

Our Mission

To advance the independence and quality of life for individuals in Pinellas County who are blind or visually impaired.

The Need for Lighthouse

Programs provided by Lighthouse of Pinellas address a critical need:

- Today, there are nearly 35,000 individuals living in Pinellas County who are experiencing severe vision loss.
- At least one-half of our residents over the age of 65 are at high risk of losing vision from Macular Degeneration, Glaucoma, or Diabetes.
- In the state of Florida alone, more than 5,000 children are blind or visually impaired.

Join Us to Have a Significant Impact Today!

Contact us if you would like to:

- Make a Donation
- Volunteer
- Take a Tour
- Purchase the State of Vision plate to help increase awareness of sight impairment with proceeds benefiting the Lighthouse.



The Lighthouse of Pinellas Foundation

Philanthropy that creates an endowment for the future will touch lives for generations to come. The Lighthouse of Pinellas Foundation supports the important work we do in the form of cash gifts, estate gifts, a variety of life income gifts (charitable gift annuities, for example), and gifts of property. These gifts live in perpetuity to aid in the mission and ensure that the Lighthouse of Pinellas will be a beacon for future generations. Contact us today to discuss your charitable giving options.

The Lighthouse of Pinellas Foundation is a qualified charitable organization under 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code, Federal Tax ID #59-2857561 and Florida State Registration #CH1744. Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



Sponsored in part by the Department of Education, the Division of Blind Services and the State of Florida



We see things differently

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Eligibility

The Lighthouse of Pinellas provides training for blind and visually impaired individuals living in Pinellas County. Our professional staff are experts in the field of blindness and visual impairments, many of whom have Masters Degrees in Visual Disabilities and National Certifications in their specialty areas. The vision impairment must hinder the individual's ability to learn, perform daily activities, live independently, and/or acquire and maintain employment.

The following services are provided at no cost and made possible by partial funding through the Florida Division of Blind Services as well as individual, corporate, and foundation contributions.

Adult Services

Independent Living Skills

In this program, individuals learn adaptations for cooking, cleaning, money management, home organization, personal care and other daily tasks.

Orientation & Mobility Training

In this training, discover new techniques for traveling safely and independently, problem solving, and accessing public transportation.

Adaptive Computer Training

Our specialized training teaches keyboarding, Windows operating system, word processing, e-mail and Internet, using magnifying or screen-reading software.

Individual & Group Counseling

Individuals and family members discuss the emotional and physical impact of vision loss, coping skills and solutions.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Training is provided for adults seeking to obtain and regain employment. In addition to independent living and traveling techniques, workplace skills are taught including: using computers, smart phones and tablets with access technology and job readiness.

Youth Services

Early Intervention - Birth to 5 years

Focusing on developing mobility, sensory, motor, cognitive and social skills, our instructors provide hands-on training for children and their family members. This builds a solid foundation, increasing each child's success in school, at home and later in life.

Children's Program – Ages 6 to 13

Because children need to focus on academics during the school day, this program is specifically tailored to elementary and middle school age

children to help develop and reinforce adaptive skills and techniques. Our real-life instruction and experiences will ultimately enhance their success as they move through the Teen Transition Program and on to life after high school.

Teen Transition Program - Ages 14-18

This program empowers youth 14 and older, to become self-sufficient. They receive training in personal, financial and home management; prepare for careers and higher education; and enhance their skills with technology.

The services listed below are usually covered by Medicare and third party insurers.

Occupational Therapy Services

The Lighthouse of Pinellas offers functional low vision assessments and training as well as self-management of diabetes provided by an Occupational Therapist who is a Certified Low Vision Therapist and Certified Diabetes Educator.

- Visual skills training to maximize the use of remaining vision.
- Training in the use of adaptive equipment to meet your reading and writing goals.
- Recommendations for lighting and environmental adaptations to improve safety in the home.
- Diabetes self-management skills training to maximize independence with blood-glucose monitoring, medication management and meal planning.