



**AVALON PARK SUN**

***Lighthouse Central FL Receives \$10,000 Grant  
From Dr. Harry J. Heeb Foundation***

OCTOBER 2021



Charting a course for living, learning, & earning with vision loss

Grant to Support Organization’s Early Intervention Program Services for Infants and Children from Birth through Age 5.

Lighthouse Central Florida, a nonprofit that provides vision rehabilitation services to Central Floridians living with vision impairment or blindness, has received a \$10,000 grant from the Dr. Harry J. Heeb Foundation. The funds will support the organization’s Early Intervention Program services for up to 100 babies, toddlers and children, from birth through age five. This donation will also allow the nonprofit to expand its services to additional children in need of vision rehabilitation.

“Lighthouse’s critical vision rehabilitation services fulfill a basic need by offering infants and children the skills necessary for independent and healthy living, school readiness, orientation and mobility, and adaptations to accomplish everyday tasks,” said Kyle Johnson, president and CEO of Lighthouse Central Florida. “Children under age five who are born with or develop blindness or vision impairment risk missing not only critical developmental milestones, but the very basic skills that are vital to a child’s quality of life. Support from the Dr. Harry J. Heeb Foundation – especially during times of crisis and uncertainty – ensures that services and training continue for Central Florida’s community of blind and vision impaired infants, children and families.”

Lighthouse’s Early Intervention services are provided to the child and their family to encourage and empower them to participate in and benefit from the development and delivery of the service plan. Early Intervention mentors incorporate proven teaching techniques specially designed for children with visual impairments to help develop literacy, as well as cognitive, motor, social and communication skills.

Dr. Harry J. Heeb was a physician specializing in eye, ear, nose and throat medicine, and was the first examiner for the blind in the state of Wisconsin. His foundation provides grants to nonprofits and organizations focused on helping children and providing medical care for people with eye, ear, nose or throat illnesses, diseases or disabilities.

**About Lighthouse Central Florida**

Since 1976, Lighthouse Central Florida has empowered the lives of thousands of children and adults living with vision loss and blindness, to lead productive, independent lives, while pursuing their dreams and goals without limitations. The organization is the only nationally accredited nonprofit offering a comprehensive range of vision-specific rehabilitation services in Central Florida. With a blend of rehabilitation training, real-world application, and certified instructors, Lighthouse Central Florida ensures people of all ages can access life-changing vision rehabilitation services and live successful, independent lives beyond vision loss. For more information, visit [www.LighthouseCFL.org](http://www.LighthouseCFL.org).