



IMPACT REPORT 2024



LISA STELLA, MBA
Executive
Director



ROBERT H. GREGORY, III, ESQ.
Board
Chair

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

This year has been a powerful reminder of what's possible when compassion, innovation, and community come together. From babies to seniors, our clients who are blind or visually impaired experienced a year of growth, connection, and opportunity.

We began with our 3rd Annual Envision 20/20 Luncheon, where stories of resilience inspired and united our community. For our youth, joyful moments like prom night, summer camps in Orlando and Palm Beach, and teen work experiences nurtured confidence and independence—laying the foundation for a lifetime of self-discovery.

In Port St. Lucie, the Focus Club completed its first year, empowering adults to connect and grow. Our Book Club and Boot-Up Club sparked intellectual engagement and emotional well-being, proving that community is a cornerstone of independence.

We celebrated the achievements of our board members: Carmencita Mitchell, honored with COMTO's Women Who Move the Nation Award, and Sondra Hoffman, inducted as a Fellow of the American Society of Ophthalmic Administrators. Their leadership inspires us all. Thanks to the support of the Lighthouse team and Board of Directors, I was able to graduate from the Leadership Palm Beach County Class of 2024, bringing fresh insight and energy to our mission.

We launched a new vocational pathway through Recipes for Success, offering clients ServSafe certification—a gateway to employment and dignity. Our work was recognized with a Hats Off Awards nomination and the creation of the Tech Doing Good Award by South Florida Tech Hub.

Each milestone reflects our commitment to building lives of independence, joy, and purpose. To our clients, supporters, board, and team—thank you. The future is bright, and we're just getting started.

With gratitude,
Lisa Stella, MBA – Executive Director
Robert H. Gregory, III, Esq. – Board Chair



Pictured L-R: Dr. Steven Edens, Roshan Z. Massoumi, Allen Preston, Belle, Martin Zipern, Randi Radin, Kimberly Clawson, Donte' Mickens

Not Pictured: Robert H. Gregory, III, Esq., Sondra Hoffman, John Linden, Carmencita Mitchell, Maryam Mohajer, Tekesha Saffold

OUR 2024 BOARD

Executive Committee

Robert H. Gregory, III, Esq (CHAIR)
 Carmencita Mitchell (VICE-CHAIR)
 Donte' Mickens (TREASURER)
 Tekesha Saffold (SECRETARY)
 Sondra Hoffman (MEMBER AT LARGE)

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Kimberly Clawson	Maryam Mohajer
Dr. Steven Edens	Allen Preston
John Linden	Randi Radin
Roshan Z. Massoumi	Martin S. Zipern

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Stanley D. Klett, Jr., Esq (CHAIR EMERITUS)
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Thank You to Our Donors

\$100,000 – \$500,000

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\$50,000 – \$100,000

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\$20,000 – \$49,999

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Anonymous

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David Cheifetz

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Thank You to Our Donors

\$1,000 – \$4,999 (continued)

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 N. Chris and Denise Pratico
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\$1,000 – \$4,999 (continued)

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 Steven Schnell
 S & R Pikus
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 Shannon Touradji
 Lynn Withers
 Ann Wood

BRUCE'S STORY: Rebuilding a Life, One Keystroke at a Time

Imagine being a successful professional one day, and the next—losing your vision, your confidence, and nearly everything you once relied on. That was Bruce's reality.

After a work-related accident left him blind in one eye 18 years ago, Bruce continued his career until a retinal detachment and complications in his remaining eye changed everything. Glaucoma and worsening vision meant magnifiers no longer helped, and he faced a future filled with uncertainty, grief, and fear—not just for his personal life, but for the career he had worked so hard to build.

Then Bruce came to the Lighthouse.

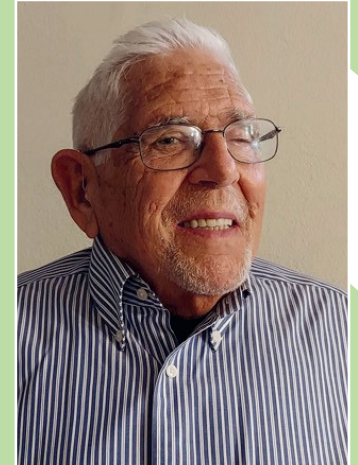
He was paired with a visually impaired instructor—someone who had once stood exactly where he was. Their first goal: regain communication skills through iPhone training. With VoiceOver and accessibility apps, Bruce learned to make calls, read mail, identify money and colors, and stay connected to the world.

Determined to keep his job, Bruce threw himself into training. He learned to touch type, master VoiceOver, and use screen readers like Job Access With Speech (JAWS) and magnification software on his computer. Every new skill brought him closer to independence. With his instructor's support, he tackled email, Word, Excel, and even the tricky world of Google Docs—a platform not always friendly to screen readers. Together, they created a "sandbox" for trial and error, and even found laughter in the process—like converting files into over 100 languages just for fun.

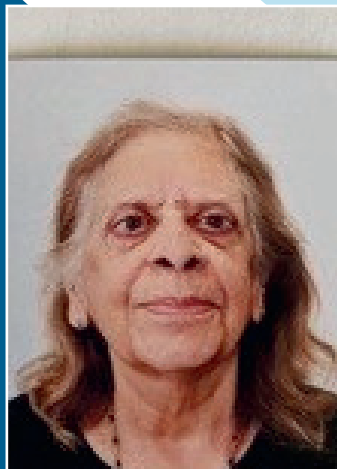
When Bruce lost more vision, it hit hard. No more "cheating" by using his limited sight. But he kept going. He and his instructor built trust, customized workarounds, and never stopped problem-solving.

Bruce now writes reports, manages email, collaborates with colleagues, and creates polished, professional documents. He once said this training "saved his life"—not just professionally, but emotionally.

He's still learning, still pushing forward. And each step proves that with the right tools, support, and determination, life after vision loss isn't the end. It's a new beginning.



BRUCE
Lighthouse
Client



GEETHA
Lighthouse
Client

GEETHA'S STORY: Blind, Not Bound – A Solo Journey to Reconnection

Geetha is a retired psychiatrist from New Jersey who moved to Florida in 2017 when her vision became problematic. Glaucoma had diminished her visual acuity and surgeries failed to restore her vision. Geetha contacted the Lighthouse seeking services to help her regain independence. At the time, she was living in an apartment with her husband in Palm Beach Gardens and providing after-school care to her young grandchildren. Instruction in home and personal management skills, orientation and mobility and assistive technology together with adjustment to blindness counseling services helped Geetha regain confidence and find her voice. She developed the courage to set new goals for herself.

In 2023, Geetha, a seasoned traveler, decided to plan a trip to visit family and friends in India. This would be the first time she had traveled alone since losing her vision. As Geetha made her travel arrangements, she took every necessary step to secure her safety which began by notifying the airlines that she was blind. To this point, the stigma of blindness had restrained her from asking for help. Thanks to her newfound ability to self-advocate, Geetha was able to enjoy several memorable weeks in India with her loved ones. On her return home, a cancelled flight left her at London, Heathrow Airport, realizing one of her greatest fears. Once again, Geetha resorted to using her voice and advocating for her needs. The airlines prepared hotel and transportation arrangements and Geetha received assistance every step of the way.

The following day, she boarded her flight back to the U.S. with stories to share about her adventure and a renewed sense of confidence.

NIKI'S STORY: Vision Beyond Sight – A Courageous Comeback

Currently residing in Fort Pierce with her loving husband, Niki came to the United States over 40 years ago from Cuba when she was thirteen years old in search of opportunity and a brighter future. That future was shaken when she began to lose her vision.

She was born with myopia degenerative disease and light sensitivity. She suffered hemorrhages in both eyes and later developed scar tissue and macular degeneration. Niki's world dimmed, and so did her spirit. "I prayed every day for my vision to return," she said, recalling the fear and isolation she felt.

After three years, she finally accepted what was going on and made a decision that changed everything—she reached out to the Lighthouse of the Palm Beaches and made an appointment with low-vision care specialist, Dr. Scott Gartner.

She threw herself into every opportunity and learned new skills. Niki attended Adult Daily Living (ADL) classes, iPhone training, orientation and mobility with a long cane, and blindness adjustment counseling. Her persistence paid off. She now uses advanced META smart glasses, volunteers at the Port St. Lucie Focus Club and the new ADL class at Indian River State College, and recently shared dreams of going to college. In June she spent three weeks at guide dog training school and now has a new companion to help her navigate her environment safely.

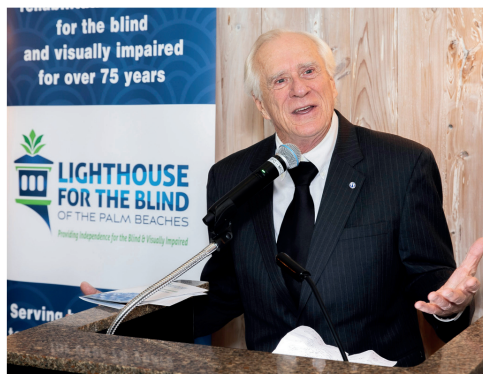
Formerly working in radiology at St. Mary's Hospital for 28 years, Niki credits the Lighthouse with helping her reclaim her independence—but also acknowledges her own strength: "I had to do the work. I had to be willing to learn a new way of living."

From heartbreak to hope, Niki has come a long way. Her story is proof that even when the world goes dark, you can still find your way forward—with the right tools, support, and courage to begin again.



NIKI
Lighthouse
Client

2024 ENVISION 20/20 LUNCHEON



What an extraordinary afternoon! With over 125 guests gathered in support of our mission, the 3rd Annual EnVision 20/20 Luncheon was our most impactful event yet—full of joy, reflection, and community spirit.

We were honored to celebrate Mrs. Maria Beaudouin, a beloved Palm Beach resident and longtime friend of the Lighthouse, whose generosity and advocacy have helped countless individuals regain hope after vision loss. Her recognition was a beautiful reminder of how one person's quiet commitment can change lives.

Luncheon Chair Mary-Lee Widder led guests through an emotion-filled program, followed by Mary Allen, our Senior Director of Programs, who presented Mrs. Beaudouin with a heartfelt gift on behalf of everyone at the Lighthouse.

One of the most touching moments came as we honored the late Dr. David B. Cano, our longest-serving Board Member of 23 years. His legacy was commemorated with a plaque presented to his loving wife, Dr. Lauree Manning, and their sons, Robert and Andrew—a tribute met with both tears and applause.

Board Member Allen Preston then brought the room to life with stories from his journey through vision loss, sharing heartfelt moments and childhood memories that reminded us all of the resilience and humor that carry us forward.

Throughout the event, guests enjoyed a beautiful lunch serenaded by a talented violin duo from our friends at The Elevar Foundation. The always-popular teacup raffle added extra sparkle to the afternoon, featuring generous prizes donated by local favorites like Jennifer Tattanelli, C. Orrico, Brick Tops, Pioneer Linens, MAC Fabrics, and Palm Beach Orchids.

We're deeply grateful to J. McLaughlin and Lilly Pulitzer for hosting special shopping events in Palm Beach, Manalapan, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens, and Hobe Sound—donating a portion of proceeds to support our programs.

To all who attended, donated, and shared in this special day—thank you. Your compassion helps light the way forward for so many in our community.

THE GOLDEN PALM AWARDS TECH DOING GOOD

We Have Incredible News to Share... We WON!

Not the Inclusion Champion or Education Champion Awards we were nominated for—but something even more meaningful. The South Florida Tech Hub was so inspired by the role technology plays in empowering people who are blind or visually impaired that they created a brand-new award just for us: the Tech Doing Good Award!

This isn't just a trophy—it's a powerful acknowledgment that assistive technology is transforming lives.

From screen readers and magnification software to smart canes, wearable devices, and artificial intelligence, technology has become the bridge to independence for our clients—whether they're a toddler learning to explore their world, a student navigating school, a professional thriving in their career, or a senior regaining confidence after vision loss.

This award affirms what we've known all along: technology is not just about convenience—it's about freedom. It's about someone who is blind confidently boarding a bus alone, accessing a job portal online, reading their child a bedtime story, or simply walking into a room and knowing what's around them.

Because of YOU—your passion, your innovation, your belief in what we do—the Lighthouse is now being recognized as a leader in using tech to change lives. We've become the gold standard for "Tech for Good" at home, in the workplace, and in every public space.

And the impact is already growing. This recognition is sparking new conversations and requests to learn more about our work—from early intervention to lifelong support. People are starting to see what we've been living every day: that independence is possible, and technology helps make it real.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. Thank you for being champions of accessibility, inclusion, and innovation. Thank you for helping us show the world what's possible when technology meets compassion.

The future is bright—because of you.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

During the April 2024 Volunteer Recognition Month, we proudly celebrated the heart of our Lighthouse community—our volunteers. Whether supporting onsite programs or assisting at offsite events, our volunteers are the steady hands and compassionate hearts behind so much of what we do. Their time, energy, and kindness make our mission possible and create meaningful moments for those we serve. In a special celebration, Lighthouse employees and clients came together to recognize and thank these incredible individuals whose generosity lights the path to independence for people who are blind or visually impaired. Their impact is lasting, and their presence is deeply felt—every day, in every smile, and in every success story.

The following community and client volunteers were recognized:

- ◆ Emi Hutton (Focus Club, Art in the Dark)
- ◆ Karen Smilen (Focus Club, Activity Club)
- ◆ Sharon Pikus (Focus Club, Activity Club, Art in the Dark, Daily Living Skills classes)
- ◆ Daphne Heastie (Focus Club, Activity Club, Daily Living Skills Classes)
- ◆ Andrea Borell (Focus Club, Activity Club, EnVision 2020 Luncheon)
- ◆ Alexandria Borell (Focus Club, Activity Club, EnVision 2020 Luncheon)
- ◆ Charles Notice (J. McLaughlin fundraiser)
- ◆ Viviana Paredes Tamayo (Lilly Pulitzer Sip and Shop fundraiser)
- ◆ Hank Olmetti (Focus Club and Activity Club)
- ◆ Ally Mulero (Focus Club and Daily Living Skills class)
- ◆ Eva Velez (Lilly Pulitzer Sip and Shop Fundraiser)
- ◆ Maria Menendez (Focus Club Port St. Lucie)
- ◆ Jessica Collado (Focus Club Port St. Lucie)



To learn more about volunteer
opportunities contact
Rosemary Mulero at rmulero@lhpb.org
or call 561-586-5600 x 216

SAVE THE DATE!



← Scan here for
more info

White Cane Safety Awareness Cocktail Reception

October 15, 2025

Tutto Fresco Restaurant

Port St. Lucie, FL

Lighthouse Goes Wild for the Holidays

November 15, 2025

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary

Jupiter, FL

5th Annual EnVision 20/20 Luncheon

March 25, 2026

The Beach Club

Palm Beach, FL

80th Anniversary Lighthouse Gala

December 3, 2026

We're turning 80, and you're invited to the celebration of the decade! Join Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches for our 80th Anniversary Gala at the stunning Pelican Club in Jupiter, FL



Empowering Independence Through Free Services at the Lighthouse

At the Lighthouse, we believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to live with confidence, dignity, and independence—regardless of vision loss. Thanks to the generous support of the Division of Blind Services, we're proud to offer life-changing services completely free of charge to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

One of our cornerstone programs, the seven-week onsite group Daily Living Skills Series, is currently in full swing. This immersive experience helps participants build real-world skills that empower them to navigate daily life more independently. From managing their personal care and home environment to enhancing communication and safety, each session is designed to foster self-reliance and confidence in meaningful, lasting ways.

Beyond this series, the Lighthouse provides a broad range of free services that touch nearly every aspect of life. Our Independent Living Skills training helps individuals master everyday tasks like cooking, cleaning, and organizing—skills many take for granted, but which are essential for living independently.

We also introduce clients to the latest in assistive technology, giving them access to screen readers, magnification devices, iPhones, iPads, Apple Watches, and adaptive software. These tools open doors to communication, information, and connection with the world around them.

For those seeking greater independence through employment, our job readiness and placement services offer personalized support—building resumes, preparing for interviews, and offering vocational training that leads to meaningful work.

And through our Orientation and Mobility training, we help clients regain their freedom of movement. Whether it's learning cane techniques or navigating with a guide dog, we equip individuals to move through their environments safely and confidently.

Together, these services create more than just support—they open the door to true independence. Every program, every training session, every breakthrough is made possible because of the vital funding we receive from the Division of Blind Services.

We also want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the students from Keiser University who visited our spring and fall sessions. Their energy, warmth, and encouragement made a real difference in the lives of our participants and reminded us all of the power of community.

At the Lighthouse, we don't just teach skills—we build futures. And thanks to our supporters, we do it all at no cost to those we serve.





Beyond Independence: Mental Wellness Through Focus Club, Activity Club, and Caregiver Support

Building Community Through Connection, Creativity and Care

At the Lighthouse, we believe in creating not just programs—but experiences that uplift, connect, and empower. Our Focus Clubs, Activity Clubs, and Caregiver Support Groups have all been thriving with energy, heart, and purpose in recent months, thanks to the incredible participation of our clients, partners, and supporters.

This is all possible because of the generous support we receive from the Quantum Foundation and the Jim Moran Foundation mental health and well-being programs.

Focus Club: Friendship, Fun, and Monthly Moments to Remember

Our Focus Clubs in both Palm Beach County and Port St. Lucie have been buzzing with connection and community! Attendance continues to grow, and our monthly meetings are more exciting than ever. A true highlight was our first-ever Lighthouse Talent Show, hosted by the Palm Beach Focus Club in June. Our clients stole the spotlight with their incredible performances—joined by Lighthouse team members like Mark Gracey, who served as our sound engineer, and Winston Callum (aka “Courage”), who brought the house down with his original songs and fan favorites.

Activity Club: Exploring, Experiencing, and Empowering

Our Activity Club has had an incredible run of events, blending fun with enrichment. From art and theater to food and friendship, every outing creates lasting memories.

Chef Greg’s Acai Bowl Class through the Recipe for Success Program was a delicious hit! This hands-on culinary session was more than just fun—it marked the start of a new partnership that allowed six participants to earn a nationally recognized Food Service Certificate last August. We’re deeply grateful to First Citizens Bank for the generous grant funding that made this possible.

Beyond Independence: Mental Wellness Through Focus Club, Activity Club, and Caregiver Support

Activity Club: Exploring, Experiencing, and Empowering (Continued)

Participants also enjoyed unforgettable cultural experiences, including outings to the Norton Museum of Art, Miami City Ballet's Swan Lake, and an audio-described performance of Mamma Mia! at the Kravis Center—each event enhanced by touch tours for immersive, accessible engagement with the arts.

With such a rich calendar of events, our Activity Club continues to grow as a vibrant hub for social connection, creative discovery, and personal development.

Caregiver Support Group: Sharing Strength and Support

Caring for a loved one is a journey—and no one should have to walk it alone. Our Caregiver Support Group offers a safe and supportive space for caregivers to connect, share, and find strength in community.

This group is a vital resource for caregivers to gather tools, support, and inspiration from others who understand the challenges and joys of caregiving.

We're so proud of the connections being formed, the skills being built, and the joy being shared across all of our programs. Thank you to our partners, donors, and most of all—our incredible participants—for making these moments possible. Here's to more growth, laughter, and life-changing experiences ahead!



YOUTH PROGRAM

Our Annual Beep Easter Egg Hunt, in partnership with the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, was an absolute blast!

Smiles were everywhere as kids teamed up with our amazing officers to hunt for colorful eggs. The fun didn't stop there—they got creative decorating Easter egg cookies, painting on canvas, and showing off their personalities with fabulous face painting.

Our teens were beyond excited for the Statewide Prom in Pasco County—and it didn't disappoint!

It was a magical evening filled with glamour and celebration. With professional hair and makeup, limo arrivals, and a themed venue, the night felt like a dream. The DJ kept the dance floor alive as we crowned our prom king and queen, making it a night to remember.

Summer got even better with our epic Sleepaway Camps!

In June and July, teens spent a full week in Orlando, Jacksonville, and Daytona, learning essential independent living skills—from budgeting and grocery shopping to cooking meals and keeping things clean. Along the way, they formed friendships, built confidence, and made unforgettable memories.



RECOGNITION FROM THE COMMUNITY

Lighthouse Nominated for Medium Nonprofit of the Year

The Lighthouse was honored to be nominated for the Medium Nonprofit of the Year at the 2024 Hats Off Nonprofit Awards, one of Palm Beach County's most inspiring celebrations of community impact.

This recognition reflects the heart of our mission—empowering individuals who are blind or visually impaired with the skills, support, and confidence to live independently. From daily living and assistive technology to job readiness, mental wellness, and caregiver support, everything we do is fueled by compassion, purpose, and a belief in brighter futures.

We proudly stand alongside the dedicated nonprofits, staff, and volunteers being celebrated—thank you for lifting lives and creating lasting change.



Proclamation for White Cane Safety Awareness Day

October 15th is White Cane Safety Awareness Day, a time to celebrate the independence and mobility of individuals with vision loss! Mayor Keith James of City of West Palm Beach, FL presented Lighthouse for the Blind with an official proclamation in recognition of this important day. We're honored to have our efforts and community recognized.



RECOGNITION FROM THE COMMUNITY



**Association for Education & Rehabilitation
of the Blind & Visually Impaired**

Accreditation from the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER)

On behalf of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) Accreditation Council, the Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches has been awarded FULL Accreditation through the AER Accreditation Program for the following programs: Management, Orientation and Mobility, Technology Instruction, Early Childhood, Vision Rehabilitation Therapy, Special Learning Curriculum

Many thanks to Mary Allen, our Senior Director of Programs, and the team for the many months of heavy lifting to achieve this incredible accomplishment.

Recipes for Success ServSafe Certification

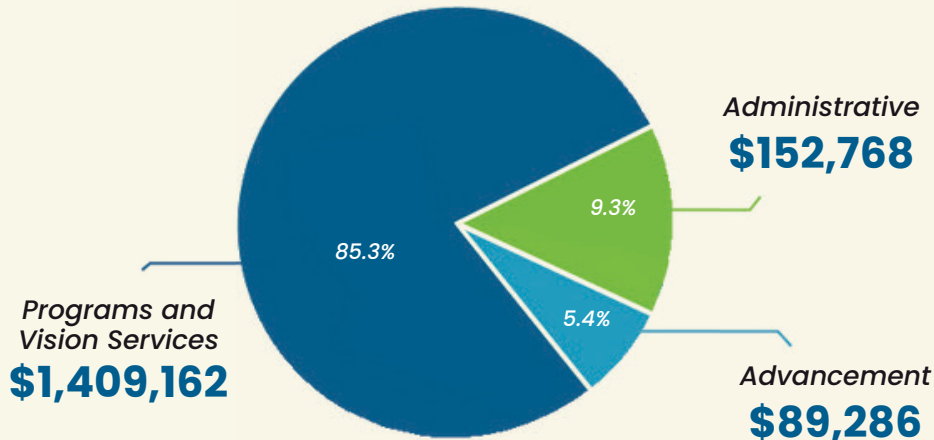
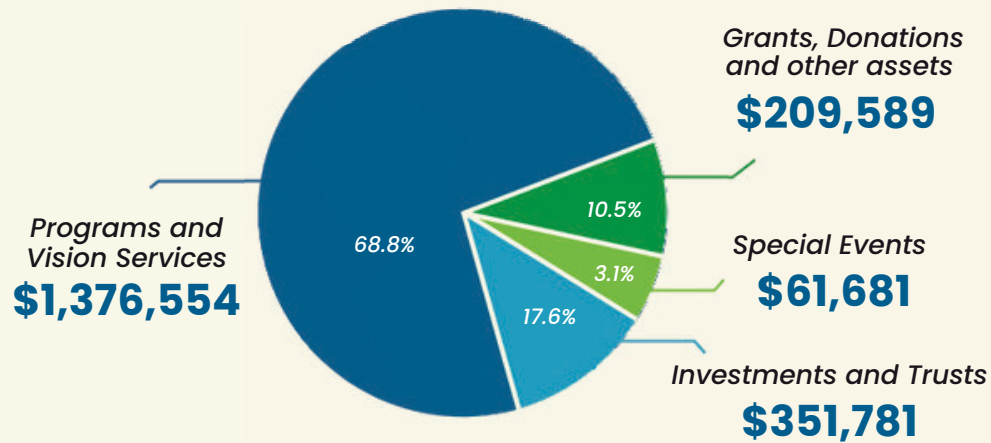
Congratulations to six Lighthouse clients who graduated in October from the Recipes for Success culinary certificate program! These talented individuals, who are visually impaired or blind, have gained the skills and confidence to pursue meaningful careers in the culinary industry. Equipped with newly crafted resumes and job readiness training from their classes at Recipes for Success, they are prepared to showcase their skills to local restaurants and hotels eager to hire. We are so proud of their accomplishments and can't wait to see the incredible opportunities they'll embrace. Cheers to a bright future in the kitchen and beyond!



FINANCIALS AND PROGRAM STATS

Revenue

\$1,999,605



Expenses

\$1,651,216



Vision Screenings

486



Children's Vision Potentially Saved by Early Intervention

95



Babies, Children and Teens received services

581



Adults Received Services

279



Mental Health and Wellbeing: Social and Recreational Programming

196



Community Partners

>80



Square Miles of Service

5,333



Youth Service Hours

7,243



Adult Service Hours

6,742



Direct Service Hours

13,985



**LIGHTHOUSE
FOR THE BLIND**
OF THE PALM BEACHES
TREASURE COAST & OKEECHOBEE

5601 Corporate Way, #210
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

Phone: (561) 586-5600
Website: www.lhpb.org



Florida Agencies
Serving the Blind
Moving Beyond Vision Loss



DIVISION OF BLIND SERVICES
Florida Department of Education | dbs.fldoe.org



L I G H T

Loyalty
to the mission,
organization, and
persons served.

Innovation
in the presence
of ever-changing
circumstances
and challenges.

Growth
in expanding our
reach to individuals
in need.

Happiness
is the goal we strive
to achieve for those
we serve.

Teamwork
results when values
include mutual
respect and
collaborations.