

Kenu Howard

Agency Presentation

Field Placement

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Lighthouse Missions was founded in the year 1992 by a woman named Sister Elaine Bohrer. It is located in a town called Bellport, New York. After experiencing the trials and tribulations that come with living a life without Christ, Elaine Bohrer got saved in the year 1977. As she began to seek the Lord, He began to reveal Himself to her in a way that would change her life, and the lives of hundreds and thousands of people forever.

Lighthouse Missions was started when Elaine Bohrer heard the Holy Spirit instruct her to “feed the poor.” Elaine had no idea how she was going to do that alone. Regardless, her faith in Jesus’ ability to provide for this cause propelled her forward. Bohrer started off with just ten bologna and cheese sandwiches that she made herself. She put her sandwiches in her car and rode around asking anyone who appeared homeless if they would like something to eat. Each person happily obliged, and before Elaine knew it, her sandwiches were gone. She committed to doing this every single week. As she set out with her sandwiches, she also had some soul food for the homeless. She began to minister to them about Jesus Christ and how much He loves them. Over time, Elaine Bohrer began to garner supporters. Her sandwich distribution became a mobile outreach and a bible study all in one. Elaine’s faith, coupled with her obedience led to people coming from far and wide to donate to her mission to feed the poor. Fast forward, Lighthouse Mission has become a multifaceted warehouse that feeds thousands.

Lighthouse does not receive any form of government funding. Everything they are able to provide for the community is solely from donations from the community. This is very telling of the credibility of the organization. It is trusted and respected within the community. Lighthouse runs on volunteers. Students, like me seeking community service hours, as well as court mandated community service workers move diligently to make sure that all donations are fit for the community. Donations can range from a bag of canned goods to a truck full of industrial sized pallets. Every donation is thoroughly inspected, sorted, and then sent out. Lighthouse goes into the community daily. This is called mobile outreach. Those in need also have the option of coming directly to the warehouse and picking up what they need. Lighthouses generally serve children, families and individuals living below the poverty line. Due to the fact that they allow court mandated volunteers to complete their community service hours, they are also aiding in reform. I've worked alongside a few courts appointed volunteers. I spoke with a woman today who told me she was doing her hours with the end goal of getting custody of her three-year-old daughter. That made my heart smile. Being as Lighthouse values Jesus Christ's love and the Bible, there is no place for discrimination within the agency. Being as the outreach is on ground level, those with disabilities are able to access it easily. All who come in are treated with kindness and respect.

As of now, Lighthouse is managed by Pastor Mike. Though he is the one who has the final say, he still works hands on in the warehouse. Not only does he do heavy lifting, sorting, and distribution, but he also preaches. I've worked alongside him several times during my internship, and I've got to observe his style. The children who come in respond very well to him. He acts as a father figure to them. It's beautiful. Lighthouse seeks not only to feed the poor, but to empower them. They do not just offer tangible resources, but spiritual food as well. With

every outreach, they make sure that the word of God is ready to go out into the communities alongside the food. I am grateful to have spent time doing hours with this agency. It was truly an honor to have a hand in giving back the community that raised me.