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LIGHTHOUSE WORKS PRESENTED WITH EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYER AWARD BY THE AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

ORLANDO, Fla. (November 16, 2022) – <u>Lighthouse Works</u>, an organization that provides competitive job opportunities for individuals who are blind and visually impaired, recently received an Exceptional Employer Award from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), Blind Services and Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Exceptional Employer Awards are presented to companies that exhibit a strong commitment to employing and retaining people with unique abilities. Lighthouse Works was one of 12 businesses recognized in Florida, and the only one recognized in Central Florida.

"We are so very excited to honor these outstanding companies for their commitment to employing a diverse workforce," said Barbara Palmer, APD Director. "These businesses know that individuals with unique abilities are some of the most reliable employees within their organization. A good return on investment is what hiring a person with a disability is – it just makes good business sense."

The 17th annual celebration was held at the Florida Capitol as part of recognizing October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"Our team at Lighthouse Works is honored to receive recognition from an organization like the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) for the work we do every day," said Kyle Johnson, President and CEO at Lighthouse Works and Lighthouse Central Florida. "Providing life-changing job opportunities for persons living with vision loss and blindness is something we are passionate about, and our success is due to the commitment of our capable and determined employees."

The recognition comes amid a landmark year of providing life-changing career opportunities for Floridians who are visually impaired. Since January 1, 2022, Lighthouse Works has hired over 85 blind or visually impaired individuals across the state of Florida in remote, work-from-home positions to staff its Contact Center. The organization just passed a major milestone – hiring its 500th employee.

Lighthouse Works is still recruiting to fill 90 job openings. To browse the job descriptions, visit <u>https://www.lighthouseworks.org/careers</u>.

About Lighthouse Works

Lighthouse Works is a mission-driven social enterprise providing quality solutions to businesses and government agencies since 2011. Lighthouse Works' solutions allow its business partners to scale resources, manage costs, and meet deadlines while also making a positive community impact by supporting the full independence and self-sustainability of those living beyond the restrictions of vision loss. From supply chain management to contact center services and digital accessibility solutions, Lighthouse works has become a reliable and trusted partner in supplying consistent and world-class results. To learn more about Lighthouse Works and its business solutions, visit www.LighthouseWorks.org.

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 non-profit 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 <u>www.LighthouseCFL.org</u>.

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