



ANNUAL
REPORT



Light
House

For Grieving Children & Families

2025



Providing a Caring Space, Together

2025 was a significant year for Lighthouse, marked by strategic investment in our people, programs, and systems. These investments helped us support more than 400 participants in our peer support programs with care, compassion, and excellence.

These investments created a springboard for deeper outreach to diverse communities and helped move us toward the launch of our first-ever Lighthouse Summer Institute held in August 2025. This week-long training opportunity equipped practitioners and leaders with the knowledge and skills required to better support grieving children and families. For some, it also offered the encouragement and practical tools needed to begin creating new supports for grieving youth in their own communities.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our incredible volunteers. Because of you, Lighthouse continues to provide free, open-ended grief support for children, youth, young adults, and their families. We are proud to be the only organization in Ontario offering grief programming specifically for children as young as 3 to 6 years old.

In addition to program expansion, Lighthouse developed an important new partnership with Ontario Charitable Gaming through Delta Bingo & Gaming and the Town of Oakville, helping us build access to a more sustainable long-term revenue stream.

While we continue to diversify our funding, fundraising events accounted for nearly half of our annual revenue in 2025. Whether you ran or walked in Run4Lighthouse, danced the night away to The Spoons at Bloom with Hope, or found a treasure at our Bid & Buy, your support helped fuel our mission. Thanks to our generous sponsors, every dollar raised through these events directly supported our free grief support programs.

As we share the 2025 Lighthouse Annual Report, we do so with immense gratitude. Thank you for believing in our work and for helping families find hope, healing, and connection.

Together, we are ensuring that no child grieves alone.

Shawna Dennis | Board Chair
Jason Dockeray | Executive Director



OUR MISSION

To help children, youth and their families who are grieving a death, find a sense of belonging, connection and understanding from others experiencing a similar loss.



**AT
LIGHTHOUSE,
YOU ARE NOT
ALONE**

Land Acknowledgement

Lighthouse is situated on the Treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat. We honour the Haudenosaunee, Métis, Attawandaron, and Huron-Wendat peoples of Halton and Peel, who lived on these traditional territories and continue to have presence here. Lighthouse gratefully acknowledges these nations for their guardianship of this land.



Looking Back at 2025...

- Our dedicated facilitators generously contributed over 3,000 hours to support groups and other programs, helping create meaningful experiences and positive outcomes for participants.
- The Summer Institute Program, launched in August 2025, was developed to ensure children, youth, and their families had access to consistent support, enrichment opportunities, and community connection throughout the summer months.
- In partnership with Dreams Take Flight, we were able to support three Lighthouse youth participants with the experience of a lifetime in 2025: a trip to Walt Disney World Resort in Florida. We are confident that this partnership will create opportunities for many more Lighthouse participants to attend future trips.
- During Children's Grief Awareness Month in November, we partnered with Walden International School and Oakville Public Library to create and exhibit art projects that highlighted the experiences of grieving children and youth.
- Run 4 Lighthouse 2025 reached a historic milestone following its move to Spencer Smith Park, drawing a record 1,241 participants and achieving the highest attendance in the event's history.
- Partner events made a tremendous impact in support of Lighthouse this year. Highlights included JJ Dance Arts' Light Heavy Light performances, OMDREB selecting Lighthouse as its charity of choice, and The Beer Store's annual golf tournament. Together, these partnerships raised more than \$150,000 to help grieving children, youth, and families access the care and support they need.

Creating Communities of Caring



2026 I.D.E.A Progress (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility)

Over the past year, Lighthouse has continued to make meaningful progress in advancing Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) across the organization. This work has increasingly moved beyond awareness and into measurable action, helping strengthen both organizational culture and community impact.

Significant progress has been made in leadership and governance diversity, including increased representation of women on the Board and broader participation from individuals identifying as part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and persons with disabilities within leadership and committee spaces. Lighthouse has also strengthened its recruitment and employment equity practices by expanding the use of equity-focused recruitment platforms and implementing new processes to better measure diversity outcomes over time.

Education and training remained a major area of advancement. Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression training was delivered to staff, volunteers, and board members. Lighthouse has begun developing sustainable asynchronous learning modules to support ongoing IDEA education for new and existing team members. This reflects a growing organizational commitment to continuous learning and a culturally humble practice.

Lighthouse also continued to deepen community partnerships with organizations serving diverse and equity-deserving populations, while expanding efforts to ensure services, resources, and communications are more inclusive and accessible. Translation work on key resources, review of organizational materials through an IDEA lens, and increased attention to accessibility and culturally responsive grief support all represent important steps forward.

At the same time, several growth areas remain. Increasing diversity among volunteers and staff continues to be a priority, particularly to better reflect the demographics of the communities Lighthouse serves. Additional work is also needed in Indigenous engagement and Truth and Reconciliation efforts, accessibility planning, and expanding outreach into underrepresented communities. These areas will remain important priorities as Lighthouse continues building a more inclusive and equitable organization for grieving children, youth, and families.

To learn more about Lighthouse's Commitment to IDEA please review our [2026 IDEA Report](#).



2025 Numbers



5 Services Staff
1 Support Staff
1 Outreach Staff

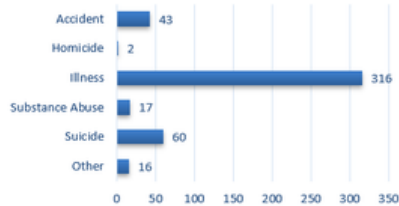


76 Volunteer
Facilitators

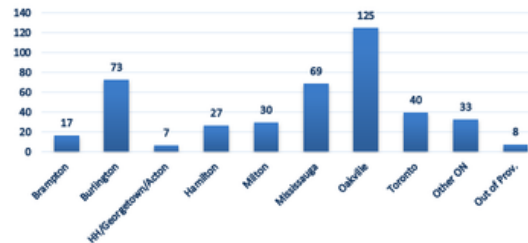


429
Participants

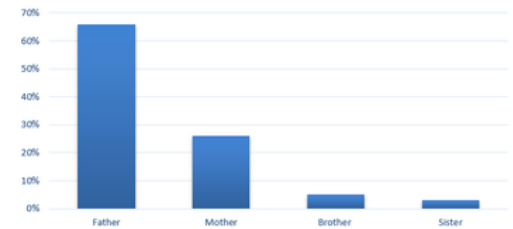
Causes of death



Participants by location



Relationship to the deceased



2025 Financials



\$967,283

TOTAL REVENUE



\$1,085,933

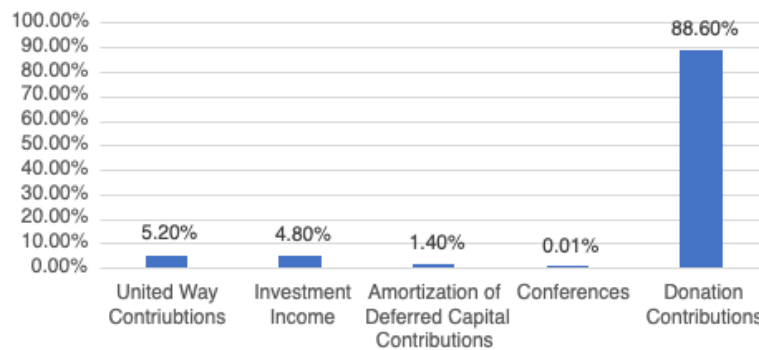
TOTAL EXPENSES



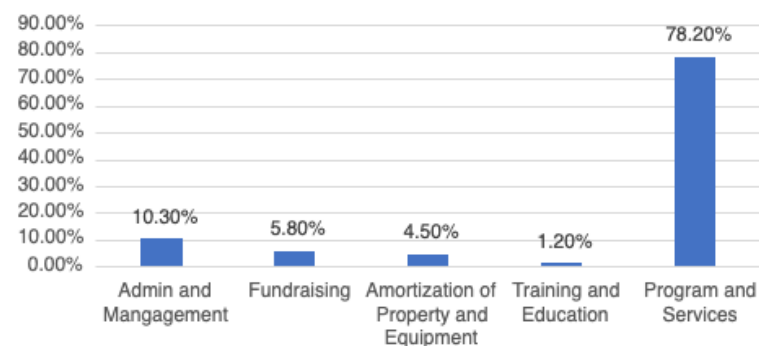
\$118,650

OPERATING DEFICIT

SOURCES OF REVENUE



HOW FUNDS WERE SPENT

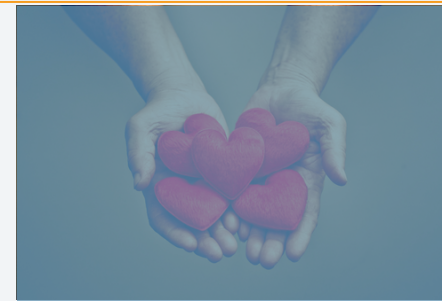


As part of our three-year Strategic Plan, a deficit budget was approved for 2025–2027.

This intentional investment strategy allows us to responsibly utilize a portion of our reserve funds to expand our programs, increase our impact, and meet the growing needs of the children, youth, and families we serve.



Thank you to all
our donors who
bring hope to our
Lighthouse
families



Major Gift Donors 2025

"Only by giving are you able to receive more than you already have." - Jim Rohn

VISIONARIES

\$25,000 - \$99,999

Halton Region
Oakville Community Foundation
RBC Foundation
The Beer Store
United Way Golden Horseshoe

CHAMPIONS

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Claire Collins
Corporation of the City of Burlington
Eve and Peter Willis
Expedia Cruises South Oakville
June and Ian Cockwell
Maarten and Marcia Jansen
Paul and Susan Finkbeiner
Realtors Care Foundation
Shorcan Brokers Limited
The Catherine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation
The Larry & Gerry Wilson Family Fund +

BUILDERS

\$5,000 - \$9,999

100 Women Who Care Oakville
Anthony Rizzo
Arbor Memorial Foundation
Canadian Tire Associate Store #143 (Kerr St)
Cheesewright Family Foundation
David Hope and Ellen Pong
Dawn O'Keefe
DERMETICS
Erica McBride
Haleon
Hap Stephen
Henderson Partners LLP
Jim and Rachel Williams
Raymond James Canada Foundation
Sandra Hurl-Smith
Shawn Cavanagh Charitable Trust
Technical Adhesives
The Masonic Foundation of Ontario
The Scott Griffin Foundation
YTM Capital Asset Management Ltd.
Zonta Club of Oakville

ADVOCATES

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Action Fencing
Adam and Monique Newman
Artage Portraits
Ascension Catholic Elementary School
Bronte Harbour Yacht Club
Chris Marshall
Comfort Bears
Dave Pecharich Insurance Agency Inc.
David Burbach
Dean Marks
Denise and Ken Grondin
Dervish Halil
E.J. James School Council
Encore Market Management
Howard Graphic Equipment
Jeff Hughes
Jennifer Norton and Wayne Cardwell
John and Chris Reidy
John Esplen
Julia Khanna
Kenaidan Contracting
Knar Jewellery
Lee Flores
Melissa Gaston
Nora's Gift Foundation
Patrick Ritchie
Petra Haneberry
Rajagopal Viswanathan
Richard D'Souza
Robert Sewel
Robin Das
St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School
Stephanie Hart
The Baker's Devil
The Community Foundation of Mississauga
Waterfront EyeCare
WestJet

PARTNERS

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Airoute Cargo Toronto
Andrew Clarke
Bette Gardin
Better Bodz
Canadian Council of Construction Unions
Cang Nguyen

PARTNERS CONTINUED

Caroline Murphy
 CATCH Hospitality
 Christine Dilella
 CIBC Wood Gundy
 Corten
 CS-1 TRANSPORTATION INC.
 Daniel Little
 David Begg
 Deepak Patel Photography
 Dempster Group
 Don and Deborah Jackson
 Dreamdoods
 Erica Bostwick
 Farm Boy Company Inc.
 Geoff Marshall
 Greg Plaunt
 Hannah Mcloughlin
 HD Supply Canada
 ICLS Dermatology
 Jackie Santin
 Jacknife Inc.
 James Murphy
 Joel Binder
 John Koch
 John Loynd
 Karen Smith
 Karlo Estates
 Ken Thiessen
 Kim Maiatico
 Laura Household
 Lee Wittick
 Linda Jackson
 Lisa Norton
 Madeline Potter
 Marija Moldenhauer
 Mark Rochon
 Martin Oswald
 Mary Ann Debes
 Maureen and Dale Lukassen
 Michael Balgord
 Mike Corbett
 Neil Mitchell
 Nicole Lorenz
 OMERS
 Ontario Teacher's Federation
 Orange Theory Fitness North Burlington
 Rachelle Brown
 Re/Max Escarpment Team Logue Realty Inc.
 Robin Bailey
 Rorras Household
 Rotary Club of Mississauga West
 Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar
 Sarah Sims Photography
 SGM Professional Corporation
 Soulby Engelbrecht
 Steve Meehan
 The Kyle Hallowell Memorial Golf Tournament
 The PepsiCo Foundation
 The Smashing Nines Golf Tournament
 Toronto Blue Jays
 Wilcox Door Service Inc.

FRIENDS**\$500 - \$999**

3-4-1 Pizza and Wings
 Alan and Priya Kumar
 Alison Street
 Andrew Paton
 Andy Aicklen
 Appleby College
 Arthur Wong
 Benefaction Foundation
 BOMBA
 Bozek Milligan Orthodontics
 Braden Staranchuck
 Bradley Fedosoff
 Brian Vanstone
 Bryan and Becky White
 Burlington Lions Club
 Butterfly Paediatric Therapy Inc
 Camp Kahuna
 Camp Maple Leaf
 Canadian Construction Workers' Union
 Carl De Vuono
 Cheryl Mount
 Chistopher Gapski
 Chris and Kelly Thomas
 Chris Walker
 Christie Henderson
 Clegg Glass (2011) Inc.
 Craig and Alison Hendry
 Daniel Snyder
 Danish Pastry House
 Deborah McQuinn
 Diana Chan
 DJEY2
 Don Murray
 Donna Jones
 Dorothy Ley Hospice
 Dorothy Warren
 Dr. Frank
 Eleanor Sewell
 Euroline
 Fergus Fox
 Florence Meat Supplies Ltd.
 Gail Moore
 Garrett Eggink
 Garth Webb Secondary School
 Gill Cooper
 Haider Abdul-Hussain
 Harb Plumbing
 Ice Green
 Imperial Rug Galleries
 J. Hayden Secondary School
 James McCarney
 Janice Simpson
 Jarod Emon
 Jason and Kristen Dockeray
 Joanna Humphreys
 Joanna Kis
 John and Patricia Griffin
 John Luke Stedman
 John Piper
 Jordan Bartlett

FRIENDS CONTINUED

Katherine Hart
 Kelsey Mason
 Kevin and Joanne Feagan (Ferguson)
 Lauren McLean
 Leanne Baptista
 Lighthouse Lemonade
 Linda Hooker
 Lindsay Mackintosh
 Lynda Coad
 Lynsey Foster
 Lysia Cole Photography
 Marco Armilio
 Marianne Strobele
 Marie Ross
 Mark Korsh
 Matthew Green
 Matthew Lukassen
 Michael Zajdman
 Miele Limited / Miele Limitee
 Minor Details Model & Talent
 Neil Joneja
 Nick and Liana Howard
 Nickel Brook Brewing Co.
 Orangetheory Fitness Oakville
 Peach Coffee Co.
 Professional Beauty Suites
 PYC Oakville
 Rebecca Meharchand
 Robert Gibson
 Robert Mews
 Robert Zamuner and Brodie Brown
 Robin Cross
 Ruth Renters
 Scott MacLennan
 Sean How Chung
 Shawna Vandenburg
 Simulinks
 St. Benedict
 St. Ignatius Loyola School
 Stefan Cvijetan
 Stephanie Keeley-Bunting
 Stephanie Ozog
 Stephen Pointon
 Steve Diamond
 Steve Hopkins Photography
 Tacy Kodama
 Ted and Maureen Hoxie
 Thankathurai
 The Alsip Family
 The Canadian Superman
 Tim Staffen
 Tom Brown
 Tony Mainolfi
 Tracey and Dan Carr Snyder
 Trevor Blakely
 Trisha Baverstock
 Tyler Simmons
 Vanessa Morgan
 Venessa Francis Design
 Victoria Telleria
 Wendy Moore
 Zachary Fennema

Thank You!

We are exceedingly grateful to everyone who made financial contributions to Lighthouse in 2025. Your support allows families in our communities to receive free grief support at a time in their lives when they are at their most vulnerable. Financial support includes all individual donations, private family foundations, donations via funds held within community foundations, corporate donations, third-party fundraisers, service clubs and event sponsors.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the businesses that generously sponsored our events or contributed in-kind gifts and services to support our fundraising initiatives. We are equally grateful to the dedicated volunteers who share their time, energy, and talents throughout the year. Your generosity and commitment make our work possible, and we are deeply thankful for your support. Thank you!



"Lighthouse provides us with a safe environment to share our deepest feelings, with supportive staff and volunteers that are available and smiling. Most importantly, Lighthouse gives us hope and faith to keep moving forward."



@LighthouseGrief