



2022-2023



Little Light House



Annual Report



We reject ~~CANNOT~~ and embrace → **NOT YET**

This year, our students defied expectations, turning challenges into triumphs. With each milestone, we illuminate a path where possibilities are limitless, affirming that the potential of these extraordinary children knows no bounds.

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A letter from our Executive Director

In the 2022-2023 school year, Little Light House celebrated 50 years of service to the Oklahoma special needs community. Since our founding in a small white house in the heart of Tulsa, God has provided for us in miraculous ways and helped us grow into a world-recognized developmental center that has helped countless children and families navigate and thrive in the unique life of having a child with special needs.

Throughout this school year, we saw miracles happen, milestones be met, new relationships form, and God provide. We hosted events, reconnected with LLH alums and supporters, developed an international training website, and utilized cutting-edge technology for our students that our dedicated supporters graciously donated. Our staff developed innovative teaching strategies and therapy techniques that work cohesively with our unique transdisciplinary team, ensuring our students receive the best care—the care they deserve.

"We did this free of charge to our families because of your generosity- our community that we could not exist without."

As we move into 2024, we are committed to our core values. We have faith that God will provide for our students. Through innovation we give them the best, and we celebrate not only their accomplishments but who they are. We do all of this with a community that surrounds us because we have hope that God can do anything for and through our children. **Thank you for being a part of Little Light House. We would not be here without you.**



Molly Smith
Molly Smith
Executive Director
Little Light House



Our Mission

To glorify God by improving the quality of life for children with special needs, their families, and their communities.

Our Values

Faith Innovation Community
Celebration Hope

4.1M

dollar budget

250+

students served

418

children on the waitlist

144

churches trained

472

volunteers donated time

From our Senior Directors

The school year was so much fun for the Operations team. We came together as part of the Safety Committee and made several improvements that have positively impacted the safety and security of the students whom we serve.

Some of these improvements include armed security officers (staffed by off-duty TPD officers), secured entry points on all staff doors, and visitor badges worn by all non-staff members.

Our safety program is evolving, and we are constantly evaluating new opportunities to make our facility even safer for our students.

 **Michelle Talbot**
Senior Director of Operations

This year was full of growth for the Children's Services department! We continued to grow our family programs by offering monthly trainings for families and alumni events. Our Connected Learning program also continued to grow and serve many students who are too medically fragile to join our classrooms or who were out for an extended period due to surgeries or illnesses.

Our child/caregiver Early Intervention program grew to capacity, serving 126 families, and our Developmental Center looked at new ways to serve our students through small group teaching. This has allowed us to give students more individualized attention.

 **Brittany Gartner**
Senior Director of Children and Family Services



In our 51st year, we raised \$5.6 million, a testament to the community's generous contributions through events, mailings, and foundations. Milestones included increased community awareness from our "More Than a Diagnosis" campaign and new partnerships that raised over \$60,000.

Nine individuals joined Pathlighters, making Little Light House part of their legacy, while 1,273 first-time donors and over 60 individuals joined THECREW, our monthly giving community.

Your commitment propels our mission, creating a lasting impact of positive change for a better, more inclusive world.

 **Georgia Canady**
Senior Director of Development

In this school year, the National and Global Impact Team organized six Church Collective events, training 111 individuals from 43 local churches. The Little Light House Academy also added four courses, attracting 169 students from 14 countries, and issued 75 course certificates by July 31, 2023.

Mississippi and Kentucky affiliates grew, attending professional development at the Shining Light Conference, and the team worked to streamline the affiliate program for wider implementation.

Two interns from South Korea also joined us for 8 weeks, learning about the transdisciplinary team approach and preparing to open a new center for children with special needs in their country.

 **Linda Steed**
Senior Director of National and Global Impact

Student Growth

22-23 Developmental Center Statistics

Classroom Mobility

20 students worked hard to use their wheelchairs and walkers. Some even learned to walk independently for the first time.

Handwriting

18 students learned how to properly hold a pencil, trace shapes and letters, and write letters on their own.

Sensory Regulation

8 students improved their sensory regulation skills by learning to tolerate new sensations, understand various textures, identify different sounds, taste new flavors, and move their bodies in different ways.

Feeding

13 students tasted and explored new foods, using their hands to feed themselves, eating with a fork and spoon, and drinking from cups.

Social Play

18 students learned how to be friends! They learned to participate in games, play with others, and practice manners.

Classroom Routines

18 students participated in classroom activities by following classroom rules, listening to directions given by their teachers, and moving independently from one activity to the next!

Preschool Academics

21 students excelled academically by learning to count, identify letters and sounds, read sight words, and write their names.

AAC

(Augmentative and Alternative Communication)

21 students learned how to use technology, like the LAMP speech app on an iPad, picture cards, or sign language to interact with others.



Celebrating 50 Years of Changing Lives

Over the past five decades, Little Light House has been a testament to God's divine vision, continually blessing children with special needs worldwide. From humble beginnings, miraculous transformations have occurred, with God guiding every step of the journey.

Through the dedication of board members, professionals, donors, and volunteers, the outreach of Little Light House has expanded exponentially. Financial support has poured in, allowing for state-of-the-art services to be provided tuition-free. Divine connections have facilitated global outreach, with training programs reaching individuals from over 14 nations. Affiliates in Mississippi and Kentucky have flourished under God's orchestration. Most importantly, countless milestones and miracles have touched the lives of the children served.

As we reflect on these 50 years, we are filled with awe and gratitude for God's boundless love and His master plan of salvation.



Marcia Mitchell, Co-founder of Little Light House

Is Spatial Not Space

By KATIE RUFFIN
Are blind children like strange things from outer space? Sometimes we mistakenly think and act like they are, said Kristi Dains. She is Educational Coordinator for the Little Lighthouse, a guidance center for blind and partially sighted children.

"Their behaviorisms may seem odd and we don't know how to react," Miss Dains said. "But that is because they cannot gain spatial orientation through sight."

"On the inside, they are still normal children," she added.

SPONSORED BY community donations and the Tulsa school system, the Little Lighthouse is teaching blind and partially sighted children how to function in a sight-oriented world.

Five days a week volunteers work with parents to teach their children how to utilize their senses of hearing and touch.

"Blind child understanding arrangement us or our these the said."

"They distance wh are or th they sta added."

Local the Ir at 200 guidan dren sever Morr De



Light House for Little Ones

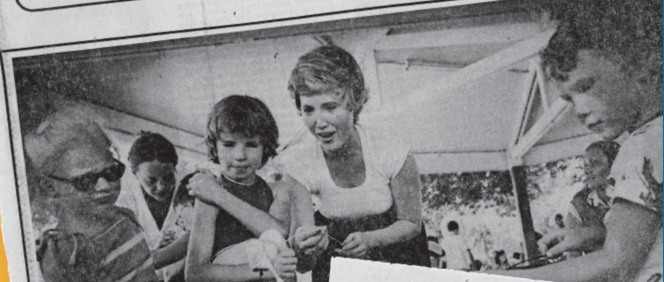
Light House striving to teach children the interest of Little Light House founding group, from left, Missy and Sharon, two-year-olds, Marcia Mitchell and Sheryl Poole. The new program is for blind youngsters.

Little Light House Glows for Children Blindness Not D

By PAT ATKINSON
World Medical Writer
The Little Light House is bringing sunshine to its blind and partially blind youngsters. Located at 2007 S. Ulta Ave., the order of pain is fresh in the remodeling in all two years.

The Tulsa Tribune city/state

TULSA, OKLAHOMA



A SPECIAL KIND OF COOKOUT — Children at Little Light House join director Marcia Mitchell in preparing a special meal. The children are Missy Mitchell, Marcia's daughter, her sighted friend Jenny, and other children.



We served 90+ diagnoses in the 22-23 school year.

Our Developmental Center proudly serves a diverse spectrum of diagnoses, from neurodevelopmental conditions to sensory processing disorders. Each child's journey is a story of strength and hope. Our dedicated team of professionals is committed to providing tailored support and fostering an inclusive community where every achievement, no matter how small, is celebrated.

Meet our students!





Meet Rylee

“Little Light House is more than a school. It's a community of people who genuinely want each other's children to succeed and overcome their obstacles. When you become part of Little Light House, you can rest assured that every person you encounter recognizes the value of each individual's life.”

Rylee Smith's journey is tied to the profound impact of Little Light House (LLH), a place that is a guiding light in her life.

Born prematurely with a rare genetic condition, Rylee faces numerous challenges, from NICU stays to feeding difficulties. LLH serves as her sanctuary, providing not only academic support but a nurturing environment that allows Rylee to thrive emotionally, socially, and physically.

The staff's unwavering care and tailored resources play a pivotal role in Rylee's growth, leading to the removal of her Mic-Key button, a small, button-shaped feeding tube device used for long-term enteral feeding. LLH's unique atmosphere celebrates every child, fostering a sense of belonging and contributing to Rylee's spirit.

LLH creates a community that extends beyond the classroom and academics. Lifelong relationships

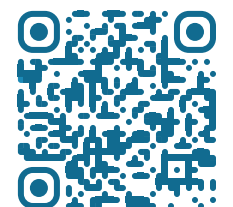
with other parents and staff members form, providing invaluable support and understanding while combating the isolation often felt by parents of children with special needs.

Rylee's journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of a supportive community.

LLH not only impacts her life but is also responsible for her remarkable development. In facing the unknown challenges, the school embodies the boundless possibilities that unfold when a child is surrounded by support and a community that recognizes their inherent value.

- Written by Rylee's Mom

Scan to watch story



Meet Ethan

"It is remarkable how Ethan has given us reinforcement of the Bible's definition of special - "surpassing what is common or usual, exceptional, distinct among others of a kind." Every day, in every way, that describes Ethan Howard Lewis."

We received Ethan's diagnosis when he was two months old. His primary diagnosis is Complete Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum. He is completely missing the center part of his brain that connects both the right and left hemispheres. Through genetic testing we learned that one of his genes spontaneously mutating in utero caused the disorder.

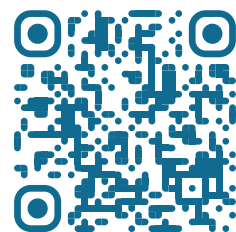
We were told by doctors multiple times that our son wouldn't walk, wouldn't talk, wouldn't show emotions, and would always be dependent on us. We put Ethan on the Little Light House waiting list when he was two months old. From the first time we walked into this school, we felt God's presence.

Our family will forever be grateful for the impact Little Light House has made in Ethan's life and ours. Every member of this fantastic organization has played a major role in his early intervention.

They are helping him with occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech, classroom skills, social skills, acts of daily living, and more. He has been able to achieve some of his goals and demonstrated an amazing amount of confidence. **We know at LLH Ethan is accepted, loved, challenged, cared for and treated with the most care.**

- Written by Ethan's Mom

Scan to watch story





HELLO!

you 	good 	feel 	
play 	like 	big 	more
eat 		need 	

L.A.M.P.
Communication
Device

Meet Kameron

“Without your generosity, a lot of things that Kameron is experiencing here, he wouldn’t experience at all. It just wouldn’t be possible for us. So thank you, we appreciate it more than you will ever know.”

Our son Kameron, born prematurely at just 23 weeks, spent a significant amount of time in the hospital before joining Little Light House.

Initially, we were concerned about how he would adjust to school life, but he has truly thrived in the supportive and diverse learning environment provided by Little Light House, gaining independence along the way. The school employs a comprehensive approach with occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy, all tailored to Kameron’s specific needs.

Despite his initial sensory sensitivities, Kameron has made remarkable progress, overcoming aversions and becoming more interactive. We’re deeply grateful for the community support that Little Light House has. It has significantly impacted Kameron’s experience and development, enabling him to access services and learn things that might have otherwise been challenging.

- Written by Kameron’s Mom



Little Light House Academy

Along with serving children in the Tulsa area, LLH reaches internationally. In February of 2023 a long dream of the founder of Little Light House became a reality with the opening of our free online resource website, the Little Light House Academy.

Little Light House Academy is a website of free online special education and therapy courses for professionals, parents, caregivers, and more. These courses are written and reviewed by professionals from the special education field with 100+ years of combined experience.

These specialized courses include comprehensive, evidence-based information that can be used both in and beyond the classroom or at home. Learners can enjoy these user-friendly and applicable courses at their own pace, regardless of outside schedules.

Since 1972, national and international parents and professionals have come to us searching for practical and effective early childhood education strategies and training. **We hope that making these educational resources available to the world will help bring more understanding and visibility to the special needs community worldwide.**

This resource is completely free thanks to the generosity of donors and people like you - people who are passionate about early childhood education and helping children with disabilities thrive.

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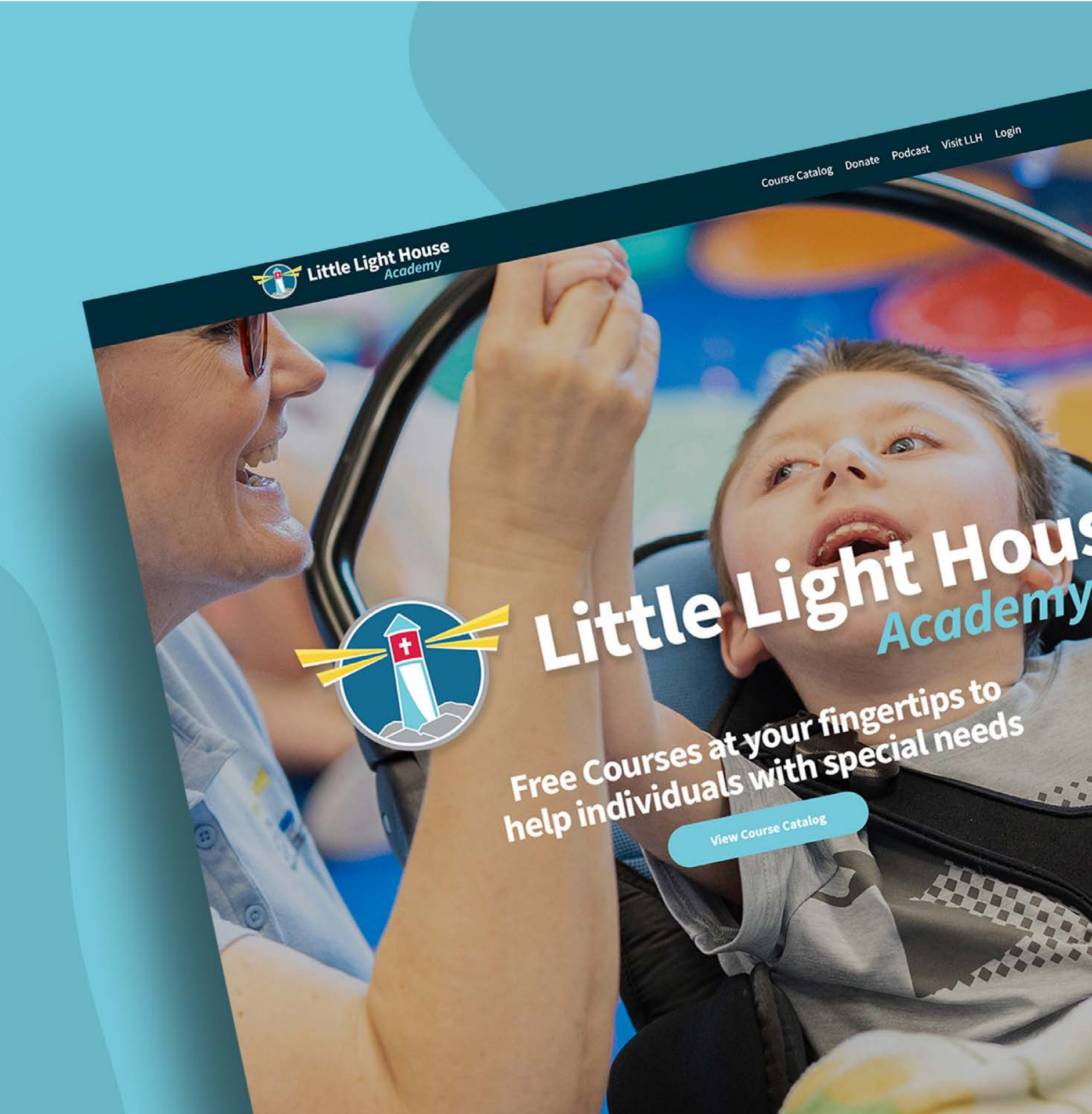
students enrolled

3623

lessons completed

170

course completions



Little Light House Academy

Course Catalog Donate Podcast Visit LLH Login



Little Light House Academy

Free Courses at your fingertips to help individuals with special needs

View Course Catalog

Financials

Statement of Activities

Revenue & Support

Contributions	\$ 2,076,654
Fundraising Events, Net	\$ 2,022,215
Donated Materials and Services	\$ 118,255
Other Income	\$ 164,127
Net Assets Released and Restricted	\$ 647,265
Total Revenue & Support	\$ 5,028,516

Expenses

Program	\$ 4,449,915
Management and General	\$ 300,771
Fundraising	\$ 227,309

Total Expenses \$ 4,977,995

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets \$ 50,521

Changes in Restricted Net Assets

Contributions	\$ 583,362
Net Assets Released from Restricted	(\$ 647,265)
Decrease in Temp. Restricted Net Assets	(\$ 63,903)

Other Changes

Investment Return, Net	\$ 83,205
Changes in Net Assets	\$ 69,823
Net Assets, Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ 19,464,926
Net Assets, Ending of Fiscal Year	\$ 19,617,954

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Cash and Certificates of Deposit	\$ 3,755,210
Pledges Receivable	\$ 0
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	\$ 31,190
Net Property, Plant, and Equipment	\$ 16,297,890

Total Assets \$ 20,084,290

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$ 549,541
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Total Liabilities \$ 549,541

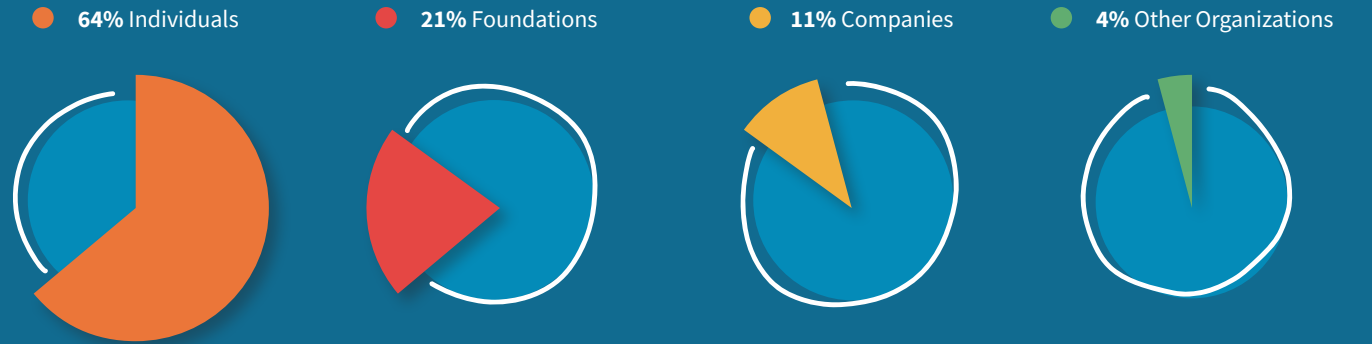
Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 18,309,759
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 794,130
Permanently Restricted	\$ 430,860

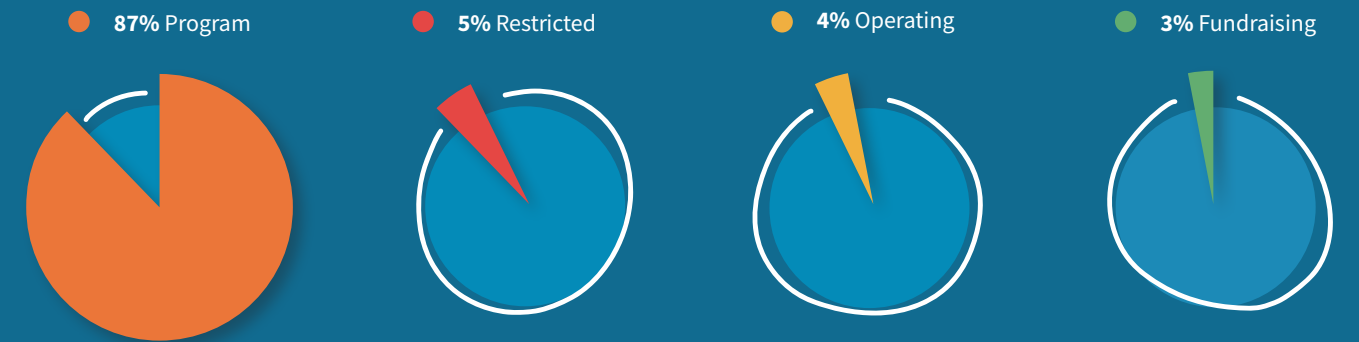
Total Net Assets \$ 19,534,749

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 20,084,290

Funding Sources



Expenses



We are committed to upholding and achieving the highest level of excellence in our work, including our commitment to financial integrity and transparency.



These were awarded to Little Light House for transparency, financial responsibility, and impactful performance.



Why I Support Little Light House

“Little Light House gave me and my family so many tools that really helped me succeed..”

Why I volunteer - Keith Boyd

My name is Keith Boyd, a 20-year-old with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy. I went to Little Light House in 2006 and graduated from the program in 2011. During my time there, I learned how to use an eye-gaze computer to write things like this article you're reading.

Little Light House gave me and my family so many tools that really helped me succeed, and we couldn't be more grateful to the staff. I decided to come back because a part of me was still at Little Light House. I never really left LLH after my time there.

I volunteer in Yellow Class as a role model for another young gentleman, Steven, who is very similar to me when I was a student. We are trying to get him an eye-gaze system as well. When I first got introduced to Steven in Purple Class, he was scared, but then he started warming up to me. With my knowledge of cerebral palsy, I knew I was the ideal person to help kick start his life.

“I want to help these kids be kids..”

Why I donate - Barbara Sicka

I discovered the incredible impact of Little Light House when I embarked on a quest to find a place to volunteer. I started volunteering in the Development Department with their events, and now, I serve in Orange Class every Monday. The Little Light House community's energy, love, and sheer determination ignited a fire within me that I couldn't ignore.

Now, I passionately contribute financially because I've witnessed firsthand the transformative effect it has on the lives of these extraordinary children. I want to help these kids be kids, and I love that my dollars stay local.



Little Light House

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Be Social With Us

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HELPING KIDS BE KIDS

