

Donor Impact on Clients

Client Stories

Children's Program: Nick is a 10-year-old, and he is bright, energetic, and engaged. He previously participated in the Lighthouse Early Intervention Program and was very excited when we started a year-round program for kids in 2016. At the Lighthouse, he is learning to use adaptive equipment, such as a hand-held magnifier, computers with magnification, and a talking watch, to ensure he has technical skills to keep up with his sighted peers. He is also learning how to do some basic household tasks, such as making a sandwich, using a microwave with tactile markings to find the buttons, and cleaning up after himself. The strategies he has learned are ensuring he can maximize the vision he has, and that he stays at an age-appropriate grade level in school.



Nick's training is making a huge difference in his life, and is provided at no cost thanks to the generosity of our donors.

How Donations Impact Clients

Thank you for supporting the Lighthouse! When you make a donation, you are making a difference in the lives of many people who are visually impaired and blind living in our community. Here are some of the ways donations are used:

- *\$25 pays for food needed in one independent living cooking skills class so clients are able to cook safely.*
- *\$50 pays for 1 hour of white cane training so clients learn safe movement and fall prevention techniques.*
- *\$100 pays for 3 hours of computer or mobile device training so clients can use their devices independently.*
- *\$250 pays for a 5-hour Independent Living Skills or Job Readiness class.*
- *\$500 pays for a community-integration activity for teens that improves self-esteem, confidence, and job prospects.*
- *\$750 pays for 3 months of one-on-one early intervention so babies can develop their remaining vision and other senses.*
- *\$1,000 pays for a week of children's summer camp which teaches the skills needed for children to interact in school.*
- *\$1,250 on average, pays for a client to learn how to read and write beginner braille.*
- *\$1,500+ pays for 1 Independent Living Skills Program provided to adults and seniors, so they are able adjust to vision loss using adapted skills.*

Please see over for more client stories.

Client Stories (Continued)

- **Early Intervention:** Silvia is a 3-year-old, she has been a Lighthouse baby for over 2 years. In addition to vision loss, at this time Silvia is non-verbal so we are teaching ways for her to communicate. Silvia demonstrated an interest in looking at lighted objects. So, we started using a lighted surface to highlight objects that would encourage her to touch and explore with her hands. To further expand on her ability to communicate, Silvia is learning to use assistive devices. We started with a bright yellow musical switch so that she could learn cause and effect. Silvia is learning to use her remaining vision and other sensory-motor skills to help her reach her developmental milestones.
- **Pre-employment Transition Program:** Gavin is a 17-year-old high school sophomore. Before he started our program, he was shy and didn't attend school regularly. So, we focused on developing social, emotional and advocacy skills (in addition to many other skills). Being with students his age who have similar issues helped Gavin excel. He gained confidence, increased his participation, and he helped other students in the program. He now openly shares his thoughts and ideas, and is one of the first to volunteer when there is work to be done. Gavin has also learned how to prepare simple meals for independence now, and for living as an adult in the future plus he has done a volunteer experience at the SPCA to gain valuable work experience. Gavin is also demonstrating improved interaction abilities at school and is better at asking for accommodations he needs in order to improve his learning and academic experience.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation:** Beverly lost her vision several years ago and had not been able to find a job since that time. When Beverly came to the Lighthouse, she received services that included Independent Living, which taught her how to adapt to her vision loss and how to care for herself.

Beverly's training included adapted skills for cooking, cleaning, and bill payments. She also learned to use a white cane and public transportation; to use Assistive Technology for computers and mobile devices; and, in Job Readiness, she learned to update her resume, go to interviews and job fairs, and how to talk to employers about vision impairment. Soon after Job Readiness training ended, Beverly became employed and is grateful for the ongoing Lighthouse support she receives.

- **Older Blind Program:** Mary is an 89-year-old woman who became severely visually impaired due to Macular Degeneration. Her big concern was how to continue living in her home independently. She came to the Lighthouse for our Independent Living (IL) Skills Program. After starting IL, Mary's mood changed quickly and her motivation to learn new adaptive skills grew stronger each day. She said the skill that most helped her was learning the mobility and self-advocacy skills needed to shop on her own. In addition, she was thrilled to learn about the online Talking Book Library where she could access audio books through the mail at no cost. Upon IL completion, Mary was excited and relieved to know she has the skills needed to live safely, and stay in her home independently.

Lighthouse Performance & Out Reach

- In 2017-2018, almost 1,300 people who are visually impaired and blind, their families, professionals, the general public, and local employers benefited from our programs.
- The impact of services on our clients include increased participation at home, school, work, and in the community, and increased self-sufficiency, decreased unemployment, reduced admissions to assisted living facilities, and fewer emergency room admissions.
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