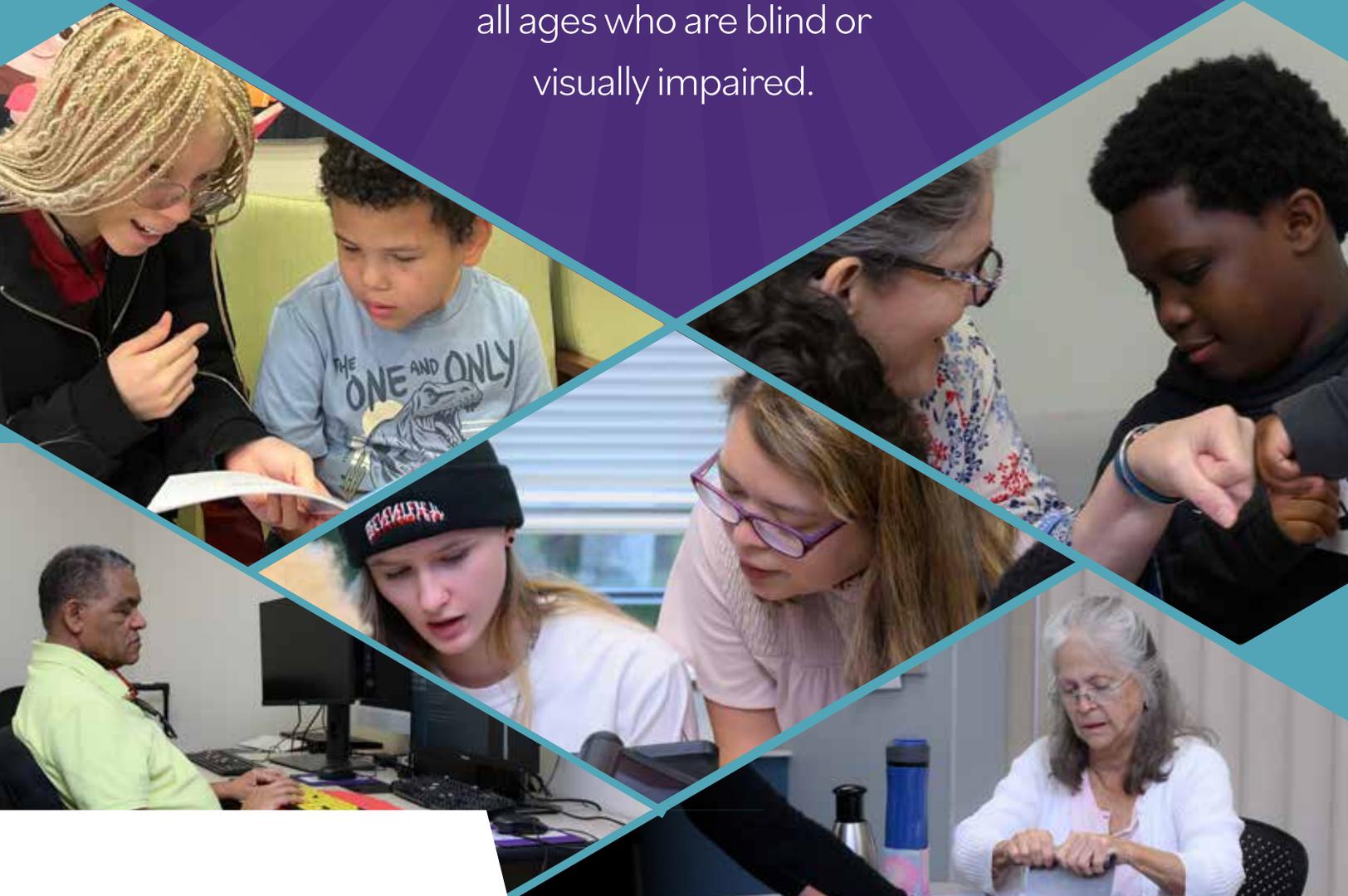


CLEAR VISION

Looking to the future for a clear vision of hope for individuals of all ages who are blind or visually impaired.



IMPACT STATEMENT 2024

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/CEO AND BOARD PRESIDENT

Our important work here at the Lighthouse of Broward continued in 2024 as we provided services and resources at no cost to 2,836 people who are blind or visually impaired in Broward County. We are particularly proud of the fact that this number includes 663 new clients, indicating how our outreach continues to broaden.

Thanks to the exceptional leadership of our board of directors and the professionalism of our talented team, we truly have been able to establish a clear vision of hope for our clients as they are empowered to live independent, healthy, employed, and fulfilling lives.

This past year marked a milestone at the Lighthouse of Broward. After offering services from our downtown Fort Lauderdale location since the inception of our organization, we moved to a larger, more centrally located facility in Broward County. Our building, located in Sunrise, is perfect for all client activities, ranging from the life-changing classes we offer, to fun, social activities that enable our clients to connect with their peers.

Our larger space also gives us the opportunity to serve more clients, as the need for our services continues to be great. In fact, an analysis of a wealth of data points out that Broward County is home to approximately 175,000 blind and visually impaired individuals, a number expected to grow to 195,000 by 2050.

We are poised and positioned to assist even more blind and visually impaired people as we look to the future with a clear vision of hope for our organization and those we serve. We thank you for standing with us as we accomplish this important mission. We appreciate you.

Sincerely,



Ellyn Drotzer, MSW, LCSW
President & CEO



Timothy J. Moffatt, JD, MBA
Board Chair



Tim Moffatt and Ellyn Drotzer with Senator Nan Rich, Broward County Mayor, at the 2024 Mayor's Gala

SERVING INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The Lighthouse of Broward served 2,836 persons who are blind and visually impaired in 2024, including 663 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:** 36
- **Impact:** 100% of children effectively interacted with assistive technology

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:** 60
- **Impact:** 100% of participants improved daily living skills, social interactions while gaining proficiency in STEAM activities and safe travel techniques.

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:** 64
- **Impact:** Through 6,200 hours of instruction, the program provided services to prepare these young individuals for adulthood and achieve their goals.

Ready to Work provides working-age adults with skills training, job preparation, placement services, and ways to overcome barriers to gain employment.

- **Clients served:** 200
- **Impact:** Through 6,246 hours of instruction, 93.5% improved essential skills, while 100% developed resumes and honed interview skills. 50% of those who had internships secured employment

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:** 303
- **Impact:** 97% improved their daily living and communication skills, 93% reported greater confidence in making life decisions.

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

- **Combined clients served:** 127
- **Impact:** 127 new seniors completed smartphone training for daily living activities.

A Low Vision Clinic at the Lighthouse assists low-vision clients and the public in partnership with Nova Southeastern School of Optometry.

- **Clients served:** 153
- **Impact:** Provided 153 visually impaired children and adults free or reduced cost low vision exams.





Mayerlyn Bencosme with her sons Christian, Chriszander and Michael as shown on the WPLG Mom to Mom segment.

Lighthouse Mom in the News

Mayerlyn Bencosme, who is legally blind, appeared on WPLG Local10's Mom to Mom segment to discuss her challenges as well as those of her three boys.



▲ Check out the story here.

Empowering Blind Voters

The Lighthouse of Broward empowered blind and visually impaired individuals to vote by offering training on specialized voting machines and hosting candidates running for office to share their vision. Approximately 100 guests attended the Candidate Forum and training.



Lighthouse President and CEO Ellyn Drotzer and Lighthouse VP Jose Lopez Masso with guide dog Louis pose with local candidates.

Blind Voting in the News

Lighthouse Vice President Jose Lopez Masso, who went blind at 32, bylined a Sun Sentinel article on the importance and duty of all Americans – blind and sighted – to vote.



▲ Check out the story here.



Dining in the Dark VIPs included event Co-chair Carmen Miller, Lighthouse Board Member Stu Stewart, Lighthouse Board Chair Tim Maffatt, Lighthouse President and CEO Ellyn Drotzer and event Co-chair and Lighthouse Board Member Von Freeman.

Dark Dining

The 10th Annual Dining in the Dark Celebration, presented by the Josephine S. Leiser Foundation and hosted by The Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort, raised more than \$200,000 for the Lighthouse of Broward.



The Lighthouse executive leadership team at the new building: Vice President of Programs Samantha Kelly, President and CEO Ellyn Drotzer, Vice President of Operations Jillian Gonzalez, and Vice President of Public Affairs and Government Jose Lopez Masso.

New Building Serves More Clients

The Lighthouse of Broward moved into a larger, more accessible home at 5901 Del Lago Circle in Sunrise. The new space provides an amazing opportunity to serve even more people who are blind and visually impaired.



Young Lighthouse clients Payton and Hannah enjoy STEAM activities.

For the Love of STEAM

Sixty-five blind and visually impaired youth had a blast enjoying STEAM activities at a fun and educational “For the Love of STEAM” event presented by UKG. The event offered hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics activities, all designed for youth who are blind and visually impaired.



American Heritage School President Douglas Laurie with Lighthouse CEO Ellyn Drotzer.

Speakeasy Soirée

American Heritage Schools raised \$68,000 for the Lighthouse at its 2024 HEROES Speakeasy Soirée. A huge thank you goes out to the Laurie family, American Heritage faculty and students, and the entire Heroes committee for their generous contribution.

THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS!*

Batchelor Foundation
Blanche S. Buck Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Charles and Joan Hermanowski
Family Foundation Inc.
City of Deerfield Beach
Florida Agencies Serving the Blind (FASB)
Florida Division of Blind Services (DBS)
Florida Panthers Foundation, Inc.
Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, Inc.
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Gore Family Memorial Foundation Trust
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Marie Keese LeLash Foundation
Marilyn and Francine Gruder
Negley Flinn Charitable Foundation
Peck Foundation, Milwaukee LTD
Pulte Family Charitable Foundation
TD Charitable Foundation
The Colin Brown Foundation of the
Ayco Charitable Foundation
The Jim Moran Foundation
The William R. Watts Foundation, Inc.
UKG Ultimate Kronos Group
United Way of Broward County, Inc.



MARILYN & FRANCINE GRUDER
LIGHTHOUSE
LIFETIME
LEARNERS

**List includes funders at \$5,000 or more during fiscal year 2023-2024.*

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

\$200,000

RAISED AT 2024 DINING IN THE DARK

\$22,000+

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

20,000+

HOURS OF CLIENT INSTRUCTION

1,893

LIFETIME LEARNERS, GRADUATES
FROM VITAL LIVING

663

NEW LIGHTHOUSE CLIENTS

658

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

138

REGULAR VOLUNTEERS

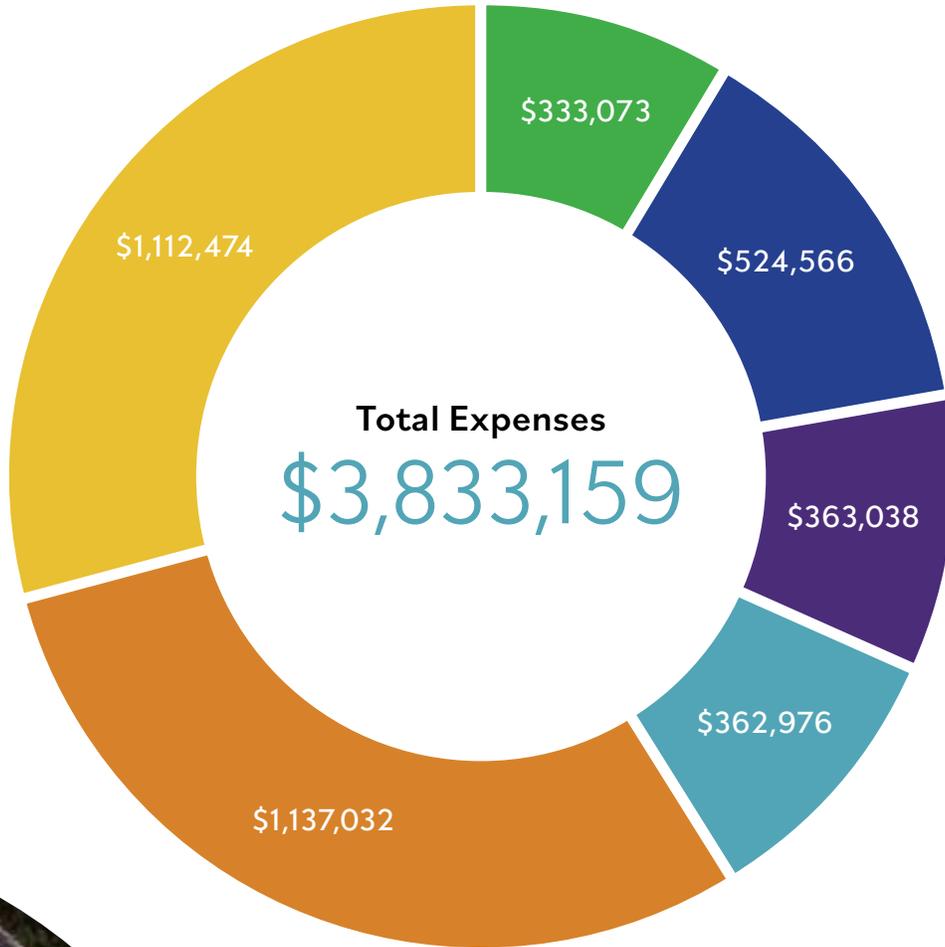
36

BABIES AND CHILDREN
UNDER 5 YEARS SERVED



50 YEARS
OF SERVING
THE BLIND

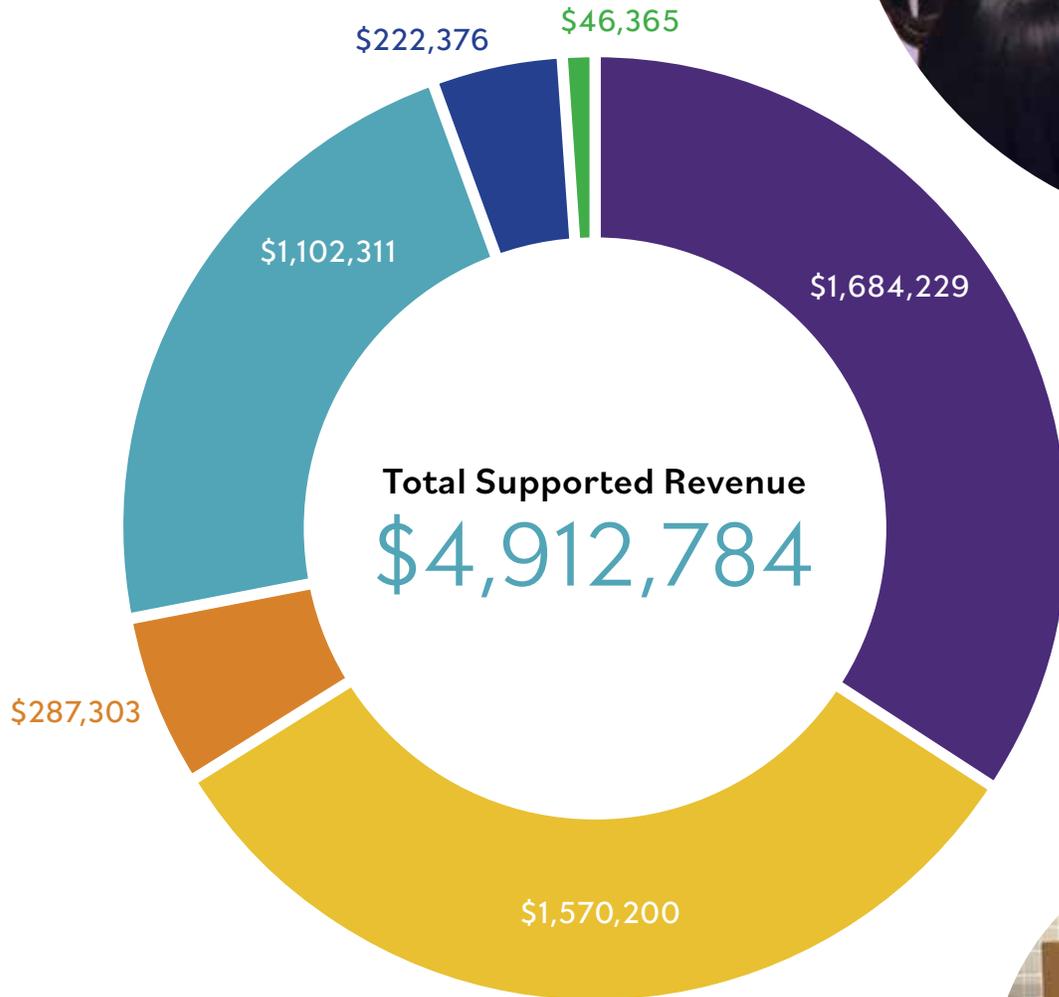
EXPENSES



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



REVENUE



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

**Please visit www.LHOB.org/donate for full audit report.*

THE LIGHTHOUSE OF BROWARD
IS GRACIOUSLY SUPPORTED BY



**DIVISION OF
BLIND SERVICES**
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | THE BROWARD



WHAT WE DO

VISION

To be the place of choice that allows all Broward residents, who are blind or visually impaired, to enjoy independence and a high quality of life through our transformative work.

MISSION

To be the leader in Broward County that provides leadership, services, advocacy, and the resources necessary that enhances the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired during the period of 2023-2028.

LIGHTHOUSE OF BROWARD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Chair

Dr. Sarah Wellik

Board Vice Chair

Erica Ricketts, MBA

Treasurer

Maria Pierson

Secretary

Margarita Castellon, MA, MPA

Von Freeman

Patricia Martinez, MBA, LUTCF

Scott McCullough, JD

Cameron McDonough

Carmen Miller

Judge Eileen O'Connor (ret.)

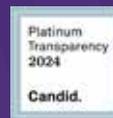
Dr. Nicole Patterson, O.D.

Tracy Seaton

Colonel Robert "Stu" Stewart

Rachel Zamora

RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE BY



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