



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Thank you  
for your  
continued  
support!

### Introducing the Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™

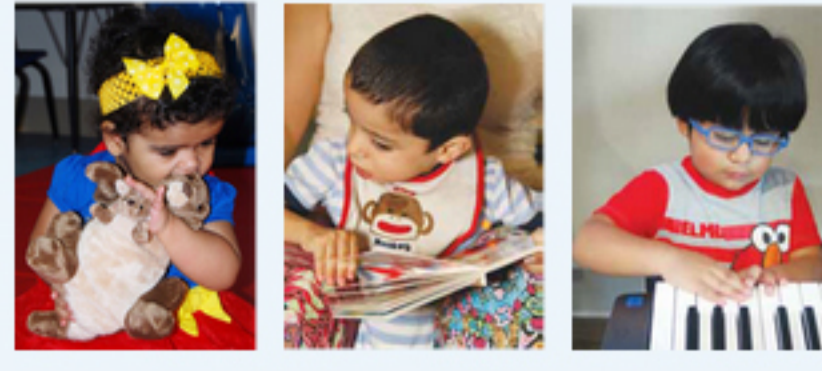
It's almost here, and we're very excited. Miami Lighthouse is launching a new Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ for visually impaired children and their sighted peers from birth through pre-kindergarten. Construction on the new building that will house the new Center is scheduled to get underway in just a few months thanks to the successful completion of our capital campaign.

A small group of children will attend our pilot pre-kindergarten program in existing instructional space in fall 2016. Upon completion of our new facility in August of 2017, we will be able to accommodate additional children with the ultimate goal of expanding this program through first grade.



The Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ will provide specialized early intervention and training to help level the playing field when these visually impaired children enter the public school system.

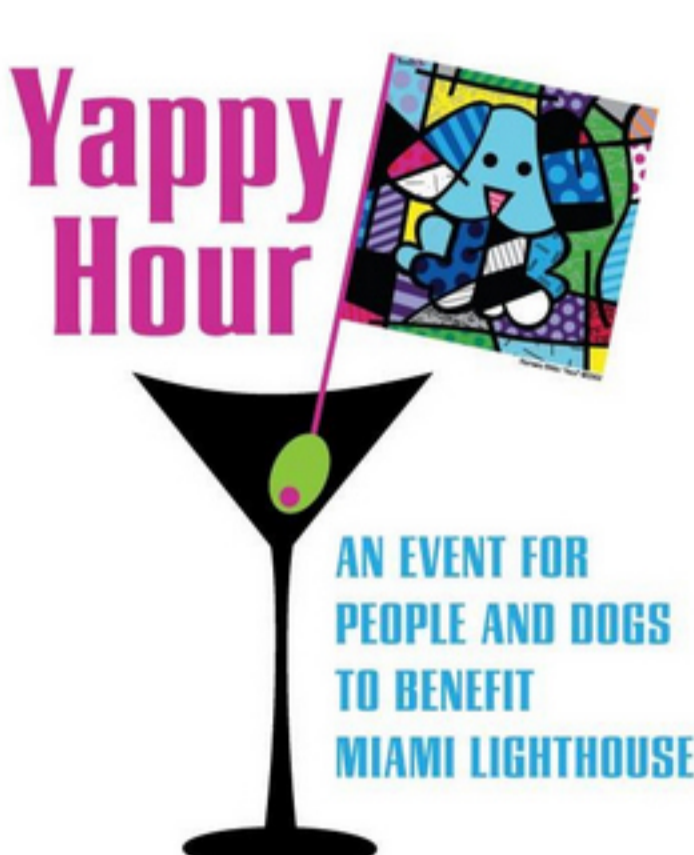
Our youngest clients like Amanda, Danny and Alex (left to right below) will benefit greatly from our new Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™.



While we have raised the capital to build the facility and funding for operation and instruction for the first year, ongoing support by our donor community is needed to sustain these programs for young children.

For information about how you can join us in this exciting initiative contact CEO Virginia Jacko at 305-856-4176 or [vjacko@miamilighthouse.org](mailto:vjacko@miamilighthouse.org). Details about the Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ are available [here](#).

### Tickets now on sale for the Yappy Hour!



A happy hour for you and your beloved canine companion! Join us on Tuesday, March 22nd starting at 6:30pm at Apeiro Kitchen and Bar in Midtown Miami for an evening of beverages and treats complete with music and dog contests for most talented dog and best dog/owner look-alike. With your \$25 donation, you receive a Britto Azul doggie bandana as well as complimentary doggie bags with goodies!

Need the scoop on de"tails"? For more information and to purchase your ticket, please visit [www.miamilighthouse.org](http://www.miamilighthouse.org).



### It was Beep Baseball Classic time at Marlins Park!

Our Lighthouse Transition students participated in the Annual Beep Baseball Classic at Marlins Park on Monday, February 15th. Hosted by the Miami Marlins staff, the kids competed in two games and literally had a ball! Beep ball is an adaptive version with auditory feedback of America's favorite pastime especially designed for the blind and visually impaired.



Following the games, awards were given out to players and teams in different categories such as the most team spirit, the best sportsmanship, the best team name, the best team chant and the wackiest team. The competitive and playful nature of the Beep Ball Classic is a great example of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind's slogan, "It's possible to see without sight!"

### McCrea Valentine Luncheon was "thank you time" for our faithful volunteers

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, Miami Lighthouse took time to say a grateful thank you to our wonderful volunteers at our annual McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. This year's honorees were American Express, AB&A Advertising, Delta Gamma's Beta Tau Chapter and the Lions for the Blind, with a special thank you to our volunteer Board Directors and Legal Counsel. Our guests and honorees were treated to musical tributes by our Miami Lighthouse Better Chance Music Program musicians, singers Natalia Sulca and Dan Johnson and two special violin solos by Sofia Causa-Dumay, a Miami Lighthouse Transition student.



Our thanks to David B. McCrea for his continuing support of this luncheon and for his inspiring words about the spirit of volunteerism.

### Spanish-language radio listeners learn about the benefits of Miami Lighthouse Programs



On the third Thursday of every month, our Social Group Activities (SGA) Coordinator, Nelba Gonzalez, is a regular guest on radio station Cadena Azul's "Sin Fronteras" talk show. Hosted by Lions Club member Jorge Iglesias, Nelba talks about the many programs for blind and visually impaired adults and seniors available at Miami Lighthouse.

Recently, Nelba took two Lighthouse clients with her to the radio station to talk about their personal experiences participating in various programs. Jose Atencio spoke with great feeling about how the independent living skills he learned at Miami Lighthouse have helped him to continue to be self-reliant after his beloved wife passed away. Maximo Gonzalez talked about how grateful he was for the opportunity to improve his life by attending ESOL classes at the Lighthouse. Both gave testimonials to the great difference Miami Lighthouse has made in their lives, particularly in the area of independent living.

Contributed by Joan Spector

### Join us for a night of comedy to benefit Miami Lighthouse!



[Click here for tickets](#)

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