

ANNUAL REPORT

23-24





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A letter from our Executive Director

One of the best parts of my job is that I get to do the final interview before we bring a new staff member on. I ask questions and get to know them, but often they come back with questions of their own. One of the questions I get asked most often is this:

“What is your favorite thing about working at Little Light House?”



It’s a hard question to answer. The knee-jerk response is always “the kids!”, but when I put myself in this potential staff member’s shoes, I know that’s not the response they want. So, after getting asked this question several times I thought harder, and although there are hundreds of things I love about working at a place where miracles happen daily, my favorite thing is clear. I love that I work in a place where I feel God working alongside me every day.

It’s easy to see it’s true as I look back over the year. Reflecting back on what God has done here is always a thrill for me. Day to day I can get lost in what’s in front of me, but when I reflect, I can see God’s hands everywhere. I see the small decisions that teachers make to adjust classroom routines, then see how those changes made all the difference for a child’s learning. I see how God led us to invite that one special member to our committee who months later gave the perfect words of wisdom for a moment when we needed it most. I see the way our staff gives so freely to our students and their families, and I know how much love flows from God’s heart into their hands every single day.

Sometimes I don’t see it in the moment, and sometimes the hard decisions I have to make don’t show the fruit right away. But I know with certainty that when I am hugging a child in the morning, thanking a generous donor, encouraging a worn-out teacher, or making budgets and strategic plans, God is right beside me. Because of that, I couldn’t love working anywhere more.

The annual report is a reflection. A highlight reel of sorts, and I hope you can see God leading us in every page.

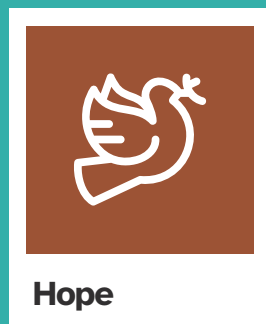
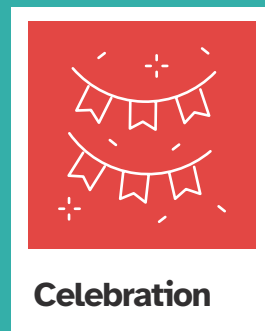
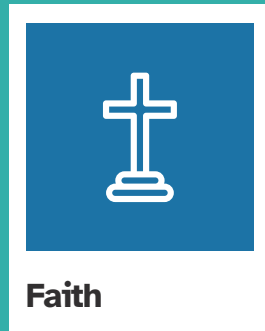


Molly Smith
Molly Smith
Executive Director
Little Light House

Our Mission

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

Our Values



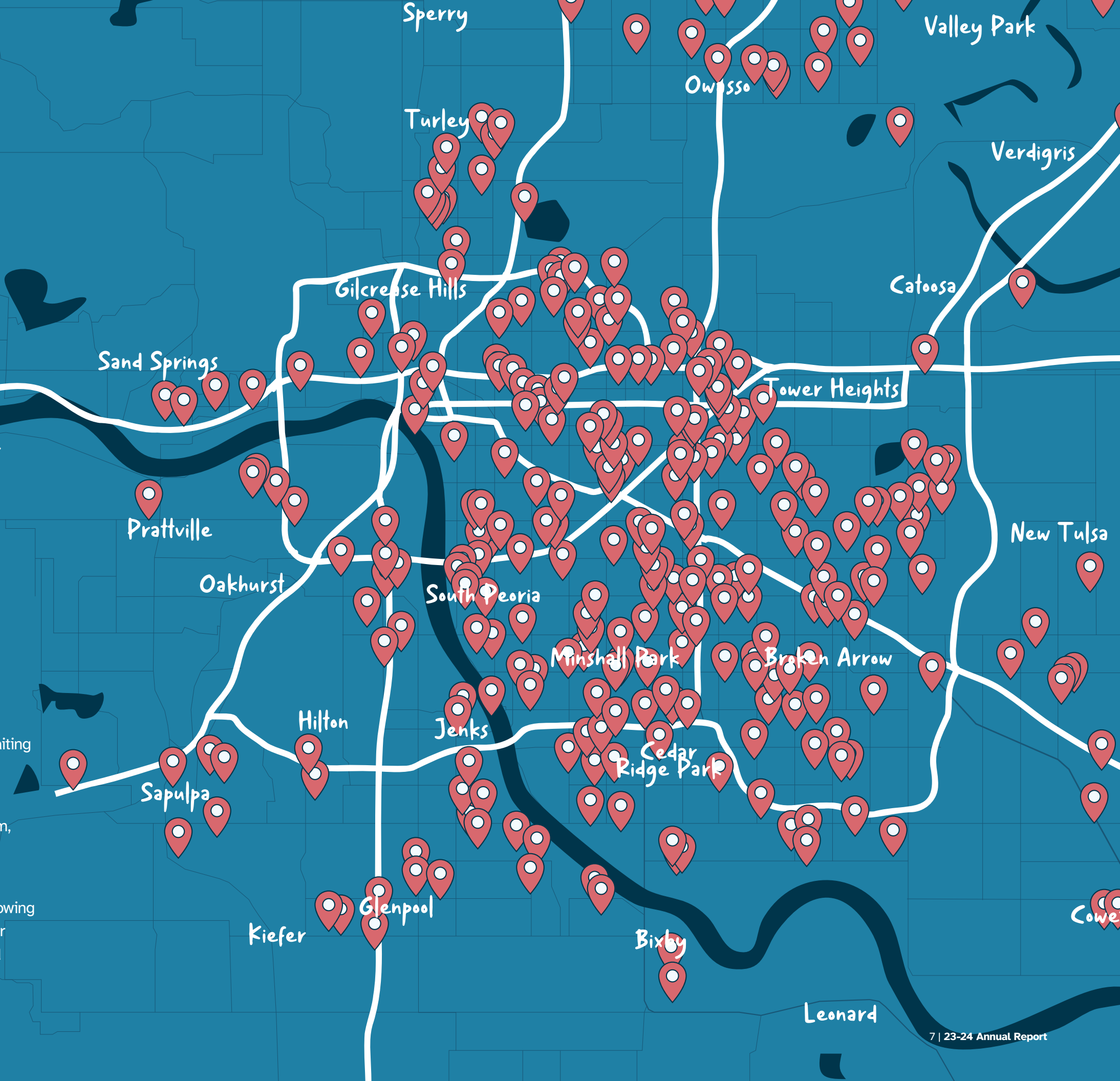
The Need is Great

Our Waitlist is Growing

As of May 2024, there are 487 children on the Little Light House waiting list in the greater Tulsa area, up from 87 in 2021.

The highest demand is in Broken Arrow, South Tulsa, and Owasso, with 28, 25, and 22 children waiting for services, respectively. Autism, developmental delay, and Down syndrome are the most common diagnoses.

Each pin represents a family in need of specialized support. The growing waiting list highlights the critical need for our services, and with your continued support, we can expand our reach and ensure every child receives the care they deserve.





All Diagnoses Served this year

Aniridia and Nystagmus Anoxia of the Brain Aspiration, Autism Spectrum Disorder Bilateral Optic Nerve Colobomas Cerebellar Hypoplasia Cerebral Palsy Congenital Heart Defects Congenital Myasthenic Syndrome Dandy-Walker Malformation Developmental Delay Down Syndrome Dysphagia Elevated Creatine Phosphokinase Epilepsy Feeding Difficulties Fine and Gross Motor Developmental Delays G-Tube Dependency GERD Without Esophagitis Global Developmental Delay Heart Floppy Baby Syndrome Hunter's Syndrome Hydrocephalus Juvenile Inflammatory Myopathy Kabuki Syndrome Kidney Hydronephrosis Laryngomalacia Legally Blind Microcephaly Microdeletion Syndromes Mild to Moderate Deafness Parasite-Related Nervous System Damage Partial Trisomy Pentasomy X Plagiocephaly Primary Infantile Congenital Glaucoma Reflux Resolved Hyperbilirubinemia Sensory Processing Disorder Seizures Setd1a-Related Condition Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2 TTN Gene Mutation Tuberos Sclerosis Complex 22Q11.2 Deletion Syndrome VACTERL Association Vascular Syndrome X-Linked Myotubular Myopathy

Planning Ahead

- Strategy
- Improvement
- Christ-Centered
- Org Health
- Teamwork
- Strengthen
- Growth

This year, we completed a 5-year strategic plan with input from our entire staff, ensuring collective vision and collaboration—not just decisions from a small group. These seven goals emerged, grounded in our Biblical Principles and Christ-centered model, guiding us to deepen roots, strengthen programs, and prepare for expansive growth worldwide.

Updated Curriculum

Modernize and make the curriculum accessible by Summer 2028, with a system for updates every three years.

Culture & Retention

Strengthen staff morale and retention to 85% by 2029, emphasizing Biblical Principles and Core Values.

Global Network

Establish an international relations plan and intern program to create a global early intervention network, fostering collaboration and innovation for special needs care.

Outreach Growth

Diversify outreach with improved website accessibility, social media, and events to increase online engagement by 150% within five years.

Financial Growth

Increase annual revenue by 7% through 2028, transitioning to 5% yearly growth thereafter.

Volunteer Program

Ensure one “Gold Level” and one “Committed” volunteer per classroom daily by the 2028 school year.

Individualized Services

Enhance personalized services through assessments, updated eligibility criteria, improved waitlist procedures, and a model staff structure by 2029.





Meet Ellie

Developmental Center

Full-Time Classes

Down Syndrome

Loves Hugs

Good Friend



Little Light House has had such a profound and positive impact on Ellie's life and created such an exciting journey for us.

At 20 weeks, Ellie was diagnosed with Down syndrome. Seven weeks early and weighing just 2 pounds, 13 ounces, she entered the world by emergency C-section. Her journey began in the NICU, where a nurse told us about Little Light House—a place that would soon change Ellie's and our lives forever.

We knew that we needed extensive support and care for her to thrive, so we placed her on the waitlist at LLH before she was discharged from the NICU. We were blessed to attend the FLC program in Ms. Blair's class when she was 5 months old. She quickly made her BFFs, Luna and Scottie!

We knew Little Light House would provide significant support and encouragement for not only her but our entire family. LLH has had a profound and positive impact on Ellie's life and created an exciting journey for us. We have learned so much from therapists and teachers and developed deep relationships with the other families we've met.

The community at Little Light House has created an environment where Ellie has thrived. She is so excited every morning when the staff and volunteers cheer as she walks into the building. She loves to smile big and

give her princess wave. We're pretty sure she thinks everyone shows up just for her in the morning, and she loves putting on a show for them. She is almost walking independently, and she is talking more and more every day.

One of the most important blessings we've received are the friends that have shared this journey with us. There is a deep sense of togetherness and support that we offer each other because of the journey our children are taking together. It is such a kind and inclusive environment. Ellie has become physically stronger every day, and most of all, her happiness and personality are celebrated at LLH. We truly are blessed to have such a nurturing place for her growth and development. We know that she is in the best hands when we drop her off and that everyone at LLH loves her big. We sincerely appreciate your support of Little Light House to make it what it is.

If you ever need a little sunshine, we encourage you to stop by LLH to visit Ellie, and I promise you will leave with a smile. She gives the best hugs and brings so much joy!

Written by Amanda, Ellie's Mom



She acts quiet but she will just blow you away with her little voice when you least expect it.
- Amairanie, Associate Teacher

Meet Zeb

Family Learning Center

Part-Time Classes

Peters Anomaly

Thriving

Breaking Barriers

“The love of Christ shines through the smiles you encounter each time you enter the doors.”

The first day back was a blast—laughter filled the room, and my son’s face lit up as he joined circle time, sitting proudly in my lap.

Just a year ago, things were different. When we began attending Family Learning Center (FLC) classes in August 2023, Zeb would lie on the carpet during circle time, unable to sit up on his own. Now, watching him sing and participate, I’m amazed at how far he’s come.

That day wasn’t just about milestones; it was about joy. From the sensory room to table time, each moment was filled with discovery, growth, and connection. Watching him thrive alongside his new and old friends reminded me of the incredible journey we’re on.

Alyx, the physical therapist, stopped by toward the end of class on that day. She was checking in with me on how Zeb had been doing. She stood Zeb up in front of her and asked, “Is he walking yet?” As the words, “no, not yet” were coming out of my mouth, Zeb took his first steps. I almost couldn’t believe what happened. Then he did it again. I immediately broke down in tears. When you have a child with delays, each of the firsts are even more special. It was so fitting and meaningful that he took his first steps at LLH.

I was amazed and encouraged by the wealth of knowledge that all the staff have.

I love the transdisciplinary approach to therapy. In outside therapies we tend to focus on one aspect of development at a time, and yet at LLH I have the opportunity to inquire of multiple therapists and other knowledgeable staff about Zeb’s overall development. This helps me understand and attend to my son’s needs more thoroughly.

LLH is a place where kids can be kids and everyone is so encouraging. The love of Christ shines through the smiles you encounter each time you enter the doors. Everyone wants your child to succeed. Over the past year we have seen many improvements in Zeb’s development, and I can’t wait to see what the rest of this year holds! Thank you to each of the donors for making this opportunity possible for my family.

Written by Jennifer, Zeb’s Mom

“

Zeb is an amazing 2-year-old who loves Jesus and singing Christian songs with his mom. Though shy in new situations, once he feels safe, his silly, joyful personality shines through.

- Heather, Zeb’s Teacher





Meet William

Alumni

Prune Belly Syndrome

Loves Movies

Joyful

Friend Magnet

Story Teller



With the foundation that Little Light House provided, we feel prepared to face future challenges head-on.

I wanted to take a moment to share an update on my now almost 11-year-old son, William. William attended Little Light House from age 2 to age 6. The impact that LLH had on our family is immeasurable. The therapies, education, and sense of community we experienced during those formative years equipped us with the tools to advocate for William as he continues to grow.

William frequently reminisces about his time at LLH and often expresses how much he misses that special place and the wonderful friends he made. It truly holds a special spot in his heart!

Now, William is thriving at Broken Arrow Public Schools! He is excelling in his schoolwork and often reminds me about his homework and upcoming tests. The support we've received from the school has been remarkable; they have consistently anticipated our needs, often before we even recognized them ourselves. Our connection with the administration, teachers, and paraprofessionals has fostered a strong sense of teamwork, and we feel truly fortunate to be part of this supportive environment.

Building confidence and a sense of belonging is something that was fostered within William the entire time he attended Little Light House.

This has served him well as he has moved throughout life. For example, my confident boy joined running club last year. That's right! This amazing boy who happens to be in a wheelchair didn't even question joining running club. I've learned to let him take the lead when it comes to things like that. He had a great experience and met new friends along the way.

As we look toward the future, we know there will be challenges, but with the foundation that Little Light House provided, we feel prepared to face them head-on. Thank you for everything you do and for the lasting impact you've had on our family. We are forever grateful!

- Written by Julie, Will's Mom



William brought joy to red and purple class with his love for dinosaurs and his bright smile. He eagerly engaged in every activity, leaving a lasting impact on everyone around him.

- Brooklyn, Occupational Therapist

Equipping Churches for Special Needs Ministry

Resources

Local Impact

Inclusion

Community

Training

Conference

Ministry

Many parents of children with special needs don't attend church because they feel the spaces aren't equipped for their children's needs or because churches fail to understand their unique challenges. When churches are inaccessible, which comes off as unwelcoming, families often feel unseen and unheard, leading them to step away from the community they long for.

This year, Little Light House hosted a conference that brought together 53 participants from 24 churches, all eager to better serve children with special needs and their families. The event provided practical training, resources, and opportunities to connect with others passionate about creating inclusive ministries.

City Church Bartlesville, one of the participating churches, took the training a step further with private sessions tailored specifically for their volunteers. Since then, the church has launched an inclusion ministry and hosted sensory-friendly events like an adapted Easter egg hunt. They've started parent support groups, offering families encouragement and community.

These stories are a testament to what's possible when people are equipped to serve. Through training and ongoing support, Little Light House is helping churches build inclusive spaces where children with special needs and their families feel seen, supported, and celebrated. Together, we're fostering communities of hope and acceptance.

"This training was perfect for someone wanting to start a special needs ministry."

"The conference was so helpful and makes me excited about expanding this ministry."

"I loved connecting with other special needs ministers and learning practical skills!"



Financials

Statement of Activities

Revenue & Support

Contributions	\$ 2,482,246
Fundraising Events, Net	\$ 1,353,548
Donated Materials and Services	\$ 59,685
Other Income	\$ 269,984
Net Assets Released and Restricted	\$ 445,292
Total Revenue & Support	\$ 4,610,755

Expenses

Program	\$ 4,536,952
Management and General	\$ 469,382
Fundraising	\$ 249,527
Total Expenses	\$ 5,255,861
Decrease in Net Assets, unrestricted	\$ (645,106)

Changes in Restricted Net Assets

Contributions	\$ 852,474
Net Assets Released from Restricted	\$ (445,292)
Increase in Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 407,182

Other Changes

Investment Return, Net	\$ 58,266
Changes in Net Assets	\$ (179,658)
Net Assets, Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$ 19,534,749
Prior Period Adjustment	\$ 9,075
Net Assets, Ending of Fiscal Year	\$ 19,364,166

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,072,796
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 1,703,185
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	\$ 25,443
Total Current Assets	\$ 2,801,424

Non-Current Assets

Property and Equipment, Net	\$ 15,880,406
Other Non-Current Assets	\$ 728,221
Total Non-Current Assets	\$ 16,608,627

Total Assets

\$ 19,410,051

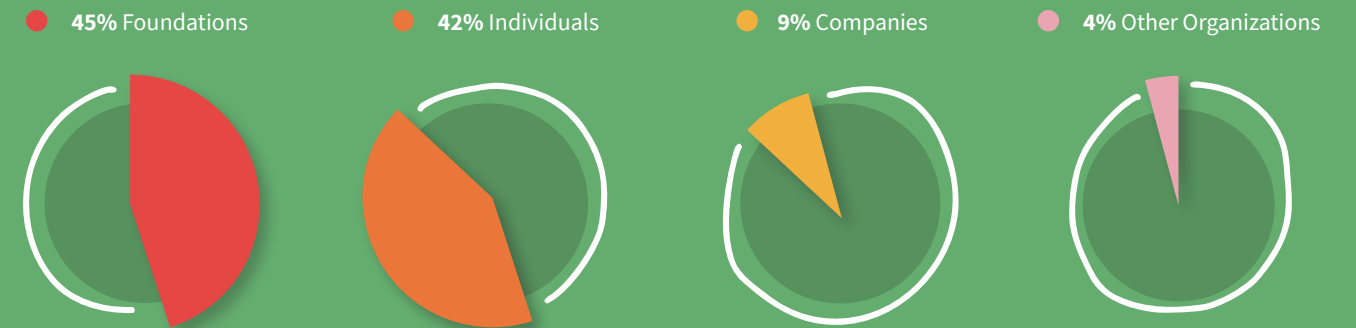
Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$ 45,885
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 45,885

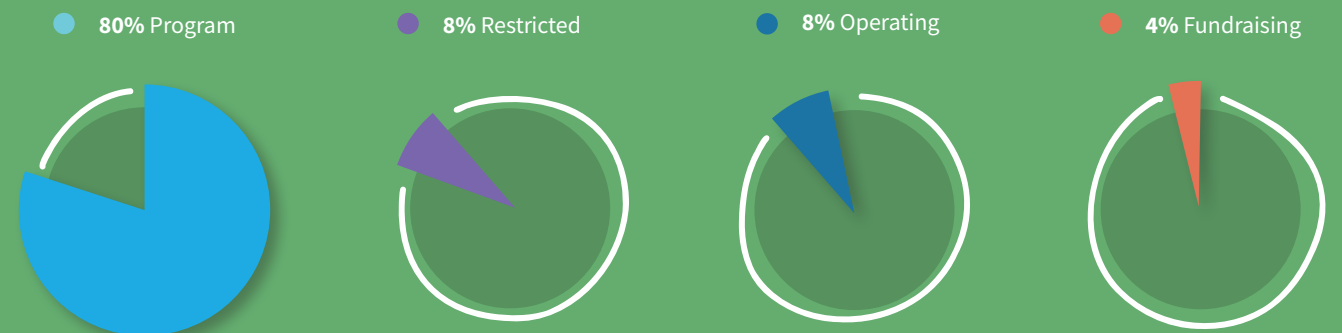
Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 17,731,994
Temporarily Restricted	\$ 1,201,312
Permanently Restricted	\$ 430,860
Total Net Assets	\$ 19,364,166
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 19,410,051

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

“Even my small contributions are making a big difference.”

Why I donate - Meg Medders

- Giving
- Remarkable
- Heart
- Dedicated
- Support

Little Light House is one of the most remarkable places on earth. These children deserve all that life has to offer, and the teachers at LLH recognize and act on that belief. The environment here is one where students are given the chance to learn, to play, and to thrive. In a world full of causes to support, I could not imagine a better one than LLH.

Each month, I look forward to making my donation, knowing that it is a step toward ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed. Jesus has grand plans for this place, and I am grateful to have the means and opportunity to contribute.

“Each child’s uniqueness is cherished and nurtured.”

Why I volunteer - Pat Keane

- Helping Others
- Local Impact
- Love
- Growth

In 2022, I retired after a 37-year career with the federal judiciary. Volunteering at Little Light House was at the top of my list of retirement plans as my daughter, Lauren, was the Orange Class teacher. Being a volunteer has reinforced in me the power of individual action and our ability to make a difference in our lives and the lives of

others. One of the pillars of the Christian faith is service - that Jesus came to serve, not to be served. There is no better example of service than what is happening at 36th and Yale, and I feel extremely privileged to play a small part in the mission of Little Light House.



Little Light House

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