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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT
Richard Alleyne, Lighthouse Central Florida
ralleyne@lighthousecfl.org | 917.600.7903 (mobile)

BANK OF AMERICA



LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL FLORIDA RECEIVES \$20K BANK OF AMERICA GRANT TO HELP WITH COVID-19 RELATED ACTIVITIES

ORLANDO, FL. (June 10, 2020) – Executives at Lighthouse Central Florida today announced the nonprofit is the recipient of a gift in the amount of \$20,000 from Bank of America Charitable Foundation (BoFACF). The grant award will support employment training and procurement activities at Lighthouse’s social enterprise nonprofit, Lighthouse Works.

Funding for these initiatives come at a time when COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, has disrupted the lives of millions—including unprecedented levels of unemployment in Florida and nationwide.

Lighthouse’s commercial contact center, 4Sight360, recently finalized a contract with the state’s Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to expand the number of agents fielding calls from Floridians filing unemployment insurance claims because of COVID-19.

A portion of the BoFACF grant award will go to onboarding and training new agents—both visually impaired and sighted.

“Bank of America’s commitment to job creation and workforce development for Central Floridians and residents across the state of Florida is on full display here,” said Kyle Johnson, president and CEO of Lighthouse Central Florida and Lighthouse Works. “At a time of such volatility and economic uncertainty, it’s incredibly reassuring to have the stability of a partner who shares your values and supports your mission.”



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The funding will also allow Lighthouse Works' Supply Chain division to maintain the cash flow necessary for the continued purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) products (masks, gloves and hand sanitizer) to support frontline medical customers like local hospitals and state agencies, including the Division of Emergency Management, Department of Health and Department of Corrections.

"With much of our community experiencing significant financial disruptions due to unemployment, we are committed to supporting Lighthouse Central Florida in their efforts to provide workforce training," said Steve Alch, Orlando Market President for Bank of America. "The resources Lighthouse Central Florida offers are even more vital today as they lead an integral part of the recovery process."

ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL FLORIDA

Since 1976, Lighthouse Central Florida has provided education, independent life skills and job training and placement to more than 100,000 people with sight impairment and their families. They are Central Florida's only private, professional nonprofit offering a comprehensive range of vision-specific rehabilitation services. Lighthouse ensures that individuals of all backgrounds have the tools they need to lead productive, independent lives while pursuing their dreams and goals without limitations.

ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE WORKS

Lighthouse Works is a social enterprise non-profit, which means its businesses exist to forward and fund our mission of living, learning and earning with vision loss. Through our wide range of businesses, we provide job training, employment and career opportunities to help advance people who are visually impaired. Lighthouse Works operates as a subsidiary of Lighthouse Central Florida—Central Florida's only private, non-profit agency offering a comprehensive range of services to people living with sight impairment in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. Lighthouse Works is affiliated with the National Industries for the Blind, the nation's largest employment resource for people who are blind.

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