



**LIGHTHOUSE**

**O F B R O W A R D**

Empowering the Blind and Visually Impaired

# EMPOWERING INDEPENDENCE

## Annual Impact Statement 2022

*Below: Clients illustrating the work of Lighthouse of Broward.*



### MISSION

To provide the leadership, services, advocacy, and resources necessary to enhance the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired in Broward County and empower them to live independent, healthy, employed, and fulfilling lives.

### VISION

For all Broward residents who are blind or visually impaired enjoy independence and a high quality of life through the transformative work of the Lighthouse of Broward.

# Message from President/CEO and Board Chair

Dear Friends,

We're thrilled to report that we provided lifechanging services to more than 2,500 individuals who are blind or visually impaired in 2022. By providing comprehensive educational and rehabilitation services, life skills training and employment opportunities, we truly are *empowering independence*.

Independence is something a sighted person takes for granted. A sighted person can easily take a stroll in the neighborhood, run to the store when needed, pick up a paper and scan the headlines, cook a meal on a hot stove, and interview for a job – all without a second thought.

This is not the case for a person who is blind or visually impaired. That's where we come in.

We empower clients by teaching them how to travel safely in various environments, to use magnifiers and low-vision devices to read and write, to prepare meals without getting hurt, to improve employability with on-the-job training and job readiness classes and to use smart phone technology effectively.

Our services enable those who are blind or visually impaired of all ages discover their maximum potential. We are so proud to stand with them on this important journey.

We also are very grateful to our community supporters who help us continue this significant work.

With Deep Gratitude,



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*

# Program Services

The Lighthouse of Broward served 2590 blind and visually impaired individuals in 2022, including 665 NEW clients, unduplicated.

## Bright Beginnings

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

CLIENTS  
SERVED  
**35**

### ★ IMPACT

97% of the children who were introduced to and interacted with assistive technology showed effective use.

## David & Jean Colker KIDS Program

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 who are blind or visually impaired.

CLIENTS  
SERVED  
**59**

### ★ IMPACT

97% of the youth in this program demonstrated pro-social skills and increased self-esteem in one-on-one and group interactions.

## TeenLIFE

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  
**52**

### ★ IMPACT

94% of teens feel this program provides skills for success in college or work.

## Ready to Work

Ready to Work provides blind and visually impaired 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  
**190**

### ★ IMPACT

The Ready to Work internship initiative provided 30 working-age clients with paid internships to enhance their ability to secure gainful employment.



Above: Client navigating using his white cane

## Vital Living

Vital Living serves blind and visually impaired seniors, who participate in group and individual rehabilitation training, enabling them to maximize their independence, well-being, and health.

CLIENTS  
SERVED  
**257**

Vital Living helps seniors to age in place and learn skills empowering them to remain safe and live independently.

### ★ IMPACT

100% of seniors in this program increased their daily living and communication skills which enabled them to age in place safely despite their vision impairment.

## VISIT and Family Support Group

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

COMBINED  
CLIENTS  
SERVED  
**72**

### ★ IMPACT

50 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.

## Low Vision Clinic

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  
**146**

### ★ IMPACT

Provided 146 visually impaired children and adults free or reduced cost low vision exams.



# Success Spotlight

## White canes, guide dogs and a beacon for the blind

Each year on Oct. 15, White Cane Awareness Day spotlights the blind and visually impaired and their all-important navigation tool, the white cane.

The white cane is an essential tool that enables those who are blind or visually impaired to traverse independently despite their disability. The cane effec-



By Ellyn Drotzer

handler. It's important not to distract the dog in any way, such as by petting, touching or feeding it.

Guide dogs and white canes help those who are blind or visually impaired become more confident in moving from place to place, thereby creating additional independence and self-sufficiency. The free training and rehabilita-

## 🔹 In the News

A compelling article written by Lighthouse President and CEO Ellyn Drotzer titled "White Canes, Guide Dogs and a Beacon for the Blind," was featured in the Sun Sentinel.

The entire article is online at [lhob.org/index.php/node/117](http://lhob.org/index.php/node/117).



READ HERE

## ▼ Dining in the Dark

Dining in the Dark: Fire & Ice presented by the Josephine S. Leiser Foundation attracted 230 guests and raised \$175,000 in support of Lighthouse of Broward. The gala, hosted by lead sponsor The Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort was chaired by volunteers Von Freeman, Carmen Miller and Marianne Finizio. The event was emceed by LITE FM 101.5 morning show hosts Julie Guy and Tamara G, who are pictured with Lighthouse President and CEO Ellyn Drotzer.



## ▶ Eggstravaganza!

Approximately 75 blind and visually impaired children and their siblings had an amazing time at Eggstravaganza, searching for beeping eggs, visiting with the Easter Bunny, jumping in the bounce house, climbing a rock wall, having their face painted and doing arts and crafts. Pictured is Aiden having a blast with his mom.



## After Hours ▶

Florida Design & Construction Professionals hosted an elegant After Hours social at The Wilder in Fort Lauderdale benefiting Lighthouse of Broward. The event, co-sponsored by Jeannette Gonzalez of Opzioni Design and Tessie Fernandez of AVHS-Home Solutions, raised more than \$4,600 for the Lighthouse at the event. Jeannette Gonzalez (second from left) is pictured with Scott McCullough, Jose Lopez Masso and saxophonist Jon Saxx.



## For the Love of STEAM ▶

Lighthouse of Broward's "For the Love of STEAM" event presented by UKG brought in 90 blind or visually impaired youth and their siblings, who tackled hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics activities, all designed for youth who are blind and visually impaired. At right, Lighthouse client Lily builds with marshmallows at the TRC Worldwide Engineering table.



# Thank You to Our Generous Supporters!\*



MARILYN & FRANCINE GRUDER  
**LIGHTHOUSE**  
**LIFELINE**  
**LEARNERS**

Albert E. and Birdie W. Einstein Fund, Inc.	Florida Agencies Serving the Blind (FASB)	Marie Keese LeLash Foundation
American Heritage School	Florida Division of Blind Services (DBS)	Marilyn and Francine Gruder
Batchelor Foundation	Florida Panthers Foundation Inc.	Negley Flinn Charitable Foundation
Blanche S. Buck Charitable Foundation, Inc.	Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation	Pulte Family Charitable Foundation
Charles and Joan Hermanowski Family Foundation Inc.	Gore Family Memorial Foundation Trust	Sally E. Abbey Estate
Citrix	Henry L. & Kathryn Mills Charitable Foundation	The Jim Moran Foundation
	J. Milton & Nellie E. Hoffa Memorial Foundation	The William and Helen Thomas Charitable Trust
	Josephine S. Leiser Foundation	The William R. Watts Foundation, Inc.
	Kegel Family Foundation	United Way of Broward County, Inc.

*\*List includes funders at \$5,000 or more during fiscal year 2021-2022*

## 2022 By the Numbers

**\$1,100,000**

TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT FROM THE  
MARILYN GRUDER LIVING TRUST

**\$175,000**

RAISED AT DINING IN THE DARK

**\$15,000**

RAISED FOR GIVING TUESDAY

**\$11,291**

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$4,600**

RAISED AT FLORIDA DESIGN  
& PROFESSIONALS AFTER HOURS

**1,779**

LIFETIME LEARNERS,  
GRADUATES FROM VITAL LIVING

**377**

VOLUNTEER HOURS

**58**

REGULAR VOLUNTEERS

**38**

GIVING TUESDAY CONTRIBUTORS

**38**

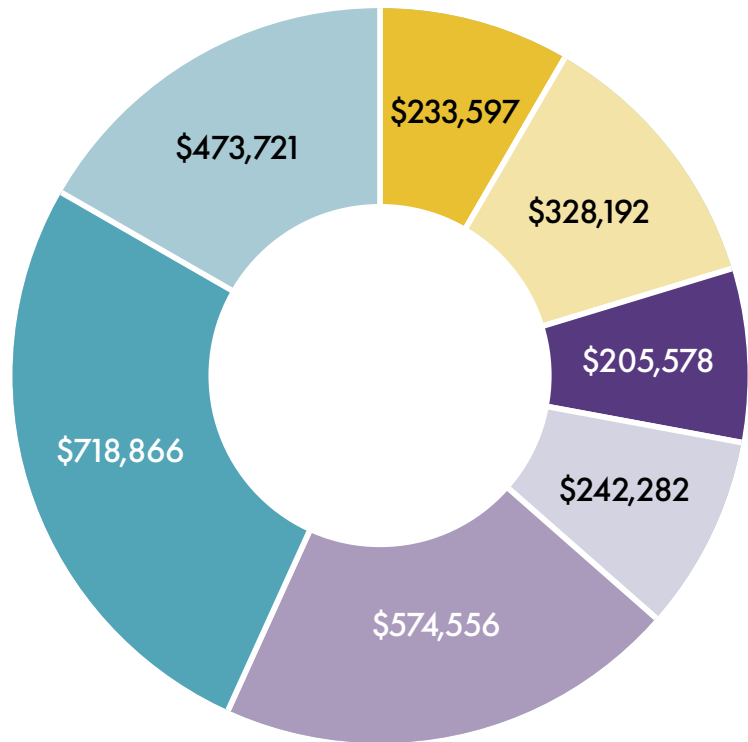
NUMBER OF STAKEHOLDER  
MEETINGS, GATHERINGS AND  
OUTREACH PRESENTATIONS

**128**

NUMBER OF CLIENT  
PROGRAM EVENTS IN 2022

# 2022 Financial Information\*

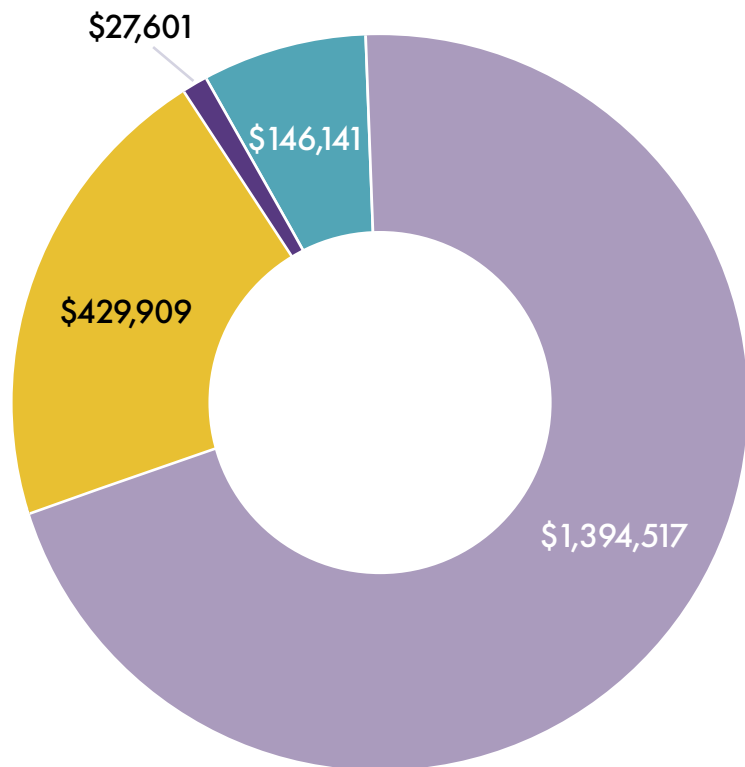
## Expenses



**Total Expenses**  
**\$2,776,792**



## Support and Revenue



THE LIGHTHOUSE OF BROWARD  
IS GRACIOUSLY SUPPORTED BY:



**Total Support and Revenue**  
**\$1,998,168**

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

“The Lighthouse shows me  
**I can go forward.** I don’t have  
to be afraid.”

**RENÉ**

*Lighthouse of Broward Client*





# Board of Directors

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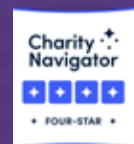
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Ellyn Drotzer, MSW, LCSW  
*President and CEO*

## RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE BY



**LIGHTHOUSE**  
OF BROWARD  
Empowering the Blind and Visually Impaired

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