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**LIGHTHOUSE CENTRAL FLORIDA WELCOMES CHERYL RAYBURN
AS VP OF PROGRAM SERVICES**

ORLANDO, Fla. (September 27, 2023) – [Lighthouse Central Florida](#), a nonprofit that provides vision rehabilitation services to Central Floridians living with blindness or vision impairment (BVI), recently welcomed Cheryl Rayburn as the organization’s new Vice President of Program Services.

In her new role, Rayburn will oversee the organization’s vision rehabilitation programs and ensure services are innovative, efficient, and effective in meeting the needs of individuals with visual impairments. Cheryl will advance the organization’s mission of empowering individuals with visual impairments to lead independent and fulfilling lives and lead the charge toward achieving the organization’s strategic goals for Vision Rehabilitation Services.

“Cheryl knows first-hand – both personally and professionally – how important the services we provide at Lighthouse Central Florida are for those living with blindness and visual impairments,” said Kyle Johnson, President and CEO of Lighthouse Central Florida. “She brings more than 20 years of extensive nonprofit experience to Lighthouse, and her passion to help those affected by visual loss will be invaluable as we work to connect more Central Floridians with life-changing services.”

Rayburn has retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic disorder that leads to the loss of cells in the retina, which led her to pause her 10-year career in the mortgage industry. However, she did not let her vision loss slow her down. In 2015, she enrolled with Alphapointe – a training and rehabilitation center for the BVI community based in Kansas City – where she received training and gained skills, such as braille reading, orientation and mobility, activities of daily living and assistive technology. She went on to serve on the organization’s board and ultimately worked for the company, last serving as the Manager of Donor Development and Community Relations.

“Having personally experienced the challenges of living with vision impairment, I understand the profound impact of the services Lighthouse Central Florida provides,” said Rayburn. “I am truly honored to help empower individuals in our community to overcome the obstacles of visual loss and to give them the tools needed to lead fulfilling lives.”

Rayburn earned her bachelor's degree in international business from Missouri State University. She also serves as a public policy advocate for National Industries for the Blind (NIB), an AbilityOne Agency, where she advocates for BVI employees. Additionally, Rayburn is a graduate of the American Foundation for the Blind's Blind Leaders Development program and serves as a mentor for young blind leaders from across the country.

Rayburn and her husband, Curtis Rayburn, have two grown children and six grandchildren. She enjoys cooking and spending time boating and swimming.

Lighthouse Central Florida provides education, independent life skills, and job readiness training and coaching to people living with vision impairment or blindness and their families. Lighthouse is the only nonprofit provider of life-changing vision rehabilitation services in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties. Through its social enterprise Lighthouse Works, the nonprofit provides job training, employment and career opportunities for the advancement of people who are visually impaired.

For more information about Lighthouse Central Florida, visit www.LighthouseCFL.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 www.LighthouseCFL.org.

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