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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LIGHTHOUSE WORKS RECOGNIZED AS 'EMPLOYMENT CENTER OF THE YEAR'**

**ORLANDO, FL.** (September 29, 2020) – Executives at Lighthouse Works today announced that the social enterprise nonprofit has been recognized as the Employment Center of the Year by RESPECT of Florida - the nonprofit administrator of Florida's state-use program.

RESPECT of Florida partners with over 40 employment centers throughout the state to employ working-age Floridians who live with a disability. The award was formally announced at a virtual awards ceremony hosted by RESPECT of Florida

"We are thrilled to be recognized with the Employment Center of the Year award by such a valued partner like RESPECT of Florida—whose mission to empower through employment, working age Floridians who live with disabilities, aligns with ours," said Kyle Johnson, president and CEO of Lighthouse Central Florida and Lighthouse Works. "We are incredibly proud of all our team members—their dedication and commitment are what made this award possible."

Lighthouse Works' 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. The Supply Chain division has also responded during the pandemic to source, purchase and distribute 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.



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“The Association and all of our RESPECT team members are pleased to recognize the great work Lighthouse Works does to create job opportunities for individuals who are blind or vision impaired,” said Suzanne Sewell, president & CEO of the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities dba RESPECT of Florida. “Lighthouse Works truly understands that employment creates empowerment! We truly appreciate the RESPECT/Lighthouse Works partnership and look forward to many more successes for the individuals they serve.”

RESPECT of Florida helps employ about 1,200 Floridians with disabilities through the production of commodities and contractual services that are sold to government agencies.

## **ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE WORKS**

Lighthouse Works is a social enterprise nonprofit, 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, nonprofit 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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