

The past year has been transformational for the Lighthouse.

We expanded our mission, launched important new programs and changed our name! We remain committed to our historic focus - improving the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired - and we now offer service to people with any disability and to all older adults. We have expanded our services too. Our technology and occupational therapy services, especially, continue to grow.

Our expanded mission:

Helping people challenged by disability, vision loss or aging live independent, vital lives.

**1131 individuals,
family members
and professionals
served.***

**317 people
received 6,000+
hours of intensive
person-centered
services.***

* FY2020-2021: 7/2020-6/2021



“

Now I can make phone calls, open and close my door and turn on my music or TV by myself without relying on others to help me.

- Josh,
Lighthouse technology client, August 2021

”

Highlights and Outcomes of Our Work

We launched 8 new initiatives in 2020 and 2021!

- “Tech for Healthy Aging” - a statewide pilot to help seniors embrace technology
- “Legacy Computer Classes” for older workers in Duluth
- “Title III” Technology and Consultation services for Arrowhead seniors
- “Tech to Connect” to help Northland seniors stay safe during COVID-19
- “Broadband to Overcome Social Isolation” for rural seniors in the Arrowhead
- “Waiver services” - for assistive technology and independent living services statewide
- “MN STAR” - offering device loans and demonstrations statewide
- “CCC,” COVID Community Coordinator designated by the Minnesota Department of Health to help people with disabilities during COVID-19

From July 2020 to June of 2021, the Lighthouse served 1,100+ individuals, including 300+ who received intensive services; another 500 who received: our support group, peer mentoring, Lighthouse store, or Twin Ports News services. We served another 300+ professionals and family members by providing public education, information and support.

We are helping high-risk populations get COVID-19 vaccines or testing. Since April of 2021, we have helped 500+ older adults, people with disabilities and/or their caregivers get vaccines or testing.

We are successfully teaching older adults to use the computer. Older adults participating in recent Legacy computer classes showed an average gain from 46% to 82% in an assessment of basic computer skills.



“
I am extremely thankful... I couldn't read without your services. Reading is so fundamental and I couldn't do it, and now I can!

- Virginia, November 2021

”

Lighthouse device loans are helping many people, especially during the pandemic. 309 older adults and people with disabilities have received short-term device loans or demonstrations under the STAR program. Another 100+ have received longer term device loans under our “CCC” Tech to Connect program. In surveys, 100% of STAR clients said they were satisfied with our services, with 90% being “highly satisfied.” (July 2020-September 2021)

Lighthouse services are helping older adults age well in place! 95% of our clients surveyed said that Lighthouse services are helping them remain safe and independent in their own homes.

Blind and visually impaired teens statewide are learning lifelong skills in our Transition Program. 24 teens participated in our intensive, school-year Transition Program last year – an all-time high. Programming last year was entirely remote yet 100% of the teens surveyed said we met their goals “fully” (63%) or “somewhat” (37%). The majority also reported gaining capabilities across a wide range of skills they will need for success in work, school and life.

“The laptop [borrowed from the Lighthouse] has helped me to remain active with my various community activities while staying safe and less lonely.”

- Lighthouse client with complex health issues, June 2021

“You have been providing amazing, helpful, LIFESAVING assistance to my mother.”

- Letter to Lighthouse, October 2021



Thank you to our funders in 2020 and 2021

MN State Services for the Blind; MN Department of Health; MN STAR program (STAR = System of Technology to Achieve Results); MN Department of Human Services (Live Well at Home grant); Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging; Blandin Foundation; Northland Foundation; Duluth Lions Club; Minneapolis Foundation; North Shore Bank; City of Duluth; Northland Learning Center; Arlyn Sievert; Diane Miner; and many individual donors!

The New Lighthouse!

Our Three Complementary Divisions



Adjustment to Blindness (ATB) Division

Serving people of all ages who are blind or have vision loss. Offering intensive training at our center, in homes and in the schools. For teens, we offer summer camps and our school-year Transition Program.



Occupational Therapy (OT) Division

Serving older adults or people of any age with disabilities or chronic conditions. Offering independent living services and occupational therapy, including occupational therapy specific to low vision.



Assistive Technology (AT) Division

Serving older adults or people of any age with disabilities or chronic conditions. Offering device loans and demonstrations, assistive technology assessments and support, and training in both mainstream and assistive technologies.