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Charting a course for living, learning, & earning with vision loss

215 East New Hampshire Street  
 Orlando, FL 32804  
 Phone: (407) 898-2483  
 Fax: (407) 895-5255  
[www.LighthouseCentralFlorida.org](http://www.LighthouseCentralFlorida.org)



# LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL FLORIDA

Charting a course for living, learning, & earning with vision loss

## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



[www.LighthouseCentralFlorida.org](http://www.LighthouseCentralFlorida.org)

## LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL FLORIDA MISSION

Promoting the independence and success of people living with sight impairment.

Dear Friends and Supporters of Lighthouse Central Florida,

On January 1, 2011 all of us began the second decade of the third millennia. The immediate potential crisis of world wide financial collapse has, for the moment, been abated, but only after massive stimulus from governmental entities scattered around the globe. Now begins the slow, grinding process associated with recession recovery.

We are a not-for-profit non-governmental organization significantly dependent upon revenue derived from providing governmentally funded social services. As such we expect (and are already experiencing) dramatic cut backs in funding and approved programs.

In hindsight, I expect 2011 may be considered our Rubicon. If we can survive and prosper under current conditions with escalating demand for services and diminished revenues from State and Local Governments, we will have established our future model for success.

One of the ways envisioned to skin this particular cat is Lighthouse Works, Inc. this section 501(c)3 entity is a "subsidiary" of Lighthouse Central Florida. We hope Lighthouse Works will, using visually handicapped employees, produce services and products at a price sufficient to generate a net cash flow. The recurring revenue will contribute to paying some of the expenses incurred in fulfilling Lighthouse Central Florida Missions. The Chairman of the Board of Lighthouse Works is Chris Skambis. Stays posted, and watch how Chris, Lighthouse Works and Lighthouse Central Florida set the new standard for Central Florida not-for-profit organizations.

As most of you know, we have been handicapped by the lack of space in our physical quarters. Fortunately, on a short term basis, we have been able to relocate many of the administrative functions to a new location on Robinson Street, just north of Lake Eola. While this will help solve a short term problem, ultimately we need to provide more permanent quarters and locations for Mission performance and Lighthouse Works. Currently the Facilities Task Force is working closely with staff to define our current and future space requirements, and move expeditiously toward resolution of those issues.

Thanks to each of you for all that you have done and for your continued support of Lighthouse Central Florida.

Tom Ross, Chairman  
 Lighthouse Central Florida

## CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVICES



Lighthouse Central Florida provides essential services to visually impaired children from birth to kindergarten through their **Early Intervention** programs. Children who receive these services avoid unnecessary developmental delays and gain skills essential to learning and daily living. During the 2009/2010 fiscal year, **sixty three** young children received intervention services. Of these children, nine were able to successfully transfer to a school setting.

By joining the **CAN TOO** club, **twenty** school aged children, kindergarten through age 13, gained skills in daily living, socialization and self-advocacy. They also participated in fund raising activities that supported their club, fostering pre-vocational skills and integration into the community at the same time.

Once Lighthouse youth are 14 years old, they can participate in the **Transition Services** program. Teens meet two weekends each month to participate in classroom and community based activities. These activities enabled **fifty-three** young people to apply learned skills in a real life setting. Teens also participated in the **Life Prep University** summer program. There they learned to manage finances and work with local employers while living on their own in a dormitory at the University of Central Florida.



## ADULT REHABILITATION SERVICES



Rehabilitation of blind and visually impaired adults is a very important component of the services provided by Lighthouse Central Florida. Two hundred and seventy adults of all ages participated in Independent Living Skills assessment and training classes. To accommodate the variety of each client's needs, training is offered in a variety of settings. These include classes held at Lighthouse, off-site classes in senior housing communities, and individual instruction in the home. Adults who participated in the **Independent Living Skills** program gained adaptive techniques for daily living that prevented unnecessary dependency on others and premature institutionalization.

Orientation and Mobility training helps a blind or visually impaired person know where they are in space and where they want to go. It also helps them carry out a plan to actually get to their destination. Through the **Orientation & Mobility** program, **one hundred and ninety one** adults of various ages received these services in their home, school setting, job site, and in the community. Other adults participated in the Braille Assessment and Training program. **Twenty-six** adults of all age ranges increased their ability to perform many daily living tasks using **Braille**.

In today's world, technology plays an important role in everyone's life including those who are visually impaired and blind. **One hundred and fifty-four** adults participated in the **Access Technology** assessment and training program. They gained new skills in use of computers to perform daily living tasks such as banking, shopping, and communicating with friends and family. Participation in technology training provided adults seeking employment with skills needed to perform job searches on the internet and become proficient in technology skills needed on the job.



## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



Helping individuals with sight impairment find good jobs is a key goal of Lighthouse Central Florida. A person who is blind or visually impaired can do almost any job a person without a sight impairment can do. Lighthouse sponsors several programs that help individuals find jobs that match their skills, interests and abilities.

The **Ability to Market** training helps individuals gain skills that enable them to actively take part in a job search and pursue employment opportunities with confidence. During the 2009/2010 fiscal year, **twenty-one** adults participated in this training. **Six** adults participated in **Customer Service Enabled by Technology** training, gaining skills in customer service excellence. They applied their newly learned skills in a simulated call center setting.

**Four** adults participated in **Contract Management Support** training. Training participants completed Defense Acquisition University courses and supplemental classroom activities designed to prepare them for employment with the Department of Defense and private defense contractors.

As part of Lighthouse's **Job Placement Services**, **twenty-six** persons with vision impairment attended Job Club meetings to maintain the self-confidence needed to start and continue a concentrated job search. **Four** members of this group gained competitive employment within the first six months of the launch of the Job Placement Services.

Other adults with vision impairment and other significant disabilities received **Supported Employment Services**. **Fifty-six** participants attended monthly employment strategies meetings to reinforce interviewing and job keeping skills. Four individuals were placed into competitive employment with the assistance of intensive job development and job coaching.



## LIGHTHOUSE WORKS!



**Lighthouse Works!**, a business extension of Lighthouse Central Florida, is an employer providing job opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired in light manufacturing or service industries such as Customer Service Support, inbound and outbound customer contact calls, and contract close-outs for the Federal Government. Lighthouse Works! also offers similar job-specific training for other employers who hire sight-impaired employees.

Lighthouse Central Florida is the **first** agency in Central Florida to develop business enterprises enabling people who are blind to work and provide goods and services to commercial customers, Local Government agencies, the State of Florida, and the Federal Government.



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*We thank all who donated in any way to Lighthouse Central Florida in the 2009 - 2010 Fiscal Year!*

## FINANCIALS

### Statement of Financial Position September 30, 2010

Total Current Assets \$3,163,428  
Total Other Assets \$2,058,526  
Total Assets \$5,221,954  
Total Current Liabilities \$193,499  
Total Net Assets \$4,276,623

### Lighthouse Central Florida

215 East New Hampshire St.  
Orlando, FL 32804  
P: 407-898-2483 • F: 407-855-6189  
e: info@lcf-fl.org  
www.LighthouseCentralFlorida.org