light marine beacon. The white tower symbolizes the fight against lung cancer, which is the deadliest cancer among both males and females. The teal daymark band symbolizes the fight against ovarian cancer, which is the deadliest gynecologic cancer. The black lantern room symbolizes a cancer patient's dark journey following a cancer diagnosis with the flashing white light symbolizing hope for survival and a cure.

Thanks to the national and international publicity of the lighthouse from articles published in the “Lighthouse Digest” magazine and being a member of the United States Lighthouse Society's Passport Program, the Hope Light has become a popular attraction for many lighthouse enthusiasts and others interested in its symbolic mission to navigate people to cancer signs and symptoms published in the foundation's website at www.hopelightproject.com.

The Metropolis Hope Light Project is a DBA of The Hope Light Foundation, a 501©(3) nonprofit public charity with all donations being tax deductible. For more information on the lighthouse and how to purchase personalized walkway bricks, visit www.hopelightproject.com/metropolis-hope-light.html.