

Lori's Story

When Lori's daughter was diagnosed with Leukemia, her husband couldn't handle it and left her and her two children to fight this disease on their own. Introduced to Lighthouse by another Retreat Family mom, she arrived at her first Lighthouse retreat without her estranged husband; exhausted, broken and full of anxiety about what the week would bring.

She brought her mother along so she wouldn't be alone in the Common Ground environment. There, she made connections she never expected to make, and eventually her mother - her daughter's self-described "security blanket" - no longer felt the need to go with her. God showed up in so many ways in Lori's life throughout the week.

By Friday at Beach Picnic, she was a completely different person than when she arrived just four days earlier. Her kids were running around and playing and she was renewed with the rest, hope, and joy she experienced on retreat. She came in as a shell of herself and left confident and full of life.

Her text to one of our staffers after she arrived back home from retreat says it all:

“OUR RETREAT HAS BEEN ON MY MIND A LOT THIS WEEK. YESTERDAY WOULD HAVE BEEN OUR 19TH ANNIVERSARY AS WELL AS MY SON'S BIRTHDAY. I HAD SO MUCH PEACE YESTERDAY, AND I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT FULLY SURRENDERING TO GOD'S PLAN MEANS. I KNOW I DESERVE SO MUCH BETTER AND THAT I AM SIMPLY IN THE IN-BETWEEN RIGHT NOW. THANK YOU AGAIN! SO MUCH GRATITUDE FOR THE REST, JOY, RESTORATION AND HOPE I EXPERIENCED ON RETREAT!”



YOUR FAITHFUL INVESTMENT WILL MAKE EVEN MORE IMPACT POSSIBLE IN 2025 AND BEYOND.

This year in the United States, more than 15,000 families will hear the dreadful news that their child has been diagnosed with cancer. This means that every day, about 50 families receive a devastating diagnosis. As they navigate treatment, they will face a thousand battles beyond their child's health.

These families endure constant fear and anxiety, escalating medical bills, strained marriages, siblings who feel neglected and scared, and a growing sense of isolation from extended family members and friends who, despite their best efforts, cannot fully grasp the weight of what they are experiencing. Because of these realities, the family unit carries an unimaginable burden and is exposed to profound risk.

We simply can't accept that. Lighthouse Family Retreat was founded in 1999 to make a difference – to shine the light of Jesus into dark places. **For 25 years, our mission has been to strengthen families living through childhood cancer.**

We host restorative weekend and week-long retreats and develop valuable resources so families and their support systems can find hope in God and help along their journey.

In 2024, **we are blessed to serve over 300 families** on our seaside and mountain retreats. However, over 100 families will still be on our waitlist. Growth is not just a goal for Lighthouse – it's an absolute necessity. Currently active in nine geographic markets, our vision is to expand to new markets over the next three years to reach more families in need.

In 2025, we will add **three new retreats**, with plans for continued growth each year to provide more community and respite for families living through childhood cancer.

Additionally, our Community of Care, Hospital Care, and online resources continue to expand, serving hundreds of families across the nation and beyond. These Lighthouse programs invite volunteers to serve families year-round through prayer, meals, respite, and much-needed support.



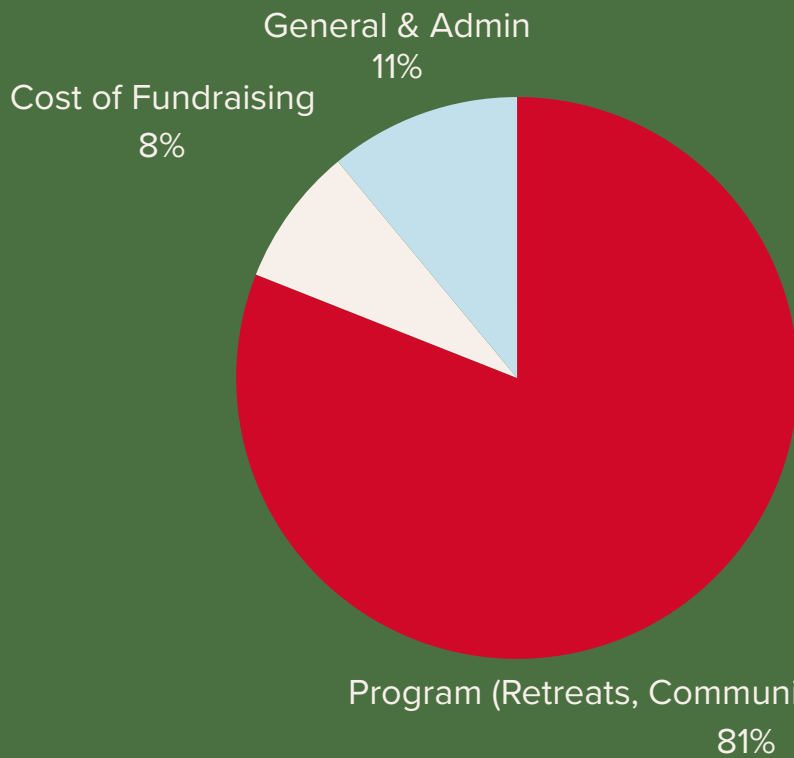
SIGNIFICANT FAMILY IMPACT OF CHILDHOOD CANCER

15,000: The number of families in the United States who will receive a childhood cancer diagnosis this year.

\$833,000: The average out-of-pocket cost for a family facing pediatric cancer treatments, leaving little room for vacations, experiences, or family memories.

Marital Strain: Marriages endure intense strain due to the emotional toll, financial burden, and frequent hospital visits associated with childhood cancer.

Emotional and Behavioral Challenges for Children: Children with cancer, along with their siblings, often face severe anxiety, withdrawal, behavioral issues, post-traumatic stress disorder, and difficulties in academics and peer relationships.



Annual Budget

* 2024 budget estimates. Nonprofit best practices recommend allocating at least 70% of expenses toward programs. Lighthouse exceeds this standard, dedicating 81% of our expenses to programs, which is considered above average by charity evaluators. As a result, we have earned the highest ratings: 4 out of 4 stars from Charity Navigator and a Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar.

LIGHTHOUSE END OF YEAR GROWTH GOAL: \$600,000

Examples of impact our year-end investors could make possible:

GIFT	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT PER
Summer Staff Team 1 Week (20 needed)	Covers 10 college interns to execute excellent retreat experiences	\$2,500
Parents Night Out 1 Retreat (22 needed)	Provides a much-needed night out full of connection and community with other parents	\$1,250
Kids “Unbirthday” Party 1 Retreat (22 needed)	An unforgettable party for all kids (siblings included) to make up for missed birthdays during treatment	\$750
Hospital Meals 30 Families (24 needed)	Meals for families on inpatient pediatric oncology floors to provide a break from cafeteria food	\$450
Children’s Crafts 1 Retreat (26 needed)	Provides supplies for kids to create crafts for each day’s theme on retreat: Rest, Joy, Restoration, and Hope	\$250

This holiday season, we ask you to prayerfully consider a year-end gift of any amount to Lighthouse. Whether it be \$5 or \$5,000, every donation matters. Our work wouldn’t be possible without the generosity of individuals like you!

Families are finding rest, joy, restoration, and hope beyond a cure at Lighthouse. Thank you for considering a gift to help us impact even more families in 2025 and shine the light of Jesus in dark places.

