

LOOKING BACK WITH GRATITUDE

As Lighthouse Ministries celebrates 30 years of serving Florence County, I cannot help but reflect on the incredible legacy this organization has built. When local pastors first came together with a shared vision to better serve individuals and families in need, I am sure they never imagined the impact Lighthouse Ministries would have on our community. Because of their compassion and faith, countless lives have been changed over the past three decades.

Those pastors laid the foundation for what Lighthouse Ministries still stands for today: compassion, hope, community, and social responsibility. Their belief that everyone deserves the opportunity for a better life continues to guide us every day.

For me personally, Lighthouse Ministries has become much more than a workplace. After 21 years here, it truly feels like family. I never imagined that one day I would serve as executive director, but I am grateful for the people who believed in me and encouraged me along the way. One of the most defining moments in our history was finding a new home for the ministry. At the time, the uncertainty felt overwhelming, but today the Patterson Building has become a tremendous blessing for both our organization and the families we serve.

Lighthouse Ministries would not exist without the support of so many people throughout the years. From staff and volunteers to churches, donors, board members, and community partners, this ministry has always been a reflection of neighbors helping neighbors. As I look toward the future, I am filled with gratitude for all that has been accomplished and hopeful for all that is still ahead. My hope is that Lighthouse Ministries will continue serving families throughout Florence County for many years to come. I truly believe the best is still yet to come.

- *Cecilia R. Meggs*
Executive Director



2025 Impact Snapshot

3,300+

Lives Impacted

1,318

*Households Stable
& Secure*

\$232,150

*Community
Reinvestment*



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Bill Valone

For the past 13 years, Bill has faithfully served Lighthouse Ministries through data entry and helping with maintenance projects around the office. After attending a Lighthouse luncheon years ago, he quickly recognized a need and immediately stepped in to help.

He shared that what has kept him volunteering all these years is the opportunity to connect with fellow volunteers and staff while being part of something good. Whether assisting behind the scenes or lending a helping hand around the office, his servant's heart has made a lasting impact on Lighthouse Ministries.

When asked what Lighthouse Ministries means to him, he described it as "caring people trying to make life easier for those in need." His message to anyone considering volunteering is simple: "Come on down. You won't regret it."

We are grateful for his years of faithful service and are honored to recognize him as our Volunteer of the Year.



Volunteer Opportunities

Office & Administrative

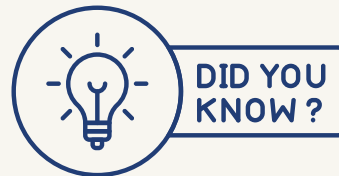
- Data entry
- Phone interviews
- Greeting participants

Programs & Outreach

- Working Mothers Program
- Strengthening Families
- Ramp Program
- First Friday Services Connect

Community Support

- Donation drives
- Special events



The time and talents of **38** active volunteers resulted in **4,895** hours of service this year, representing an estimated value of **\$156,640** to our mission and community.

Join Our Volunteer Team

Volunteers are the heart of Lighthouse Ministries.

Whether serving weekly or helping at special events, your time can provide hope and support to neighbors facing difficult circumstances.

Ready to Get Involved?

Call us at (843) 629-0830
or visit www.lighthouseflorence.org

ROOTED IN SERVICE

From our opening day to the mission that continues today.

Foundations of Community

In the early 1990s, a group of Florence County pastors recognized a growing need within the community. United by a shared vision of serving neighbors facing hardship, they combined their churches' time, talents, and resources to establish Lighthouse Ministries. When the organization officially opened its doors in 1996, its beginnings were humble. Operating from a small office on South Dargan Street, volunteers conducted interviews in a hallway, often completing paperwork in their laps and sharing limited resources. Yet even in those early days, the mission was clear: to provide hope, compassion, and practical assistance to those in need.

As the ministry grew, so did its ability to serve. Through the dedication of volunteers, support from local churches, and the generosity of the community, Lighthouse Ministries expanded into larger spaces and broadened its reach. Looking back, longtime volunteer Sherrelle Revell expressed amazement at the progression of Lighthouse Ministries and how far the organization has come.



Building for the Future

In 2017, Lighthouse Ministries entered a new chapter with its move to the Patterson Building on West Evans Street. More than a new location, the facility represented years of growth and positioned the ministry to meet the evolving needs of Florence County for generations to come.

Each move throughout the ministry's history created opportunities to serve more neighbors and strengthen community impact. The Patterson Building provided the space needed to enhance existing programs and support the continued growth of initiatives such as the Working Mothers Education & Support Program, Strengthening Families Program, Positive Parenting Program, and Ramp Program.

What began as a small, volunteer-driven ministry has grown into a trusted community resource serving thousands of individuals each year. While much has changed over the past 30 years, Lighthouse Ministries remains committed to the same mission that inspired its founding: offering hope, compassion, and a path forward for neighbors in need.



LIGHTHOUSE
MINISTRIES

UPCOMING EVENTS



Thursday, September 10th, 2026
Florence Country Club

Don't miss upcoming ticket sale announcements!

Program Testimonial

At a recent Strengthening Families Program graduation, a 15-year-old shared heartfelt testimony about the impact the program had on his life. Through tears, he explained that before participating in the program, he often struggled to talk about difficult situations he faced, including bullying.

"Before, I didn't really talk about stuff like that," he shared. "The program helped me feel like I could go to my family if someone was bullying me and actually talk about it."

His words were a powerful reminder that the Strengthening Families Program does more than teach communication skills. It helps families build trust, strengthen relationships, and create the support system every child deserves.

30 Years Made Possible by YOU!

Thank you to our donors, volunteers, partners, and supporters who have made the last 30 years possible. Your compassion and generosity continue to bring hope to our neighbors and strengthen our community every day.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES!

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Email: _____

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ONLINE! →**



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☐ **YES!** I signed up online to join the **Good Neighbors Club** by giving a monthly gift of \$_____ (minimum \$25)

Please make checks payable to Lighthouse Ministries

Mail: PO Box 6801 Florence, SC 29502

Lighthouse Ministries gratefully accepts a variety of giving options beyond traditional donations. You can support our mission through IRA charitable rollovers, donor advised funds, gifts of stock, will bequests, and charitable gift annuities. These meaningful contributions help ensure long-term support for our neighbors in need.

To learn more about these giving options, contact us at (843) 629-0830.

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Thirty Years of Serving Our Neighbors with Compassion and Hope!