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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Lighthouse of SWFL Raises \$47,000 at Dining in the Dark!**

(North Fort Myers, FL) – Lighthouse of SWFL raised over \$47,000 at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dining in the Dark: Bourbon Street Blues fundraiser for the nonprofit organization. The annual event was held on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Southwest Florida Community Foundation’s Collaboratory, located at 2031 Jackson St. Fort Myers, FL 33901.

More than 110 attendees enjoyed bourbon tasting, sensational jazz, lavish hors d’oeuvres, silent auctions and raffles, and Bourbon Street revelry throughout the themed affair. In true “Second Line” fashion the Dixielanders Jazz Band led the guests into the dining room where they dined on New Orleans style gumbo, while blindfolded. NBC2 news anchors Stacey Deffenbaugh and Jason Dunning emceed the evening while local celebrity Jay Severson conducted the live auction.

“Dining in the Dark is a unique, sensory awareness, culinary event which gives guests the opportunity to experience challenges of living with major vision loss,” said Amy Turner, Community Relations Coordinator. “The funds raised from Dining in the Dark allow our agency to provide the necessary skills and training to people with blindness and vision impairment to help live a life of independence. We wish to sincerely thank our supporters for helping make this event such a success!”

Gorovoy MD Eye Specialists was the Premier Jazz Sponsor of the event. Other major sponsors included Schlager, Schlager, & Levin and the Southwest Florida Optometric Association.

Lighthouse of SWFL is a United Way partner agency serving individuals with blindness and vision impairment in Lee, Glades, and Hendry counties. The mission of the Lighthouse of SWFL is to enable people of all ages living with a visual impairment or blindness to remain independent, active, and productive in society. Lighthouse of SWFL, a nationally accredited agency, is funded by the Division of Blind Services, United Way, Lee County Government, and other private donors. For more information about Lighthouse of SWFL, visit [www.lighthouseswfl.org](http://www.lighthouseswfl.org) or call (239) 997-7797.

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