



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 38 June 2017

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Pardon Us for Being Proud!

We thought you might enjoy reading some of the recent notes we received from our students, their parents, and our staff about our innovative Pre-Employment Transition Program.

A few words from our students:

Jorge - "This program has helped me prepare for college by giving me tips on time management. I've also learned a lot from the internships that I've been a part of."

Cristina - "What I liked most about the program is that I was able to meet people that are like me and that I could relate to. I have also learned how to prepare for a job interview and look for jobs online."

Elijah - "The program taught me how to look for colleges that I was interested in. Learning to use resources such as www.bs.gov taught me many things about my field of interest. I learned a lot about computers, and it makes me feel like I am one step ahead. I've also learned about the many scholarship opportunities that are out there for me.

Shawn - "This program is great because it helps me work on possible scenarios that are needed for the workforce and how to be successful in the future. One of the best aspects of the program is the work experience program because it allows me to work out in the community and to practice building my skills that are needed for the future.



Pre-Employment Transition students were invited for a work experience field trip at McDonald's by franchise owners Jose and Milly Montes

A note from one of our parents:

Mayda - I have found the Lighthouse programs to be an amazing help for my son. The program will definitely better his future and make him ready to succeed. It will open so many more doors for him that might otherwise be closed. This program will play a very important part in shaping and guiding my son. We thank you for this opportunity!

And finally, from one of our staff members:

Jeannette - We help students enhance the skills they need to be ready for employment. Seeing our students bloom is a very rewarding experience. Despite their disability, the students are able to be competitive in the job market with other candidates.

Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program 25th Anniversary Celebration Includes Announcement by Major League Baseball

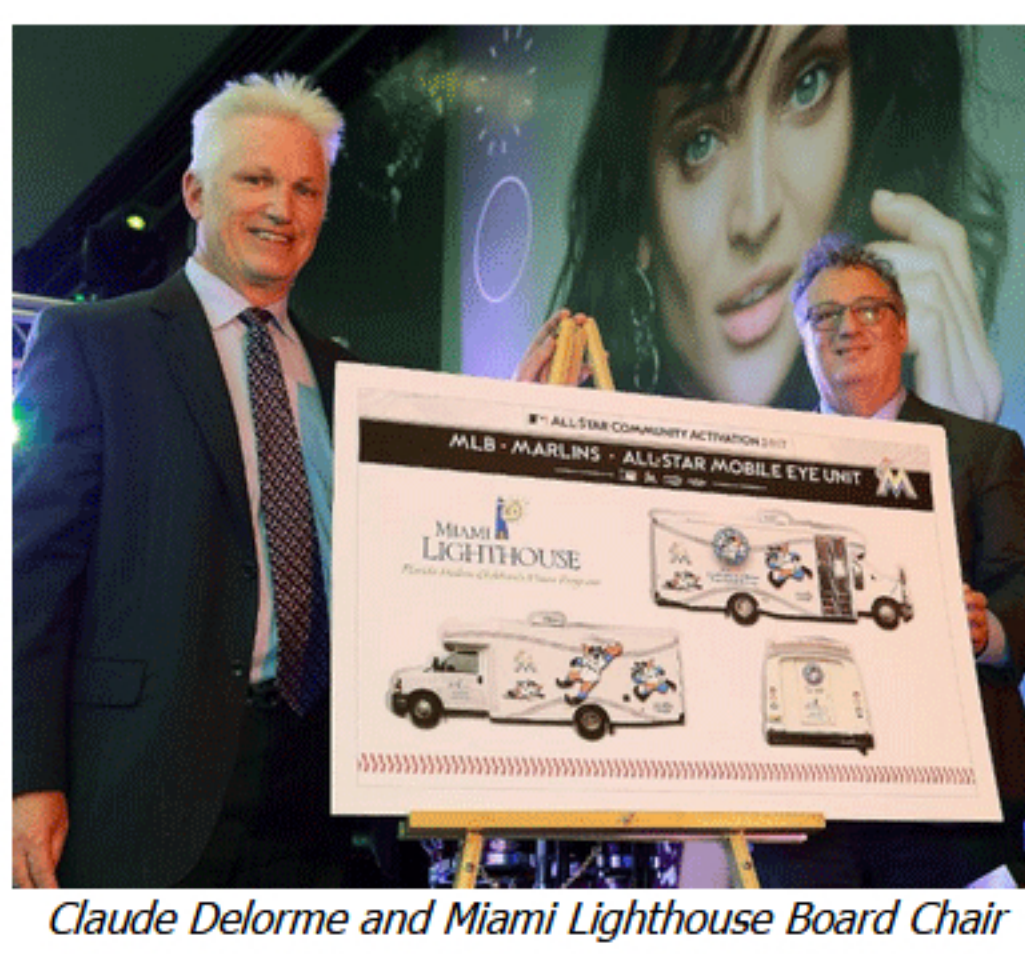
May 24th was the date of our 2017 Music Under the Stars event benefiting our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program. The occasion marked the 25th anniversary of the program and the 10th anniversary of its merger with Miami Lighthouse. Held at the new Brickell City Centre Mall, nearly 200 attendees were welcomed by Mistress of Ceremonies Emmy-winning Journalist Maity Interiano. Guests enjoyed musical performances by Miami Lighthouse musicians and vocalists. This year, in addition to our traditional silent auction featuring exciting get-away packages, restaurant gift certificates, and much more, attendees had the opportunity to participate in a raffle made possible by Board Director Angela Whitman and Saks Fifth Avenue.

Proclamations from the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation and Miami-Dade County Public Schools recognized our Heiken Program's 25 years of eye care for needy schoolchildren.



Representatives Jose Felix Diaz and David Richardson present President & CEO Virginia Jacko with proclamation

On behalf of Major League Baseball and the Miami Marlins, Claude Delorme Executive Vice President, Operations and Events for the Miami Marlins, announced that our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program has been chosen as an All-Star Game Legacy Project of Major League Baseball. Legacy funding will go toward a new mobile optometric unit that will be unveiled during the Miami All-Star Game in July.



Claude Delorme and Miami Lighthouse Board Chair Louis Nostro make new artwork of mobile optometric unit public

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 was designated Dr. Sidney Stern Day in a proclamation by Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Chairman Esteban Bovo, Jr. and the members of the Board of County Commissioners. Dr. Stern was honored for his long-term commitment to providing eye care and glasses to underserved children in Miami-Dade County. Dr. Stern was instrumental in the creation of the Heiken program in 1992 during his term as President of the Miami Dade Optometric Physicians Association. Since the merger with Miami Lighthouse, Dr. Stern has provided nearly 56,000 pairs of prescription for needy schoolchildren.



Representing Commissioner Sally Heyman, Mary Juncadella-Ferreiro and Bonnie Michaels present Dr. Sidney Stern proclamation

We express our thanks to Brickell City Centre for allowing us to hold our event in their new exciting venue and to our sponsors: ABB Optical Group, Publix Super Markets Charities, Marlins Foundation, Essilor Laboratories of America, H. Angela Whitman Foundation, Donna Abood Principal Managing Director Avison Young, GrayRobinson, Genesis Systems Consulting and BB&T Bank. In-kind sponsors were Susan Conroy Design, Monster Sound Productions, Saks Fifth Avenue, Starbucks Coffee, Zyr Vodka and East Hotel.



Music Under the Stars Sponsors: Susan Conroy, Sarah Garcia with Marlins Foundation, Michael Jimenez with Genesis Systems Consulting, Miami Lighthouse Board Director Donna Abood with Avison Young, Miami Lighthouse Board Director Angela Whitman and Marcos Freire with Brickell City Centre

Contributed by Joan Spector

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