

We See Things **DIFFERENTLY**



2020 – 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION

To advance the independence and quality of life for individuals in Pinellas County who are blind or visually impaired.

VISION

*Every individual who is blind or visually impaired has the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential and to pursue their highest aspirations in all aspects of life.
We See Things Differently*



Board of Directors

Michael Porter, Chair

Donald R. Mandeville, Treasurer

David House, Immediate Past Chair

Lisa Hendrickson

Ronald Tucker

Chris Comstock

Ricky Bouchard

Hon. Joseph Donahey

Joan Kline

Jamie Neilson

Carolina Piamba

Marietta Poshi

Senior Management Team

Kimberly Church,
President & CEO

Candyl Eyster,
Director of Marketing and Communications

Rebecca Morgan,
Director of Finance

Meri Taylor,
Director of Programs





Message from the President and Board Chair

Dear friends,

Lighthouse of Pinellas has been honored to provide comprehensive vision rehabilitation services to individuals in our community who are blind or visually impaired for more than 65 years. Today, the quality of our programs, the support of our grantors and donors and the professionalism of our caring staff and volunteers make us especially proud.



During the past fiscal year, we began to gradually open our doors to offer in-person instructional classes as the health risks resulting from COVID-19 slowly declined. A global pandemic reminded us we can always seek ways to improve and grow our operations and programs. Thanks to a Citizen Services Grant from the Pinellas Community Foundation, we've begun offering Wellness Support Groups facilitated by a licensed mental health counselor (LMHC) for our Older Blind Adult Clients to address depression and fear of isolation due to vision loss. As with many of our class offerings since the beginning of the pandemic, clients have the option of attending a Wellness Support Group in-person or virtual.

In addition, we are proud to announce we have opened an on-site low vision store, The Lantern, that offers a wide range of daily living aids that help individuals in our community who are experiencing low vision live more full and independent lives.

Through the support of our donors, we look forward to the start of several initiatives including the expansion of the Teen Transition program's entrepreneurial business, Blind Sighted Creations, to include custom designed 3-D printed crafts to sell at local markets. In collaboration with Lighthouse Works in Orlando we've recently contracted to establish our own call center that will support our vocational rehabilitation clients by offering on-site call center jobs.

We are continually evaluating our programs and services to meet the changing needs of individuals we serve by making modifications to existing classes, offering new services and partnering with the community to ensure the most impactful and successful outcomes for our clients.

Thank you for being supportive partners and generous donors. Through your contributions you've made it possible for us to continue advancing our mission of providing low vision rehabilitation services and meaningful employment opportunities to our clients. We're confident that in the upcoming year we will serve more individuals living with visual impairments than ever before.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Church".

Kimberly Church, CPA, MBA
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael W. Porter".

Michael W. Porter
Lighthouse of Pinellas, Inc. Board Chair



The Lantern Ribbon Cutting

The Lantern – A Low Vision Store Benefiting Our Clients And Community

**Store hours
Tuesday – Friday
10 AM – 3 PM**

During the summer of 2021 we opened a low vision store that offers cutting-edge technology and a wide-range of daily living aids such as LED hand-held magnifiers, big push button phones, talking alarm clocks, large-button keyboards, large-print calendars and other products that will help individuals in our community who are experiencing low vision live more full and independent lives. In addition to providing a local retail store where low vision products can be purchased and proceeds benefit the Lighthouse of Pinellas — The Lantern will also provide opportunities for our Teen and Adult clients who participate in our Blind Sighted Creations entrepreneur program to design and sell their handmade braille stamped bracelets and 3D printed items.



I am so grateful to be able to give back to the low vision community and help them in the same way The Lighthouse helped me.
- Jack, Sales Associate



The Lantern
A Low Vision Store

We look forward to welcoming our community into our new low vision store!

Leona's Story – A Story of Love, Loss and Grief

Leona is a proud native Floridian. Born and raised in beautiful Pinellas County she spent a large portion of her life with no serious vision problems until she lost the vision in her left eye due to a bacterial infection. She retained vision in her right eye for some time, but after a series of cataract surgeries and cornea transplant complications, the remaining vision she had in her right eye began deteriorating rapidly due to inflammation. Leona's eye doctor referred her to Lighthouse of Pinellas after they had exhausted all options to try and correct her vision.

"Karli Davis, Orientation and Mobility instructor came to my house, helped me around the house and outside walking and that helped. She would also meet me at the mall to help me learn the difference in the stores, where my favorite ones were, how to get on and off the elevator and navigate such a large place." said Leona.

Leona completed Independent Living Skills, Coping Classes, Orientation and Mobility and had recently joined our Wellness Support Group made possible by a Citizen Services Grant from the Pinellas Community Foundation when tragedy struck – her beloved husband of 37 years passed away unexpectedly in September of 2021.

"I decided to start attending the Wellness Support Group because I really needed support after losing my vision - and being able to talk to other people that are going through what I am, we have something in common. Especially right now, it is helping me go through the grief process of losing my husband, we were married for 37 years, and he did everything for me - a lot of that has changed. That's why I like the group sessions – it not only helps me with coping with my vision loss but losing my husband as well."



Leona stands to the left of a group of Independent Living Skills Class Graduates.

Leona has continued to take the virtual course options the Lighthouse of Pinellas offers since the death of her husband. She

has every plan to return to in-person classes when she feels ready.

"I would honestly recommend anyone with low vision to take all the classes provided because all of them really help somebody."

"I have family that comes but the support of the Lighthouse has been a light in my life."
-Leona

What will Leona do next? "I would like to do a coping class again; I would like to learn more about cooking, but I am scared - I gotta get my nerve up for that one!" she says laughing. "But I can't wait to feel comfortable again returning to the Lighthouse."

We look forward to it as well, Leona!

PROGRAMS— Youth

We believe every child should be able to fully participate in school, recreational activities and career exploration and feel no limits to what they can become. The Lighthouse has three programs that help children meet developmental goals and prepare for life as an independent adult Early Intervention, Children's Life Skills Camp and Teen Transition.

Summer at the Lighthouse

We were so grateful to be able to welcome our youth programs back to the Lighthouse and host our annual summer camps for the Children's Program (ages 6-13) and Teen Transition Clients (ages 14-18). The summer camps offer an opportunity for the children to apply the skills they have practiced and learned throughout the school year. Summer camps address the following areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum: Independent Living Skills, Assistive Technology, Communication skills, Social Interaction skills, Recreation and Leisure Skills, Orientation and Mobility skills, Career Education/Job Readiness, Sensory Efficiency Skills, and Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination Skills. During each day of camp, the students are tasked with preparing their own lunches and cleaning up after themselves; creating various crafts and/or participating in adapted sports; and taking part in career presentations from different community leaders. Additionally, they are prompted to make their own choices and speak up for themselves independently throughout each day. During each week of the camp, the students take part in at least one outing, providing them with opportunities to integrate within the community and practice independent travel techniques.



*"Lighthouse is like a big, huge family to me – hanging out with the people I know and love."
– Mayha, Teen Transition client*

- Meal planning, Shopping trips for ingredients, Cooking
- Ordering food and eating at a restaurant
- Using computers with access technology
- Fire and home safety
- Arts & crafts
- Drum circle
- Reptile show
- Fun field Trips to: Bowling, Movie theater, Epperson Lagoon,
- Job discovery field trips
- Banking & finance



PROGRAMS— Adults

We teach adults who have lost their sight later in life, the skills they need to become self-sufficient in doing the things they need to do, as well as do the things they want to do. Certified vision rehabilitation therapists provide instruction so individuals can re-learn common activities of daily living and gain a greater level of independence.



- Independent Living Skills
- Orientation & Mobility Training
- Adaptive Technology Training
- Coping With Vision Loss
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Wellness Support



Our Mission Shines

Statement of Activities



6

Programs Offered

204

Supporters

293

Referrals

692

Clients Served
Across All Programs

2,000+

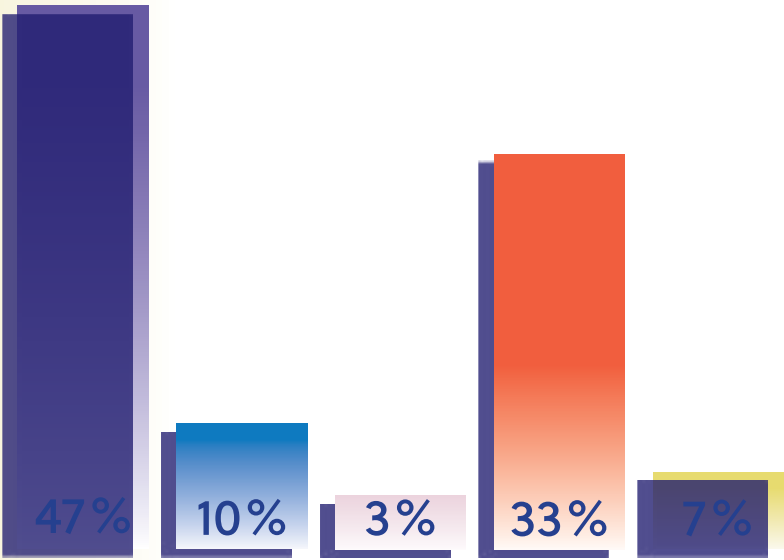
Touched Through
Community Outreach



Revenue:

\$1,990,342

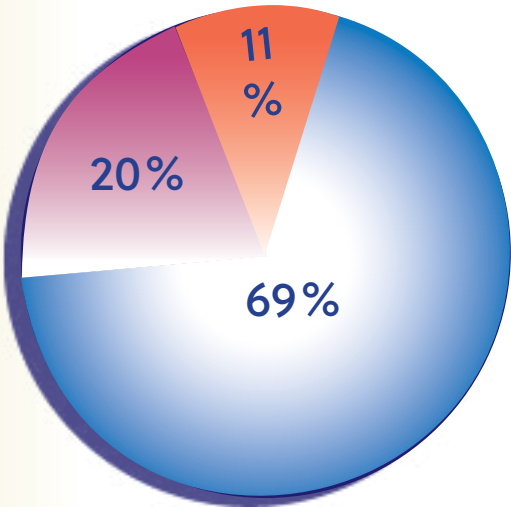
Government Awards	939,696	47%
Other Grants	194,000	10%
Contributions & Bequests	60,643	3%
Investment Return	650,228	33%
Program Fees & Other	145,775	7%



Expenses:

\$1,563,053

Program Services	\$1,076,725	69%
Management & General	\$ 306,810	20%
Fundraising	\$ 179,518	11%



Direct Client Service Hours:

8,928.75

Youth	4,117.25	hours
Adult Independent Living	3,337.25	hours
Vocational Rehabilitation	1,474.25	hours





Ways to Give

We realize that there are many worthy causes that would benefit from your donations and we are grateful when you think of Lighthouse of Pinellas. When you give your charitable dollars to a local organization, you ensure that your money stays in our community to help individuals experiencing vision loss and offer support to their families and caregivers. With your dedication, we have no doubt that Lighthouse of Pinellas will successfully meet the challenges of the future.

Monthly Giving Program

The monthly giving program makes supporting the Lighthouse of Pinellas mission easy through monthly, automatic withdrawals from a credit card or bank account of your choice. You can get involved for as little as \$5 a month.

Planned Giving

Our planned giving program allows you to leave a legacy gift in support of Lighthouse of Pinellas. Even if you cannot make a sizable gift today, through a planned gift, you can have a profound impact on how people with vision impairment receive services tomorrow.

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

Honor your loved one by designating Lighthouse of Pinellas as the recipient of charitable gifts in lieu of flowers.

Special Events

Attend or volunteer at one of our annual fundraisers including **Night at The Races** and **Point of Light**.

Point of Light

The Living Room Edition

How often is sight taken for granted? Master Mixologist Mike Linden from The Living Room on Main was blindfolded to experience firsthand what it's like to practice his profession with a sudden loss of vision. Visually impaired Rehabilitation Instructor Jessica Tomlinson assisted in the creation of specialty cocktail/mocktails using culinary techniques and adaptations utilized by blind individuals every day. The Annual Point of Light Fundraising Event is an especially important event for the Lighthouse as it brings awareness to the vital programs and services we offer to people of all ages – infants to seniors – in Pinellas County, who are visually impaired or blind. The support we receive at this event has the power to impact the lives of many people and ensure our programs continue providing education, training and support to those living with vision impairment in our community.

All proceeds from the net income of Point of Light directly benefit the year-round programs of the Lighthouse and serve individuals and their families in our community who suffer from vision loss or blindness.



Save These Dates!

Saturday, September 17–4pm

Point of Light 2022

**With Keynote
Celebrity Chef Christine Ha**

Christine will share her inspirational story on losing her vision and living with her disability.

Visit lhpfl.org to learn more about these upcoming events.

Saturday, October 15



**White Cane Safety Day
& Low Vision Expo**

We're so excited to bring back this great event in collaboration with the Pinellas Council for the Blind. Join us for a low vision expo with local vendors to meet, shop and greet followed by a white cane awareness walk at the Highland Recreation Center.

Free, family-friendly and fun!



6925 112th Circle N., Ste. 103
Largo, FL 33773

www.lhpfl.org

For an online accessible version please
visit www.lhpfl.org/annualreport

