

THE LIGHTHOUSE

A Beacon of Light

OUR MISSION

To provide educational, recreational, cultural, social and economic improvement programs to families to improve the quality of their lives.

OUR VISION

We are committed to ensuring that all families have access to safe spaces regardless of where they are born to escape the challenges of poverty, poor schools, drugs and violence and thrive academically, physically and socially.

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1893, we know that lasting personal and social change comes about when everyone works together. That's why strengthening community is our cause. Every day, we work side by side with our neighbors to make sure that people of every age, income level and background have the opportunity to learn, develop, grow and thrive to be positive contributing members to the community.



WHO WE SERVE

For over a century, The Lighthouse has been a vital support system for the city of Philadelphia, serving neighborhoods across Kensington, Fairhill, North Philadelphia, and beyond, addressing a broad range of community needs. We work to enhance the well-being of these communities by fostering self-sufficiency among residents and nurturing the youth to become active contributors to society.



Dominic's Journey: From Student to Mentor and Inspiration

Dominic, a student from our entrepreneurship program, exemplifies what we want to see for our children and youth. He was mentored in his leadership abilities, graduated from high school and is in his second year of college. This past year, in 2024, he came back to mentor other students and to show them what is possible!



OUR PROGRAMMING: RECREATION OVER VIOLENCE

Recreation Over Violence (ROV) was created to support children and families through anti-violence initiatives. Our innovative program uses recreation as a powerful tool to prevent and address violence and substance abuse among at-risk youth. Inspired by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's findings in April 2021, we leverage sports as a community engagement strategy to combat crime, violence, and potential drug use. Through the ROV program, we go beyond recreation by integrating essential life skills training, including building self-esteem, resisting peer pressure, and mastering effective communication. This holistic approach ensures we align with global best practices to empower youth and create safer communities.

Services Provided:



Case Management: ROV Specialists maintain regular contact with families of participating children and youth to ensure consistent attendance and remove barriers to participation.



Outreach: ROV Specialists maintain a database of prior participants for outreach and ongoing engagement.



Family Support: Specialists refer families to external services and supports as needed.



Barrier Removal: Proactively addressing challenges that might hinder youth and families from fully participating in programs.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

750 children, youth and their families received education and recreational programming in 2024.


5000+ community members served through community engagement events.


127+ years of providing positive opportunities for children, whether in classrooms, after-school programs, or on sports fields.

GET INVOLVED


At Lighthouse, we address systemic barriers like poverty, violence, and substance abuse by creating safe spaces and opportunities for children and youth to thrive. Our Recreation over Violence model combines mentorship and community engagement to empower young people as future leaders while providing resources to break cycles of hardship. However, sustaining and expanding our programs requires support for staffing, facility maintenance, and renovations to meet the growing needs of our community. Your partnership can help us continue providing a safe, nurturing environment where youth can overcome obstacles and inspire lasting change for themselves and their community.




 www.lighthouse1893.com

 215-425-7800

 141 West Somerset St.
Philadelphia, PA 19133

 [lighthouse_sports_ent](https://www.instagram.com/lighthouse_sports_ent)

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