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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



# SUBARU

## **SUBARU OF AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC. AWARDS \$10,000 TO LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL FLORIDA**

### **Grant to Focus on Workforce Readiness for Area Teens Living with Vision Loss**

**ORLANDO, FL.** (December 18, 2020) – Lighthouse Central Florida today announced that it has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Subaru of America Foundation, Inc. It is the first time the foundation has awarded a grant to the Central Florida nonprofit whose mission is to serve the region’s residents who live with vision loss.

The grant will go toward covering career exploration and workforce development costs for dozens of teenage Central Floridians who are visually impaired and enrolled in Lighthouse’s Transition for Teens program. The program combines vision rehabilitation training with immersive, real-world experiences and is meant to prepare teens for life after high school.

“Employment is a key factor in the social integration, economic self-sufficiency and stable housing of working-age people with disabilities,” said Kyle Johnson, president and CEO of Lighthouse Central Florida and Lighthouse Works. “This generous grant from the Subaru of America Foundation, Inc. demonstrates their commitment to supporting a diverse workforce by creating meaningful employment pathways for young people eager to live beyond vision loss.”

This year, in response to the pandemic, program staff offered virtual summer camps focused on exploring career options in digital media. Teens interviewed industry professionals, gained insights and learned to create digital content. Camp participants also created a YouTube channel for the content they created. The grant award from the automaker’s foundation will support similar initiatives.



“At Subaru, we are committed to helping our neighbors in any way we can, and are proud to support the admirable work of Lighthouse Central Florida,” said Thomas J. Doll, President and CEO, Subaru of America, Inc. “We look forward to seeing the fantastic accomplishments of the young people in the Transition for Teens program as they make their way into the workforce.”

### **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. Our clients acquire skills, devices and resources that facilitate safe, independent and confident adjustment to their vision impairment with direction from specially trained professionals. We 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 SUBARU OF AMERICA FOUNDATION, INC.**

The Subaru of America Foundation was established in 1984 with the goal of supporting the communities where Subaru of America employees live, work, and serve. Over \$12 million has been awarded through grants, scholarships, and matching employee gifts to various programs and organizations that are empowering the growth and development of children and young adults through career exploration, job readiness, and job skills training. The Subaru of America Foundation prides itself in investing in organizations that are making visible differences in the communities they serve. The Subaru of America Foundation is an integral part of how Subaru of America lives out its Love Promise and delivers on its promise to be “More Than a Car Company™”.

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