



# 2024 Impact Report

# Year in Review



Early  
Childhood

26



Children's  
Program

14



Young  
Adults

15



Vocational  
Rehab

77



Independent  
Living

176

## Our Mission

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

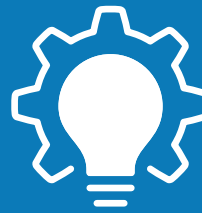
## Core Values



Dedication



Integrity



Opportunity



Community



**308**

**Clients Served  
Across All Programs**

**12,565**

**Program Hours  
Provided**

**306**

**Family & Caregivers  
Served**

**511**

**Referrals Received**

## Highlights:

### Caregiver Support Group

For family and friends of Lighthouse of Pinellas' adult clients, to share resources, challenges, and successes as caregivers.

Our participants learn:

Introduction into blindness and visual impairment.

Supporting your loved one.

Stress management techniques and self-care for caregivers.

Daily living skills and effective communication (what is your loved one learning from training, and how you can support that at home).

Strengthening relationships.

### Wednesday Wellness

A weekly support group, led by a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, for current and former adult clients to connect and discuss topics such as developing a positive outlook on vision loss, coping strategies, self-advocacy, and navigating life's challenges. This group provides a space for mutual encouragement, resource sharing, and relationship building.



# Meet Kayla

In 2015, Lighthouse of Pinellas staff were introduced to a very shy, passive young lady with Retinopathy of Prematurity named Kayla. She was soft spoken and seemed to always second-guess herself, demonstrating a lack of self-confidence and low self-esteem. Her shyness and lack of confidence made it difficult for her to engage with peers, and she often self-isolated when attending the program. However, as Kayla continued through the Teen Transition Program and then into the Vocational Rehabilitation program, Kayla developed skills and relationships that encouraged her social growth, as well as increased both her independence and confidence.

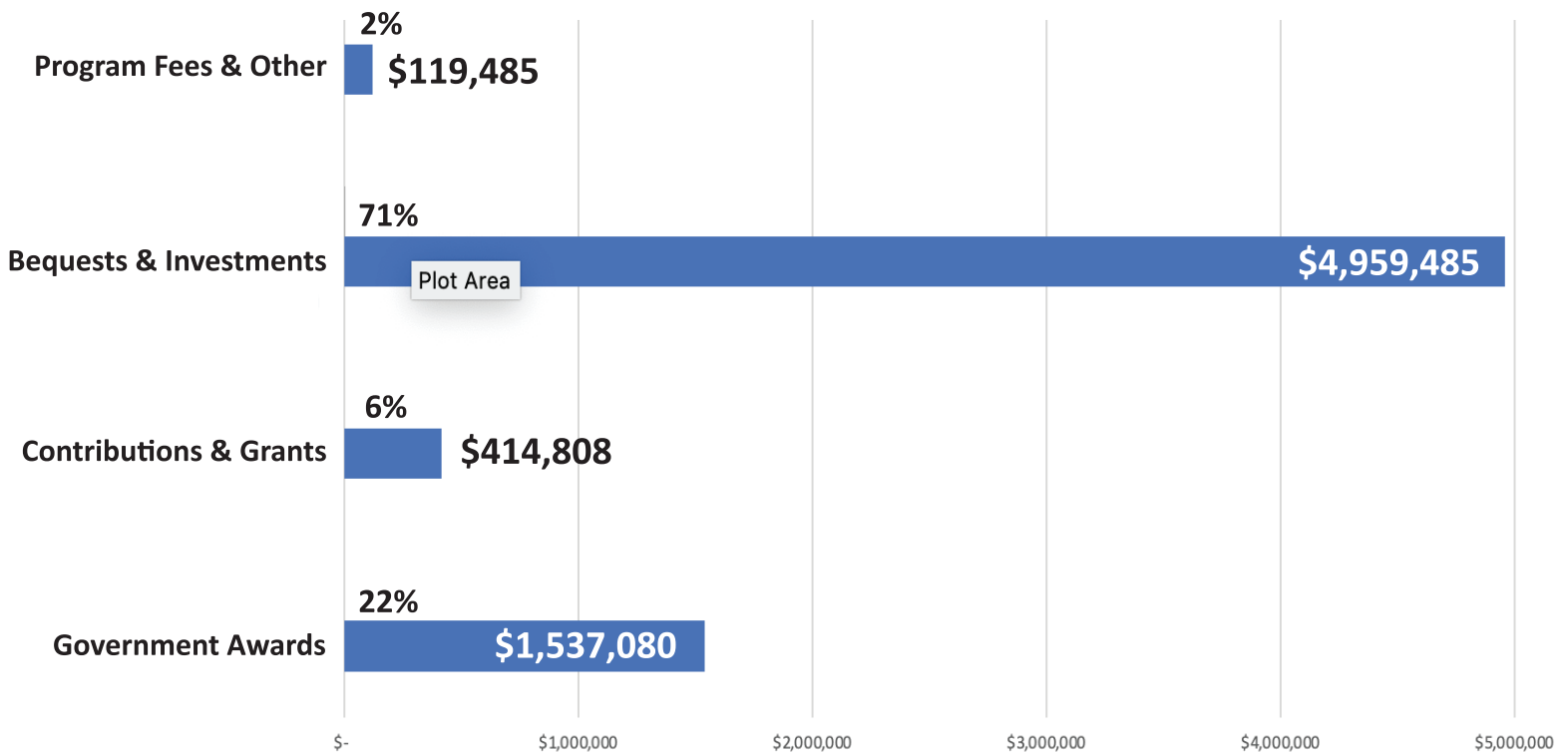
After graduating from high school, Kayla became an active participant in our Vocational Rehab program. She was extremely active in her participation and completed a variety of classes including Coping & Self-Advocacy, Adaptive Kitchen Skills, Independent Living, Orientation & Mobility, and Job Readiness. Kayla diligently worked on developing essential life skills such as time management, communication, and problem-solving. The supportive environment at Lighthouse of Pinellas, combined with personalized guidance from our dedicated staff, empowered Kayla to push her boundaries and achieve her goals. Building confidence was a key focus in Kayla's Vocational Rehabilitation training, and her completion of the classes was crucial for paving her path to independence.

Upon completing her final class, Job Readiness, Kayla was granted a temporary, paid work experience with a local Chick-Fil-A. Once her work experience was over, the managers and supervisors shared that they were so impressed with Kayla's work ethic and positive demeanor, that they had to keep her. Kayla was offered a permanent position with Chick-Fil-A. This achievement marked a significant milestone in Kayla's journey, showcasing her resilience and determination to be independent. Kayla's story is a shining example of how the right support and opportunities can make a profound difference in the lives of those with visual impairments.

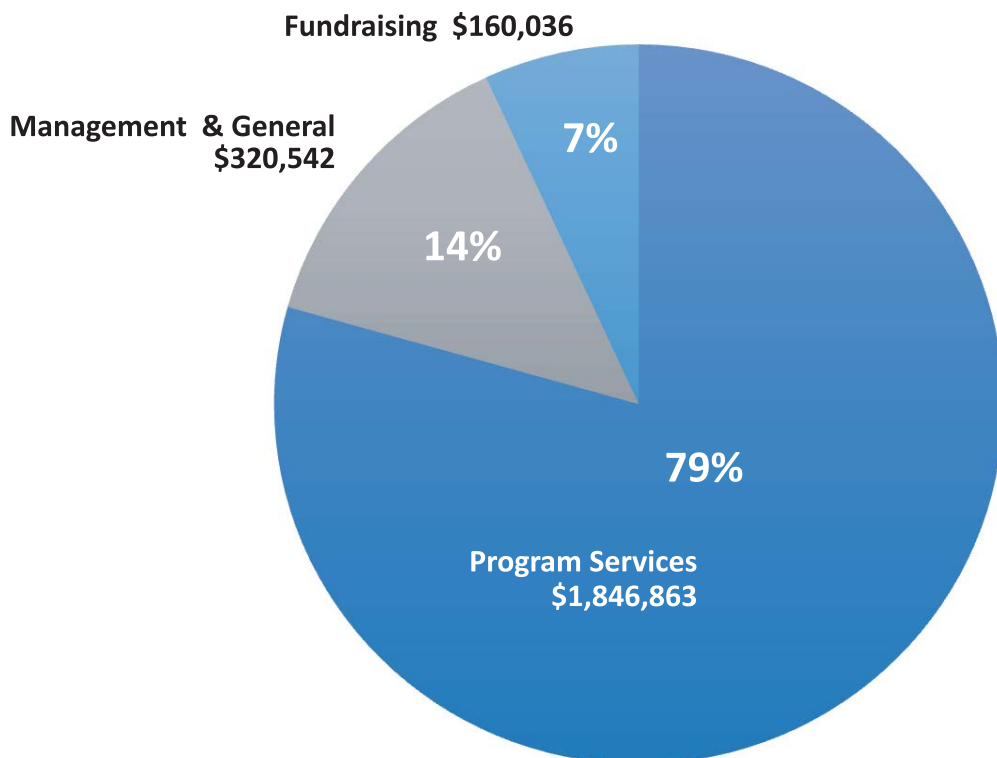


# Financial Snapshot

Revenues: \$7,030,858



Expenses: \$2,327,441



# What Does Success Look Like?



## Independence

Navigating public spaces independently  
Performing activities of daily living



## Social Connectivity

Developing peer-to-peer relationships  
Engaging in outside activities



## Self-Advocacy

Educating others on appropriate assistance  
Seeking resources and support when needed



## Confidence

Adjusting with vision loss  
Willingness to learn new approaches to being independent  
Recognizing even small steps toward independence



## Increased Opportunities

Obtaining employment  
Knowledge of continuing ed programs  
Recognizing opportunities for post-graduation

## We Appreciate Your Support!



Without the kindness of our community, we simply could not carry out our mission to advance the independence and quality of life for individuals in Pinellas County who are visually impaired or blind. We are grateful for our partnerships with individuals, corporations, small businesses, foundations and organizations in our community.

**GIVE TODAY**



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## Our Partners

