



## **The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation Grants \$145,000 to Support Continued Restoration of Huntington Lighthouse**

**Huntington, New York (August 21, 2017)** -- *The Huntington Lighthouse Preservation Society (HLPS) is thrilled to announce that they are the recipient of a \$145,000 matching grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation (RDLGF) to continue restoration and preservation efforts on the 105-year old historic lighthouse. The grant was announced by RDLGF Executive Director, Kathryn Curran, after a highly competitive review process identified the Huntington Lighthouse's "vital role as a cultural entity, enhancing education and preserving heritage in the community."*

*HLPS president Pam Setchell said, "We are so grateful to The Gardiner Foundation for this generous grant which will allow us to complete the critical foundation repairs on this important landmark. Through the incredible friends and neighbors of the lighthouse, matching funds were raised and we are able to engage the contractor to amend the scope of work and finish the serious foundation repairs."*

*Setchell continued, "Upon completion of the work, we're looking forward to once again sharing this beautiful offshore lighthouse for tours and educational groups, as well as the return of the popular Lighthouse Music Fest in 2018*

*Through its tireless efforts the non-profit Huntington Lighthouse Preservation Society has raised more than \$740,000 which secured a \$250,000 State of New York matching grant. Additional fundraising efforts including a successful CrowdRise Campaign, a grassroots effort championed by two gracious Wincoma - Huntington Bay residents that raised over \$27,000 and a generous \$50,000 anonymous donation helped to close the gap.*

*To make a donation or to learn more about the Huntington Lighthouse, visit: [www.huntingtonlighthouse.org](http://www.huntingtonlighthouse.org)*

Media contact:

Suzanne Pelisson-Beasley

[Suzanne.Pelisson-Beasley@SeaWorld.com](mailto:Suzanne.Pelisson-Beasley@SeaWorld.com)

[973-801-6223](tel:973-801-6223)

**About the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation**

*The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, established in 1987, primarily supports the study of New York State history, with an emphasis on Suffolk County. Robert David Lion Gardiner was, until his death in August 2004, the 16th Lord of the Manor of Gardiner's Island. The Gardiner family and their descendants have owned Gardiner's Island since 1639, obtained as part of a royal grant from King Charles I of England. The Foundation is inspired by Robert David Lion Gardiner's personal passion for New York history.*

**About the Huntington Lighthouse Preservation Society**

*For more than a century, the Huntington Lighthouse has served as a trusted navigation aid to mariners, a treasured landmark for the community and an educational resource for visitors. But this unique Beaux Arts structure, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, once came close to demolition. In 1985, The U.S. Coast Guard was prepared to tear down the crumbling structure and replace it with a utilitarian steel lighthouse. That's when a local group, Save Huntington's Lighthouse, was formed. Founded by Janis Harrington, the private group was the first in the country to petition the USCG and successfully take over and restore an offshore lighthouse.*

*Since then, the nonprofit organization, now called the Huntington Lighthouse Preservation Society (HLPS), under the guidance of president Pamela Setchell, has raised funds for restoration work largely from donations and the help of volunteers.*