



Interim Grant Report Narrative: Wycliffe Charities Grant for Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches Youth Services Program

Project Overview:

Because of the generous support from Wycliffe Charities, this summer our Lighthouse youth explored, created, and learned in ways that opened doors to independence and joy. Your investment made it possible for our programs to provide meaningful experiences that nurtured personal growth, social development, and lifelong memories for children and teens with visual impairments.

From an unforgettable day at the Florida Aquarium to a 360° virtual tour at the University of South Florida—where teens explored cutting-edge accessibility technology—this summer was filled with opportunities that ignited curiosity and built confidence. Each activity reflected our core mission: to empower youth with visual impairments through inclusive, hands-on experiences that enhance life skills and independence.

Program Activities and Accomplishments

1. Educational and Enrichment Experiences

Children participated in a wide range of hands-on activities designed to engage their creativity, senses, and critical thinking. They crafted their own pillows, learned culinary skills with Chef Greg, created art at the Norton Museum, and explored sustainable farming practices at Sutton Dairy. These activities allowed youth to express themselves while learning practical and transferable life skills.

2. Physical and Social Development

Fun and movement went hand-in-hand as children bounced with joy at Sky Zone, unleashed their creativity at the Poppet Project, and dressed up for a special prom night celebrating friendship and community. Each experience was designed not only for enjoyment but also to support social interaction, build confidence, and foster inclusion.

3. Exposure to Technology and Accessibility

Teens toured the University of South Florida virtually, where they were introduced to groundbreaking accessibility technology. This exposure inspired our youth to imagine a future where technology continues to open new pathways to independence and achievement.

4. Sleepaway Camp

Youth attended sleepaway camp, where they built lasting friendships and learned essential daily living skills in a supportive environment. Camp offered a transformative setting where participants were encouraged to problem-solve, advocate for themselves, and navigate new experiences independently.



5. Community Health and Vision Screening

Beyond enrichment activities, a vision screening in Boynton Beach provided critical early detection for dozens of children. This proactive outreach ensures that more children receive timely vision care, promoting better educational and developmental outcomes.

Outcomes and Impact

Social and Emotional Growth: Through activities like prom and camp, participants strengthened friendships, developed social skills, and increased their self-confidence.

Skill Building and Creativity: Cooking, art, and crafting projects engaged youth in hands-on learning, promoting problem-solving, fine motor development, and self-expression.

STEM and Accessibility Awareness: The USF virtual tour provided valuable insight into the future of accessibility technology, sparking new ideas and interests among our teens.

Health and Wellness: Early vision screenings identified potential concerns in children who may not otherwise have received eye care, ensuring brighter, healthier futures. Among the 282 eye exams completed, 68 individuals were identified with vision challenges—including astigmatism, myopia, anisometropia, or amblyopia—requiring further support or care. Additional eye exams are scheduled, and we anticipate identifying more individuals who may benefit from follow-up services.

Conclusion

This summer was about more than just activities—it was about independence, inclusion, and inspiration. Thanks to Wycliffe Charities' continued support, our youth are not only imagining what's possible—they're living it. From the joy of exploration to the pride of personal achievement, each moment this summer was shaped by your commitment to their growth and success.

Thank you, Wycliffe Charities, for helping build a world where visually impaired youth can thrive. A detailed financial report accompanies this narrative, outlining expenses used for program activities, transportation, supplies, camp costs, and community outreach. Please note that the remaining funds will be used for upcoming fall activities.

We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership.