



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Honoring Our President's Club Donors.

On March 21st Miami Lighthouse paid homage to our President's Club Donors at an event held at Northern Trust. Northern Trust President John Fumagalli welcomed our guests, and Northern Trust Vice Chairman and former Miami Lighthouse Board Chair William Morrison spoke about the community's legacy of support for Miami Lighthouse. President's Club member and Board Chair Louis Nostro announced President's Club honorees and presented to them commemorative tiles.

President's Club donors are recognized on a plaque in our reception lobby. At the event, the President's Club video was also unveiled. Please [Click here](#) to watch the video. To become a member of our President's Club or to include Miami Lighthouse in your estate planning contact CEO Virginia Jacko at 305-856-4176 or vjacko@miamilighthouse.org.



President's Club member and Board Chair Louis Nostro announces President's Club Honorees: Left to right, front row: Alicia Celorio, Do Unto Others Trust; Board Director Anne Helliwell, Helliwell Family Foundation; Norma Jean Abraham, Anthony R. Abraham Foundation; Board Director Angela Whitman, H. Angela Whitman Foundation; District Governor Lion Betty Barrera; CEO Virginia Jacko; Christine Stiefel, The Wildflower Foundation; Susan and Robin Shelley, The Rotary Foundation of Miami Florida; Carla Richey and Board Director Scott Richey, Northern Trust; Paul Stokes, Samuel E. and Mary W. Thatcher Foundation; Murray Levin, The Saul and Teresa Esman Foundation.

Back row: John Fumagalli, Florida President, Northern Trust; Steven Marcus, Health Foundation of South Florida; Honorary Board Director and former Board Chair William Morrison, Northern Trust; Honorary Board Director Bill Beckham, JM Private Insurance; Alan Alvarez, Marlins Foundation; former Board Director Anna K. Rentz; Board Director and former Chair Ramon Casas, Wragg and Casas; Dan Bell; Kim Greene, Dr. John T. McDonald Foundation; Trish Bell; Olga Nielson and Board Director Charles Nielson; Craig Rickert, Calvin and Flavia de Camp Oak Foundation; Honorary Board Director J. Megan Kelly

Our Innovative Pre-K Program is Truly Amazing.



LIGHTHOUSE
LEARNING CENTER
FOR CHILDREN™

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

When we piloted our innovative Pre-K program for the 2016 / 2017 school year, we were happy to enroll 15 youngsters, half of whom were sighted, and half visually impaired. This year we are excited to report that 40 youngsters are enrolled in this remarkable program, and we already have 60 youngsters reserving space for next year's class.

That will be a 400% increase in less than three years! To say that we are extremely proud of the success of this unique program is an understatement. The next story demonstrates the impact that the classes at our new Lighthouse Learning Center have on the mothers and youngsters who attend on a daily basis.

Meet Two of our Pre-K Mothers and their Youngsters.



Rio with her teacher Miss Stephania

Monica is the mother of 2-year-old, totally blind, Rio. "Rio loves going to school," says Monica. "I am so grateful they are providing her with the skills to live a good life. We've been coming to the Miami Lighthouse since she was very little. They teach me, as well as teach her."

"While I don't think Rio fully understands the concept that some of the children in her class see and some don't, she knows the names of everyone in her class and is friends with everyone. Every morning, she will say "School today?" to me, and be obviously disappointed when I have to tell her it's the weekend and there is no school. Once we get to the school, she has learned to push the right floor button on the elevator by touching the braille dots. She's too young to really learn braille yet, but I'm sure she will learn it well here at Miami Lighthouse."



Elijah opens a present.

Melissa is the mother of 4-year-old Elijah. Elijah is one of the sighted children in the Pre-K, and according to his Mother, the difference in her son, since he started school, is absolutely amazing. "Elijah was very shy, only wanted to be with me or his father and would cry if he had to be with other children," says Melissa. "Since he started school at the Lighthouse he has come out of his shell and has become much more sociable. He's friends with all the kids in his class, and in fact, I'm pretty sure he has a crush on Zakhia, one of the little girls in the class who is blind. He talks about her all the time."

"If you ask me how my son is doing in school today, I can tell you the difference the Lighthouse Learning Center teachers have made in his life is absolutely awesome. I can't thank them enough."

Help prevent blindness by attending Music Under the Stars.

Celebrating over 26 Years of Providing Free Eye Exams and Prescription Glasses for Underserved Schoolchildren

Music Under the Stars
Bon Appétit Miami

Wednesday, May 16, 2018
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

benefiting the
Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program
A Division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Join us for our eleventh Annual Music Under the Stars: Bon Appétit Miami, a fundraiser for our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program. This year's event will take place in Miami Lighthouse's new Learning Center for Children™ on Wednesday, May 16th from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. and will feature a unique take on one of the most iconic silent movies of all time, *The Great Train Robbery*. Our very own award-winning Latin Grammy Miami Lighthouse musicians will perform an original score to accompany the silent movie.

The event will recognize Trish and Dan Bell, Lee Stern of Medegy Health Systems and the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation. Emceed by Olga Villaverde TV host of Lifetime Network's *The Balancing Act* the event is one you will not want to miss as we transform our facility into a movie, musical performance and restaurant venue with food selections from local restaurants providing paella, gourmet pasta dishes, and much more. To learn more please contact Cameron Sisser at 786-362-7515 or csisser@miamilighthouse.org.

Music Under the Stars

Bon Appétit Miami

Wednesday, May 16, 2018
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
at Miami Lighthouse

601 SW 8th Avenue • Miami, Florida 33130
Complimentary Valet Parking in our New Adjacent Garage
Entrance on SW 8th Avenue, just north of SW 7th Street

Recognizing
Trish and Dan Bell
Lee Stern, Medegy Health Systems
Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation

Emcee
Olga Villaverde
TV Host / *The Balancing Act*

Featuring for the first time...

One of the most iconic silent movies, *The Great Train Robbery*, screened with live music performed by Miami Lighthouse for the Blind award-winning Latin Grammy musicians.

Our Generous Sponsors



Our Generous Restaurant Sponsors



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Please contact Cameron Sisser at 786.362.7515 or csisser@miamilighthouse.org for additional information.

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