

# VISION



# FOR THE FUTURE



50  
YEARS  
STRONG



CELEBRATING 50+ YEARS  
**LIGHTHOUSE**  
OF BROWARD  
Empowering the Blind and Visually Impaired

2023  
Impact Statement

# MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/CEO AND BOARD PRESIDENT

We're so proud here at the Lighthouse of Broward to have been the sole provider of rehabilitative services to the blind community for the last 50 years. As we celebrate this milestone, we reflect on the accomplishments of the past – having served approximately 150,000 individuals – and look ahead to an increasingly successful future.

While we are honored to have empowered so many people who face blindness or visual impairment, we know we have much more work to do. We're laser-focused on expanding our reach to serve additional people in our community who could benefit from our services.

We made amazing progress toward this goal in 2023. We sold our longtime headquarters on Andrews Avenue and upgraded to a more modern facility in Sunrise with twice the square footage than our prior facility. Further, the new facility is centrally located in Broward County. In our new space, we'll be able to accommodate even more people who are in need of our services. We're thrilled to have this opportunity to grow.

We also are completely grateful for the many supporters – who have given time, talent and treasure – to make this growth possible. As we look ahead to our next 50 years of success, we thank you and all of our supporters as we stand with those living with blindness or visual impairment. We very much appreciate you.

Sincerely,



**Ellyn Drotzer, MSW, LCSW**  
*President & CEO*



**Timothy J. Moffatt, JD, MBA**  
*Board Chair*



**Ellyn Drotzer, MSW, LCSW**  
*President & CEO*



**Timothy J. Moffatt, JD, MBA**  
*Board Chair*

# SERVING INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The Lighthouse of Broward served 2,638 persons who are blind and visually impaired in 2023, including 766 new clients, unduplicated, through a variety of programs and initiatives.

**Bright Beginnings** is a year-round developmental and support program for parents and children aged from birth through five years old.

- **Clients served:** 35
- **Impact:** 100% of the children who were introduced to and interacted with assistive technology showed effective use.

**David & Jean Colker KIDS Program** is a year-round program that provides a summer camp, weekend activities each month, and school holidays during the school year for 6- to 13-year-olds.

- **Clients served:** 58
- **Impact:** 100% of the youth in this program demonstrated pro-social skills and increased self-esteem in one-on-one and group interactions.

**TeenLIFE (Learning Independence From Experience)** is a year-round program for teens and young adults ages 14 to 21. It focuses on career exploration, job readiness, work experience, daily living skills and college preparation.

- **Clients served:** 60
- **Impact:** 100% of teens feel this program provides skills for success in college or work.

**Ready to Work** provides working-age adults with skills training, job preparation, placement services, and ways to overcome barriers to gain employment and reduce the effects of vision loss on job performance.

- **Clients served:** 194
- **Impact:** 96% of clients improved daily living skills, safe travel/mobility skills, and communication skills including use of adaptive technology.

**Vital Living** serves seniors who participate in group and individual rehabilitation training, enabling them to maximize their independence, well-being, and health. Vital Living helps the elderly age in place and learn skills empowering them to remain safe and live independently.


- **Clients served:** 313
- **Impact:** 100% of senior clients live independently in their homes and have learned vital new skills to maintain their independence.

**Visually Impaired Seniors using Technology (VISIT) and Family Support Group** offer additional support to clients and their families.

- **Combined clients served:** 106
- **Impact:** 62 new seniors completed smartphone training, enabling them to use touchscreen and audio features to perform one or more daily living activities, reduce isolation, and increase access to printed materials.

**A Low Vision Clinic at the Lighthouse** assists low-vision clients and the public in partnership with Nova Southeastern School of Optometry. In-home follow up includes teaching best use of remaining vision with adaptive low vision devices.

- **Clients served:** 189
- **Impact:** Provided 189 visually impaired children and adults free or reduced cost low vision exams.



Bright Beginnings client Nyla tackles a craft at the annual spring event.

# SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

## NEW DIGS

This 50th anniversary year, the Lighthouse sold its current building on Andrews Avenue in Fort Lauderdale and purchased a new and improved, larger facility in Sunrise. The newer facility, centrally located in Broward County, expands opportunities to serve more individuals who are blind and visually impaired in our community. The building opened on March 1, 2024.



*CEO Ellyn Drotzer with VP Jose Lopez Masso with guide dog Louis presenting at the Sunrise City Council chambers.*

## DROTZER NAMED BOARD CHAIR FOR FLORIDA AGENCIES FOR SERVING THE BLIND

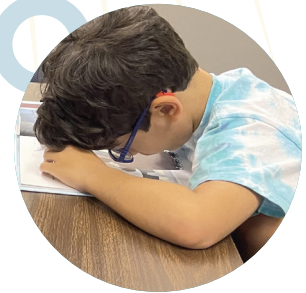


Florida Agencies  
Serving the Blind  
*Moving Beyond Vision Loss*

Ellyn Drotzer, President and CEO of the Lighthouse, was unanimously elected board chair for the Florida Agencies for Serving the Blind for the second year in a row. The volunteer commitment underscores the Lighthouse's leadership in providing services to those who are blind and visually impaired across the state. Drotzer was also appointed to the Broward County Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities.

## BOOKS AND MORE

The Lighthouse of Broward hosted a Family Literacy Event sponsored by the Florida Panther Foundation to help parents and their children with low vision build literacy skills in Braille. The literacy workshop provided information for parents on emergent literacy trends including integrating braille into their child's environment and building fine motor skills. Devices such as magnifiers, reading stands, and CCTVs also were showcased.



*Young Ricardo works on his reading.*

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINING IN THE DARK

The Lighthouse of Broward raised \$220K at its 50th Anniversary Dining in the Dark presented by the Josephine S. Leiser Foundation at The Westin Fort Lauderdale. The event, chaired by volunteers Von Freeman, Carmen Miller and Marianne Finizio, and emceed by LITE FM 101.5 hosts Julie Guy and Tamara G., honored The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation and former State Representative George Moraitis.



*Kevin Byrne of the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation*

## EGGSTRAVAGANZA

A super-fun Beeping Egg Hunt was hosted at the Lighthouse for 50 blind and visually impaired children plus their families. In addition to participating in the beeping-egg hunt, blind and visually impaired kids jumped in a bounce house, tackled a variety of crafts, had their face painted and enjoyed lunch. The event was sponsored by Century Metals & Supplies and Leone Star Services.



*Jackson finds the special golden egg at Eggstravaganza.*

## FOR THE LOVE OF STEAM

Approximately 65 blind and visually impaired youth had a blast enjoying STEAM activities at the Lighthouse's "For the Love of STEAM" event presented by UKG. The event offered hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics activities, for youth who are blind and visually impaired. STEAM-based activities focused on hands-on development of creativity, social skills, communication, problem solving, critical thinking, decision making, and more.



*Clients Andreas, Joshua and Andy working at an activity booth.*

# THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS!\*



MARILYN & FRANCINE GRUDER  
**LIGHTHOUSE**  
**LIFETIME**  
**LEARNERS**

BAM Property Development LLC  
Batchelor Foundation  
Blanche S. Buck Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Centennial Bank  
Charles and Joan Hermanowski  
Family Foundation Inc.  
City of Deerfield Beach  
City of Fort Lauderdale  
Estate of Ronald William Brown  
Estate of Rose Hackman  
Florida Agencies Serving the Blind (FASB)  
Florida Division of Blind Services (DBS)  
Gore Family Memorial Foundation Trust  
Gunther Motor Company  
Helen S. Burke Estate  
Henry L. & Kathryn Mills Charitable Foundation  
Kegel Family Foundation  
Negley Flinn Charitable Foundation  
Pulte Family Charitable Foundation  
The Colin Brown Foundation of the Ayco  
Charitable Foundation  
The Jim Moran Foundation  
The William R. Watts Foundation, Inc.  
Truist Foundation  
UKG Ultimate Kronos Group  
United Way of Broward County, Inc.

*\*List includes funders at \$5,000 or more during fiscal year 2022-2023.*

## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

**\$408,270**

JOSEPHINE S. LEISER  
SUPPORT OVER 50  
YEARS

**1,683**

LIFETIME LEARNERS,  
GRADUATES OF  
VITAL LIVING

**125,000**

INDIVIDUALS SERVED  
SINCE 1973

**\$14,000+**

VALUE OF  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$225,000**

RAISED AT 2023  
DINING IN THE DARK

**458+**

TOTAL VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**20,740+**

HOURS OF CLIENT  
INSTRUCTION

**142**

STAKEHOLDER  
MEETINGS,  
GATHERINGS  
AND OUTREACH  
PRESENTATIONS

**3,320**

CLIENTS LIVE SAFELY  
AND INDEPENDENTLY

**66**

REGULAR  
VOLUNTEERS

**11**

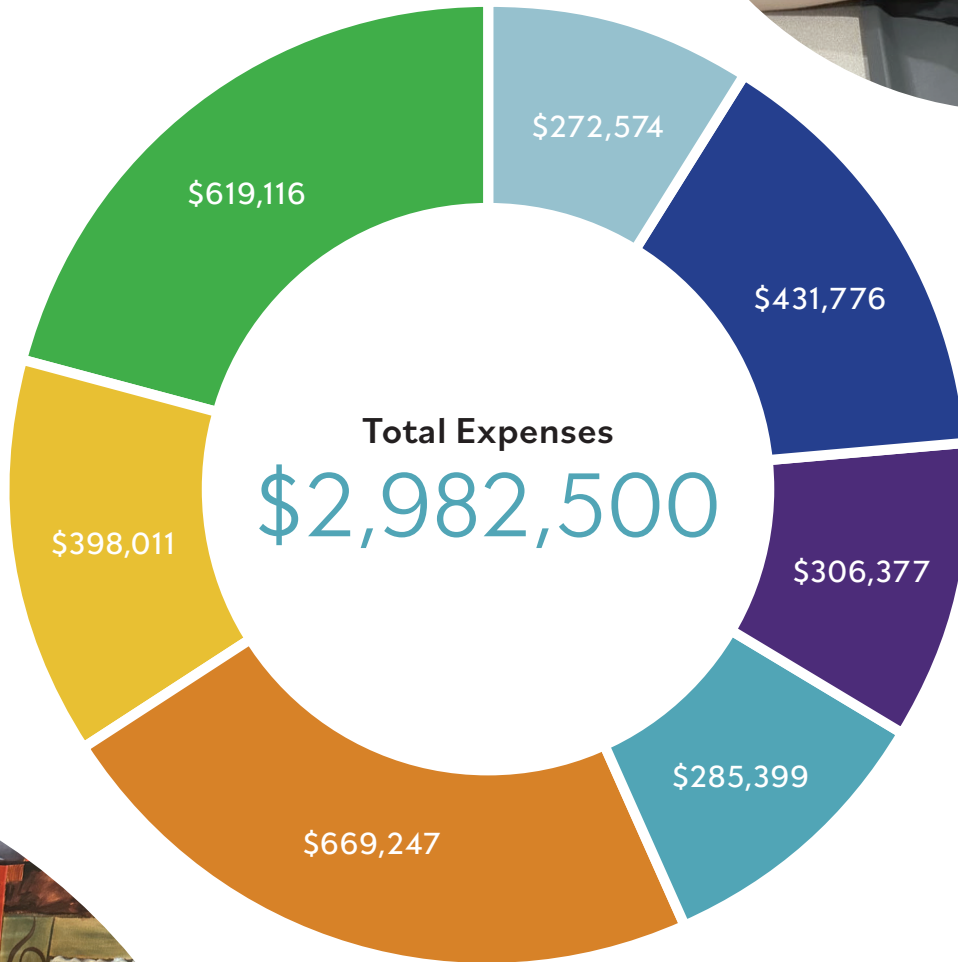
CLIENT EVENTS



**50 YEARS**  
OF SERVING  
THE BLIND

## EXPENSES

*Samuel, a TeenLIFE participant, hones his painting skills during spring camp.*



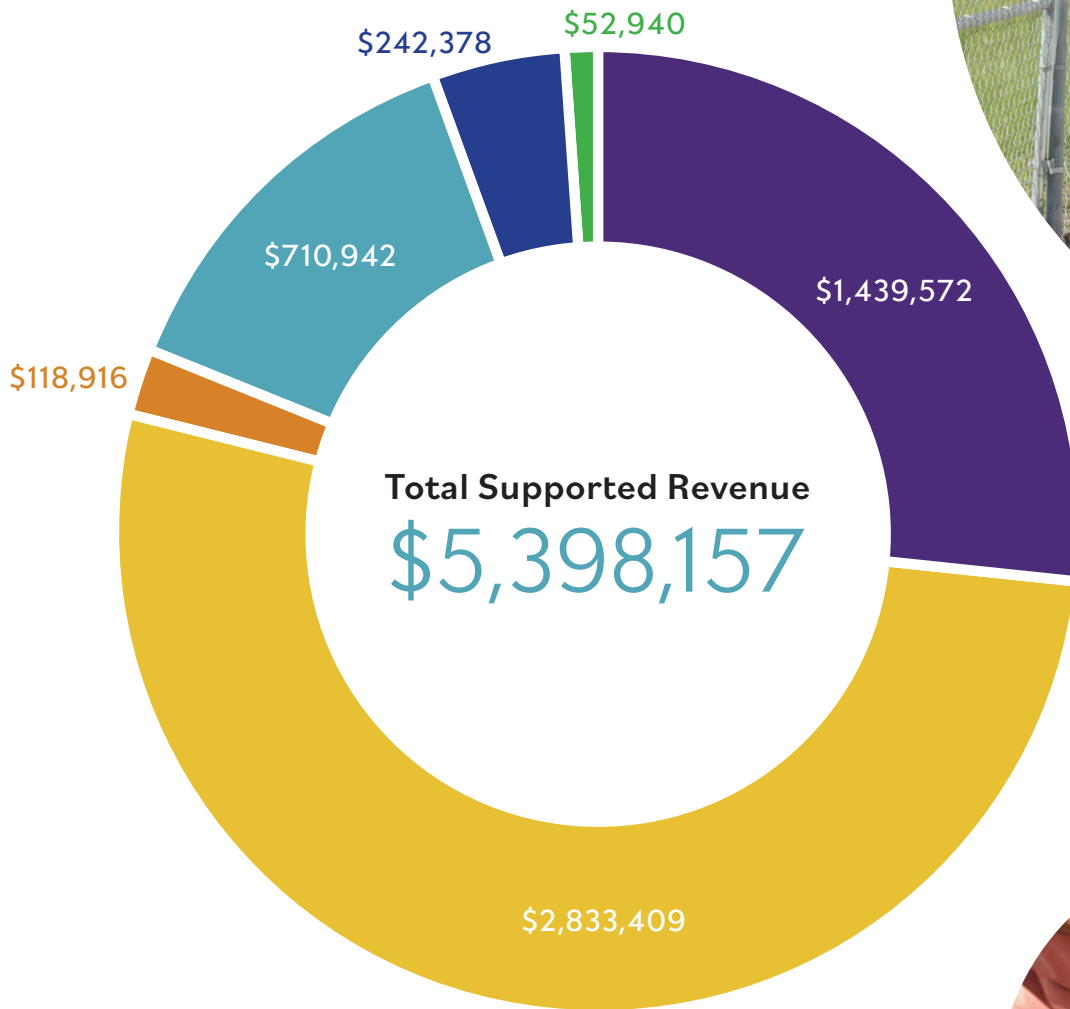
- BRIGHT BEGINNINGS
- SUPPORT SERVICES
- TEENS
- KIDS
- VITAL LIVING
- READY TO WORK
- WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

*Joshmanny, who was born with no eyes, has been receiving services from the Lighthouse since he was two months old. He is pictured with his mom, Karina Rijo.*



# REVENUE

*Avalon, who has learned important mobility skills in the Vital Living program, gets around using his white cane.*



- CONTRACT REVENUE
- GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
- CONTRIBUTIONS OF NONFINANCIAL ASSETS
- INVESTMENT INCOME
- FUNDRAISING EVENTS
- PROGRAM INCOME

*Matthew, 10, checks out the lizards at the annual STEAM event.*



**THE LIGHTHOUSE OF BROWARD**  
IS GRACIOUSLY SUPPORTED BY

*\*Please visit [www.LHOB.org/donate](http://www.LHOB.org/donate) for full audit report.*



**DIVISION OF  
BLIND SERVICES**  
Florida Department of Education | [fldoe.org](http://fldoe.org)



CELEBRATING 50+ YEARS  
**LIGHTHOUSE**  
 OF BROWARD  
 Empowering the Blind and Visually Impaired

5901 DEL LAGO CIRCLE  
 SUNRISE, FLORIDA 33313  
 (954) 463-4217  
 WWW.LHOB.ORG

## WHAT WE DO

*The Lighthouse of Broward provides specialized rehabilitation, life skills training, and employment opportunities to enhance the independence, productivity, and dignity of children and adults who are blind or visually impaired.*

## LIGHTHOUSE OF BROWARD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Judge Eileen O'Connor

RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE BY

