Mission:
To assist persons with visual impairments to develop their capabilities to the fullest, and to utilize them in the pursuits of life, which are the right and privilege of all.

History:
Since 1946, Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches has been providing direct education and rehabilitation services to people who are blind or visually impaired in Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. Our private, nonprofit organization is the only one of its kind based in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Dear Friends,
As we came to the close of another decade, I am happy to report that Lighthouse for the Blind once again served a pivotal role in transforming the lives of the blind and visually impaired in our community. Over 2,000 babies and children received vision screenings in 2019. This is so vitally important, as catching a visual impairment early makes a world of difference. Children who are not treated early in life can develop permanent vision loss that can’t be corrected later in childhood or as adults.

In 2019 we said good-bye to Lighthouse President and CEO Marvin Tanck. Marv was instrumental in Gulfstream Goodwill’s partnership with Lighthouse in 2008. He championed Lighthouse’s mission and helped grow Lighthouse into the strong agency it is today.

Thanks to the advances in technology, many of our clients are learning to navigate voice assistants, smart phones and other computer technologies. A large percentage of our clients learn remotely, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our staff, it made the transition of working from home easier during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This virus has changed all of us and has impacted everyone differently. But as a human service nonprofit organization, we must stay strong for the clients we serve. Perhaps Helen Keller said it best: “Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.”

Reflecting on the past year for this report, has been so challenging when we are faced with an uncertain future. It is you, our valued donors, volunteers and supporters whom we must rely on now more than ever. We must realize that each of us is integral to the survival of our communities. We are responsible for each other.

On behalf of all the people whose lives you’ve touched through your generous support, we thank you and hope you enjoy our Annual Report!

Best Regards,
Donté Mickens
Board Chair

Board of Directors

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Donté Mickens

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David B. Cano, MD
Robert Gregory, III
Roshan Massoumi
Joyce McLendon

**Carmencita Mitchell**
Maryam Mohajer
Arthur Morris
Allen Preston
Martin Zipern
2019 – A YEAR IN REVIEW

Blind Babies and Vision Loss Prevention Program
Over 2,000 babies and toddlers received vision screenings and/or developmental services. (Birth to age 5)

Children’s Program - Learning Independence through Experience and Summer Camp
25 Children (6-13) attended Lighthouse’s Children’s Program

Transition Program
23 Teens participated in programs for students age 14 through high school graduation

Vocational Rehabilitation
70 Adults worked on skills to gain, re-gain or maintain employment

Adult Programs
255 Adults participated in various programs. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a leading cause of vision loss for people age 50 and older, is the main reason seniors came to the Lighthouse in 2019 for services. AMD doesn’t cause complete blindness, but can make it harder to see faces, read, or do daily tasks like cooking and other chores around the house. Lighthouse staff provide instruction in daily living skills, assistive technology, adjustment to blindness and orientation & mobility.

“Fifteen month old Adalynn attended the fall Stroller Daze event at the South Florida Science Center. She was given a vision screening, which resulted in possible vision concerns. A pediatric ophthalmologist confirmed the diagnosis and stated several times ‘this was a good find,’ as if this had gone untreated she would have had major vision loss by age 5. Our family considers this a blessing, she was in the right place, at the right time. We are forever grateful.”
– The Family of Adalynn Miller

2019 Major Events
Feb. 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off at the Lighthouse
March Music for the Mind Concert in partnership with Kretzer Music Foundation
April Spring Picnic and Beepers Egg Hunt
May PROM
June Smiles For Miles Concert Fundraiser
July College Week & Work Experiences
Dec. Children’s Holiday Party
2019 LIGHTHOUSE BY THE NUMBERS (Unaudited)

Revenue: $1,541,204
- Contracted Services: $679,105
- Bequests & Legacies: $427,918
- Special Events: $8,471
- Misc. Income: $238,593
- Private Support/Grants: $187,117
- Misc. Income: $118,170
- Misc. Income: $1,021,047

Expenses: $1,159,692
- Program & Vision Services: $1,021,047
- Fundraising: $20,475
- Administrative Expenses: $118,170

2,000 Vision screenings for babies/toddlers
1,000,000 Estimated number of legally blind Floridians
1946 Year Lighthouse was established in West Palm Beach
26 Children (6-13) attended Lighthouse Summer Camp
255 Adults received vision rehabilitation services in 2019
70% Unemployment rate among the blind
9.6 OUT OF 10 Client Satisfaction
4 Creative Social Groups:
- Focus Group
- Book Club
- Boot Up Club
- Let’s Talk
44 Collaborative community partners:
- Head Start
- Senior Centers
- Caridad, etc.
5 Counties served:
- Palm Beach
- Martin
- St. Lucie
- Indian River
- Okeechobee
9,347 Hours of training provided by Lighthouse staff to clients 55 and older
2019 DONATIONS

We are grateful for the generosity and support of the many individuals and organizations that believe in our mission. Space does not permit listing all the many thousands of gifts given to the Lighthouse in the past year.

$100,000+
Dorothy Finnegan Trust
Estate of Estelle Leibruder

$50,000 - $99,999
Cecil H. & Charlotte F. Hackett Charitable Trust

$25,000 - $49,999
Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties/Season to Share
Stranahan Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999
Samuel E. & Grace M. Navarra
Harry Sugarman Trust

$5,000 - $9,999
Anonymous
Doris Anderson
Nicholas Andronicos Cassas Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation, Inc.
The Anna A. Moldrup Foundation, Inc.
Prudence Paliotta Trust

$1,000 - $4,999
Anonymous
Belle Glade Lions Club
Children’s Healthcare Charity, Inc./Honda Classic
Scott A. Gartner O.D., P.A.
J.M. Rubin Foundation
Jon Smith Subs
The Jorgensen Foundation
Magnifying Connections Int’l, Inc.
Schwab Charitable Foundation
Frank Scruggs
Dr. Morton Lewis Singer, Judith Singer & Irving Lapidus Foundation
The Society of the Palm Beaches Southern Dames
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Stevens Thrift, Inc.

$500 - $999
Deanne D. Aubuchon & Donna R. Cantwell
Mr. & Mrs. Manuel H. Borda
Ernest Cantelmo
Don Collica
Community Foundation Martin County/St. Lucie – Veronica A. Broome Fund
Mary Estelle Curran
Page Ferrell
The Friends of Wellington Regional Medical Center
Globex Investment Group, LLC
Mr. & Mrs. Christos Kritikos
Elaine B. Lacritz
Sara A. Lankler Revocable Trust
Le Club Intercontinental of Palm Beach
The Patricia J. Maher Living Trust
Retina Care Specialists
The Martha & Max Rubinstein Family Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Burton Scholl
St. Clare School

Robert B. Snell, CPA
Trust Company Family Offices
United Way of Greater Portland
Christine A.M. Verba
Bernard Weinstein
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Wood
Debborah L. Wright

$200 - $499
Black Point Ocean Grill
Stanley M. Braverman
Candida D. Burnap
Columbiettes of PSL Knights of Columbus Council
Michael L. Dixon & Lauren Petersen
Fort Pierce Lions Foundation
Ramsey L. French
Phil Girrbach
Stacy Gouge
Carmine Greco
Robert A. Heays Trust
Carl & Shirley Kah
Alex King
Donté Mickens
Music Works Talent
Edward Schachter & Susan Fleisher
Brian O’Conner
Christopher W. Ruddy
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby G. Shaw
South Florida Fair & Palm Beach County Expo, Inc.
Brent A. Soysal
West Palm Beach/Wellington Lions Club
Mr. & Mrs. Donald E. Wolken

Thank You!
SAVE THE DATE

2020

UPCOMING LIGHTHOUSE EVENTS

June
Cataract Awareness Month

June 8-12
Week 1 - Lighthouse Virtual Summer Camp

June 28-July 4
Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week

July
Work Experiences For Teens
Week 2 (July 6-10) - Lighthouse Summer Camp

August
Children’s Eye Health and Safety Month
and Vision Screening Collaborations

October 15
White Cane Awareness Day

November 10
enVision 20/20 Luncheon (rescheduled date)

January 21, 2021
75th Anniversary “Eye Ball”

EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Thanks to your generosity, Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches is able to meet the needs of the visually impaired and blind in our community.

There are many ways to give your support and make a difference! Consider planned giving through your estate planning or will. Donate today using the enclosed envelope, online at www.lighthousepalmbeaches.org or call 561-586-5600.

Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches

Goodwill Industries

DBS Division of Blind Services

Accessible version available online.