

## **Board Orientation – Special Events**

### **Beacon of Light Humanitarian Awards Gala**

The Beacon of Light Humanitarian Awards Gala, or “the Beacon,” is an annual event held in the spring. A committee of dedicated and active volunteers, including the event’s Chairperson, commit a large amount of time and effort to ensure this fundraiser’s success. Local community philanthropists and activists are nominated and then voted on to receive the Beacon of Light Humanitarian Award. Recipients of the award are chosen for demonstrating leadership and involvement with youth; service and/or philanthropy; and commitment to improving the lives of youth and families. The evening is typically formal with a multi-course gourmet meal. The demographic of the attendees is traditionally men and women aged 40+. The Beacon, with approximately 450 attendees, is the highest grossing fundraising event held by Lighthouse, and the funds raised are unrestricted except for the “call-to-the-heart” portion, which is restricted to a specific program or project.

### **Fall Event and Home Tour**

The Annual Fall Event and Home Tour takes place in the late summer/early fall during a weekday afternoon. Lighthouse’s development staff work with a committee of dedicated and active volunteers, including the event’s Chairperson, to plan this fundraiser. Each year, a different host opens their home for a tour; therefore, the event location changes every year. Boutiques set up pop-up shops in the home and donate 20% of that day’s sales to Lighthouse. There is typically a large tent outdoors, under which local caterers and restaurants serve donated lunch-by-the-bite and there is a short program with a guest speaker. The demographic of the 200-250 attendees tends to be females ages 30+. The Fall Event funds are unrestricted.

### **Happy Holidays**

Happy Holidays is Lighthouse’s largest in-kind donation drive of the year. Spanning two weeks in December, this event collects donations from individual donors, corporate groups, and more to help Lighthouse youth and families during the holidays. Hygiene products, blankets, diapers and wipes, clothing, toys, and electronics are just some of the items collected. Lighthouse’s largest conference room is transformed into “Santa’s Workshop,” where one week is dedicated to the collection and distribution of *Sponsored* gifts, while the next week is focused on *Un-sponsored* gifts. *Sponsored* gifts are those that are matched to specific client or family wish lists, and during the week case managers pick up the items to be distributed. *Un-sponsored* gifts are general items for which case managers shop and then distribute to clients and families. In 2019, more than 2,300 children and families were given items collected from the community, and the total amount raised was \$239,875. This massive and heartwarming effort involves Lighthouse staff, including case managers, as well as over 100 volunteers.