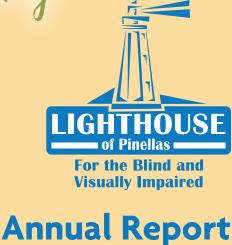
"Lighthouse of Pinellas is a place where good things happen every day."

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2015-2016

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Mission

Our mission is "to advance the independence and quality of life for individuals in Pinellas County who are blind or visually impaired."

Letter from the President & Board Chair

In fiscal year 2015-2016, Lighthouse of Pinellas proudly celebrated its 60th year serving those who are visually impaired or blind in Pinellas County. For six decades, our staff has gained knowledge, experience and expertise providing comprehensive vision rehabilitation training and services for individuals of all ages.

While we took a moment to pause to reflect on our rich and accomplished history, our eyes have been focused directly on the future. With the uncertainty of healthcare reform in the coming year, Lighthouse of Pinellas has sought new revenue sources, increased its marketing efforts and expanded its programs.

In this year's annual report, you'll read about our new Children's Program for elementary and middle school age students; the launch of an alumni program for clients who have completed Lighthouse training and an emphasis on increased community awareness.

Each of these initiatives are changing lives like Sean Day, a former computer repair technician who finds he has a chance to help others while learning from them as well in Lighthouse's Alumni Program. And, Robert Steward, who is deaf and blind in one eye. He accessed LHP's Vocational Rehabilitation Program where he learned to write a resume, improve his interviewing skills and train once on the job.

We have had much to celebrate this past year. And, we couldn't have built a successful 60-year legacy without the support and partnership of our generous donors. Everything we accomplished is a product of your willingness to engage in our mission and give from the heart. On behalf of all those we serve, thank you for your commitment to making a difference.



Daniel T. Mann President & CEO



Dennis Holthaus Lighthouse of Pinellas Board Chair

Lighthouse of Pinellas, Inc.

2015 - 2016 Board of Directors

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Lighthouse of Pinellas Programs

Established 60 years ago, the Lighthouse of Pinellas (LHP) provides comprehensive vision rehabilitation training and services for individuals of all ages in Pinellas County who are visually impaired or blind. Our highly trained and certified and/or licensed staff provides individual and group instruction designed to help clients succeed in school, the work place, travel independently in the community and live a safe and healthy lifestyle despite vision impairments.

Adult Services Independent Living Skills

Certified instructors teach individuals new ways to perform familiar tasks and manage their daily lives. Clients learn adaptations for cooking, cleaning, money management, home organization and personal care, as well as traveling safely and independently with the use of a white cane.

Occupational Therapy Services

The LHP Occupational Therapist is certified in Low Vision and works to ensure that older adults are able to age in place, live independently and participate in their communities regardless of their visual impairment. An expert in activity analysis and environmental modification, the Occupational Therapist determines how vision impairment has limited a person's ability to complete common daily tasks. The OT then modifies the task and/or the environment to minimize or remove those limitations. Additionally, our Occupational Therapist is a Certified Diabetes Educator and provides training specifically designed for each client to develop diabetes self-management skills so they can monitor blood glucose, manage their medications and plan healthy meals.

Orientation & Mobility

Certified Orientation & Mobility specialists help individuals who are visually impaired or blind discover new techniques for traveling safely and independently in their homes, their workplaces and in the community. Skills taught include learning to use a white cane, cross streets safely and independently, access public transportation when driving a car is no longer an option, and for some, developing the prerequisite skills to obtain a dog guide.

Access Technology Training

Access technology allows clients of all ages – from the youngest to seniors – to engage with technology and gain skills equal to those of their sighted peers. Our specialized instructors provide training in the use of magnification and/ or screen reading software - which reads everything on a device out load - access computers, Windows operating systems, e-mail and the internet. In addition, instruction is provided on scanners and optical character recognition software to access printed materials, and how to use the built-in access technology on iPads and iPhones.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Lighthouse of Pinellas offers comprehensive training to empower individuals with the skills and confidence

needed to gain, maintain or regain employment. In addition to independent living skills training and learning to travel independently in the community, clients receive access technology training necessary to function efficiently in the workplace alongside their sighted peers. Clients also participate in job readiness training and adjustment to vision loss classes to build the skills and confidence needed to land their next job. Job Placement Services and Supported Employment Services are also available for clients who have completed their vocational rehabilitation training program.

Individual & Group Counseling

Vision loss can be devastating. People who lose their sight may experience both physical and emotional changes which can affect their personal well-being. For parents of a child who is born severely visually impaired or blind, the emotional challenges can be significant and overwhelming. Lighthouse of Pinellas offers individual and group counseling provided by a licensed mental health counselor who has significant expertise in vision loss as a result of her personal experience as a successful professional who is also blind.

Counseling services are available to LHP clients as well as their family members and they are intended to help in the transition, recovery and adjustment to living with vision impairment; provide stress management, problemsolving and self-advocacy techniques; and address anger, depression and other common concerns associated with low vision or blindness.

Youth Services Early Intervention Program

A child who is blind or visually impaired must learn about the world in other ways. The Early Intervention Program at Lighthouse of Pinellas teaches children from birth to five years how to best use their remaining vision; walk, feed and dress themselves: as well as communicate and socialize with others. Children with severe vision loss also need additional training in auditory, tactile, pre-braille and independent travel skills to be as prepared for success in school as their sighted peers. Parents are provided with information, education, and support to assist them in raising a child with vision

Children's Program

Because children need to focus on academics during the school day, this program is specifically tailored to elementary and middle school age children to help develop and reinforce adaptive skills and techniques to enable them to compete in a sighted world. Our real-life instruction and experiences will ultimately enhance their success as they move through the Teen Transition Program and on to life after high school.

Transition Program

The Transition Program empowers teenagers ages 14 – high school graduation to transition from high school to college, technical school or employment by providing extensive year-round training in personal and home management, access technology, job readiness, selfadvocacy and independent travel skills. In addition, the teens participate in summer work experiences, career exploration and volunteer opportunities to prepare them for success in competitive employment and living on their own after graduation.

> Orientation & Mobility training helped Eva safely navigate her senior living community and enjoy the park-like grounds.



Neylan can play at the park just like sighted children thanks to the skills she learned in the LHP Children's Program.

Clients learn to use adaptive devices to perform everyday tasks in Independent Living Classes.

loss so they can become a successful, healthy adult.

Planting Seeds Through Community Outreach

Through robust community education and awareness programs, Lighthouse of Pinellas (LHP) strives to educate the public on the various causes of vision loss and provides information on the agency's low vision rehabilitation and occupational therapy programs. Lighthouse staff and volunteers participate in community health fairs and conduct presentations to a wide range of groups such as civic organizations, service clubs, business associations, retirement communities and more.

Lighthouse staff also visits vision care physicians to familiarize them with vital LHP services that can lessen the impact of vision loss, and improve independence and quality of life. This year the American Academy of Ophthalmologists announced that Vision Rehabilitation is now the standard of care for patients who are losing their vision. We at the Lighthouse feel this is a giant step forward in connecting people with severe vision loss to the services that can help them live safe and healthy lifestyles.

Lighthouse of Pinellas also conducts facility tours to provide an opportunity for our community to see LHP classrooms, observe trainings and watch demonstrations of the latest assistive technology.

Helping adult and senior alumni maintain their independence and improve their quality of life

New Children's Program: Filling the Gap

In 2015, the Florida Legislature approved vitally-needed funding for children ages five – 13 who are blind or visually impaired. As a direct result, the Lighthouse of Pinellas was able to launch our first year-round program for children in elementary and middle school. The new programming filled a critical gap in services between our Early Intervention Program for children ages birth through five years old and our Transition Program for teens ages 14 – high school graduation.

Twice a month, students meet at the Lighthouse to learn independent living skills, how to use adaptive devices and technology to access information and participate in career exploration. They also have an opportunity to meet and socialize with others who are visually impaired and take part in field trips, arts and crafts activities, as well as team-building games.

In addition to the Saturday programs during the school year, students can also attend a three-week Life Skills summer camp filled with educational and recreational activities.

Special Events Bowling in the Dark

Lighthouse of Pinellas hosted its 3rd Annual Bowling in the Dark fundraiser on April 9, 2016. This unique event had a three-fold purpose to: raise financial support for Lighthouse programs and services; engage the community in the mission of the Lighthouse; and involve the vision-impaired community in a Lighthouse event.

The event was a perfect "strike" for Lighthouse programs. And, all the teams, sighted and vision impaired, enjoyed the opportunity to compete together. In addition to a fun afternoon of bowling, the Saturday event included a silent auction, refreshments, contests and, of course, awards.

Achieva Credit Union entered a team in the 2016 Bowling for the Blind event.



Optometrist and LHP Board member Dr. Ron Tucker and his wife, Sarah won the 2016 Bowling for the Blind costume contest.

Point of Light Luncheon

On September 9, 2016, Lighthouse of Pinellas held its 10th Annual Point of Light Luncheon. This mission-driven event honored two community volunteers and featured the stories of two individuals who overcame vision loss in their adult years.

With over 350 guests in attendance, retired Fox 13 News Anchor John Wilson set the stage for a successful afternoon. The Point of Light Committee recognized Dr. Louis Michaelos with the Beacon of Light Award for his contributions to the field of vision. And, they honored Dr. Ronald G. Tucker with the John Wilson Spot Light Volunteer Award for his outstanding volunteer service.

The highlight of the luncheon was a presentation by

architect Christopher Downey, who lost all sight in 2008 and went on to continue his practice. Downey shared how he is able to compete and work in a sighted world and consults with clients throughout the county. Also, in a heartwarming testimonial, former LHP client J. Sherwood White explained how he lost much of his sight to macular degeneration. The thriving business owner contacted the Lighthouse and took advantage of nearly every course offered, to help him not only take care of his personal needs, but to keep working as a financial planner.

A special thank you to our dedicated committee chaired by Joan Kline and included Terry Porter, Pat Grubb and Scott Daniels.

Chairwoman Joan Kline welcomes



The 2016 Point of Light Luncheon committee worked tirelessly to plan a successful event. Pictured L to R: Terry Porter, Chairwoman Joan Kline, Pat Grubb & Scott Daniels.



talks with Lighthouse staff. Pictured L to R: Lighthouse CFO Kimberly Zumdieck, Christopher Downey, Rosa Downey & Lighthouse CEO Dan Mann.

"Where good things happen every day." Profile: Sean Day

Sean Day's passion is computer technology and electronics. For 30 years, the 53-yearold worked in the electronics field repairing medical equipment at Morton Plant Hospital and Largo Medical Center. Throughout his career, he also ran a side business repairing televisions, radios, computers and other devices.

Although he was born with centralized cataracts and minimal muscles in his eyes, he pursued his passion and enjoyed a career in bringing electronics back to life.



Sean Day participates in the LHP Alumni Program and enjoys helping other clients with their computer skills.

Throughout his life, his sight was slowly diminishing. But, after numerous surgeries to repair various areas of his eye, his sight was reduced to tunnel vision in one eye and he was told he would need cornea transplants – a procedure he prefers to research further before undertaking.

Remembering Lighthouse of Pinellas' former location on Myrtle Road in Clearwater, Sean found our office in Largo. "I wanted to learn all I could to operate without vision," he said. And he did. Sean took full advantage of the training at the Lighthouse. He participated the 6-week Independent Living class on Thursdays, cooking classes and orientation and mobility training to get around town on his own and learn how to use the white cane.

And, of course, he signed up for many computer classes.

Once he completed his classes, he began attending the Alumni Program. "I spend most of my time with Merv in the computer lab. He's someone with similar interests as mine and we share experiences and work on solving software issues together," Sean said.

Merv Keck is a volunteer for Lighthouse and visually impaired himself. He helps Lighthouse alumni improve their technology skills. He troubleshoots problems they are having with screen reading programs, helps clients better understand their smart phones and tablets and helps the alumni get more comfortable using technology. Sean said, "I like the Alumni Program because I can help others with my skills and they can help me. It gives us an opportunity to meet others who have vision impairment and learn from each other."

Other sessions offered to Lighthouse alumni are a book club facilitated by the Talking Book Library, music appreciation, card games and educational speakers. The Alumni Program offers social, educational, leisure and wellness opportunities to help our clients avoid isolation, maintain the skills they learned in their rehabilitation program and improve their overall quality of life.

"Where good things happen every day." Profile: Kobert Steward

Typically, employment provides a sense of purpose, belongingness and a feeling of satisfaction that you are a contributing member of society. As a matter of fact, according to psychotherapist Charles Allen, "selfesteem and self-worth are closely aligned with working."

Yet most visually impaired and blind individuals are not employed. Lighthouse of Pinellas (LHP) understands the value of having a job when a person has a disability, well beyond the monetary benefits. And it's also a priority for the Florida Division of Blind Services who help fund LHP's job readiness and job placement services in Pinellas County, along with community donations.

Robert Steward was born completely deaf and with total blindness in his right eye and severe low vision in his left eye. Formerly from Georgia, Robert moved to Florida two-anda-half years ago. Despite his hearing and vision impairments, Robert worked as a custodian, stockperson at Wal-Mart, built wood frames for

canvas prints, and in the warehouse of a candy company. But when he came to Florida, he found it difficult to find an employer willing to hire him.

Always an enthusiastic and capable worker, the 48-yearold sought services from Lighthouse of Pinellas. Robert said, "I am thankful for the job readiness program where I learned to write a resume and cover letter. And, I had an employment specialist help me fill out applications and improve my interviewing skills." Robert's case manager sent him job leads, helped him prepare for interviews and



Robert Steward, a client of the LHP Vocational Rehabilitation Program took part in job readiness classes and now works at Access Mail in Clearwater.

connected him with computer classes at the Lighthouse.

In January, Robert started his new job at Access Mail. He sorts mail in a very loud area of the building. Being deaf, he is unaffected by the volume which could be detrimental to a person who can hear. "I love my job. The people are really nice, friendly and flexible. I'm glad to be able to support myself financially," he said.

When Robert is not working, he still contributes to the community. He volunteers at his church teaching sign language at no cost to anyone in the community.

Statement of Activities - Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Financial Stability

Because our donors chose to invest in LHP programs that change lives every day, we remain a strong and stable organization ready for future growth.



Expenses

Program

Services

General

Total

Fundraising

Management &

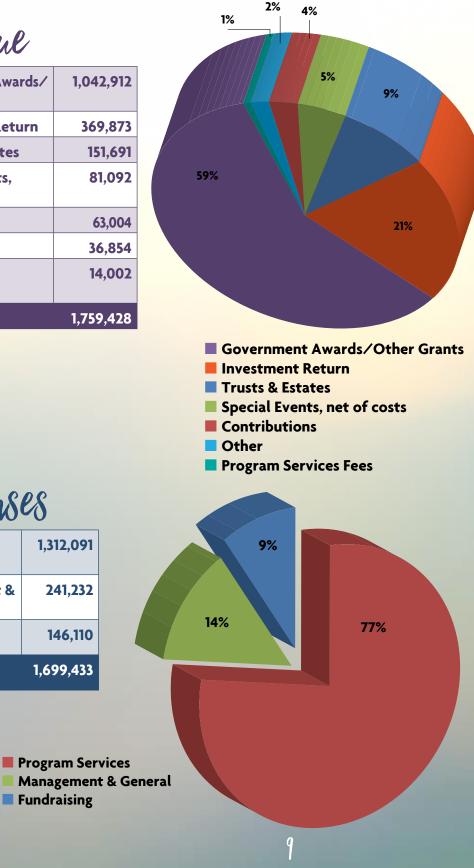
1,312,091

241,232

146,110

1,699,433

Fundraising



(Wission

Our donors, grantors and made it possible for Lighthouse of Pinellas to add two programs and help 528 clients on their way to independence.

years serving the visually impaired

clients served

hew programs

346 supporters

320 referrals hrograms

ene care hnsicians engaged in

Lighthouse of Pinellas Supporters

October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016

Your gifts to the Lighthouse of Pinellas are used to support lifechanging programs that give hope, opportunity and possibilities to residents who are visually impaired or blind. We at the Lighthouse appreciate your commitment to our mission. Every contribution makes a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Humanitarian - \$25,000 - \$49,999

James P. Gills Foundation, Inc. National Christian Foundation Tampa Bay Pinellas Community Foundation

Cornerstone - \$10,000-\$24,999

Achieva Foundation Community Foundation of Tampa Bay Plus One, Inc.

Beacon - \$5,000-\$9,999

Copperhead Charities, Inc. Mrs. Patricia A. Grubb Mudra Foundation Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kline National Non-Profit for Americans with Disabilities, Inc. The Hurlburt Family Foundation U. S. Charitable Gift Trust Van Middlesworth and Company, P.A.

Visionary - \$1,000-\$4,999

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Steward - \$500-999

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Students from the Teen Transition Program planned an overnight trip to the University of South Florida with minimal help from LHP staff using the skills they learned in the program.



Calvin uses the orientation and mobility skills he learned in the LHP Children's Program to find beeper eggs at the Annual Family Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt.





Keila, a client of the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, uses the LHP Computer Lab to research for job placement.









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Sponsored in part by the State of Florida Department of Education/ Division of Blind Services







