



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for New Playground Expansion

On March 22, we hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in celebration of our playground expansion, the final phase of our Miami Lighthouse Academy multi-year construction project to support the innovative school's classroom growth. Completion of the newly expanded playground came a year after the opening of the new 30,000 sq. ft. interior classroom expansion to the existing Academy facility.

The playground features an open field with colorful portable outdoor picnic tables and umbrellas generously funded by former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rebecca Sosa. Extensive perimeter trees to provide shade were funded in-part by Dixie Landscape and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Raquel Regalado. The entire playground area is protected by a 6 ft. concrete masonry wall. Sally Heyman, former Miami-Dade County Commissioner, arranged the funding of this most important aspect of the playground.



Left to Right: Marcel Morlote, Vice-President, Wolfberg Alvarez & Partners; Shelby Reamer, Dixie Landscape; Raquel Regalado, Miami-Dade County Commissioner; Sally Heyman, Former Miami-Dade County Commissioner; Virginia Jacko, President and CEO Miami Lighthouse; Harley Miller, CEO Miller Construction Company; Sue Reamer, Dixie Landscape; Charles Nielson, Chair of the Board Miami Lighthouse.

Miller Construction received an Association of Builders & Contractors Excellence Eagle Award in recognition of the classroom expansion project's great design, execution, safety and quality, as determined by an independent panel. Harley Miller, CEO of Miller Construction, presented the award at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Miller Construction and Wolfberg Alvarez & Partners were responsible for construction and design of the classroom expansion project.



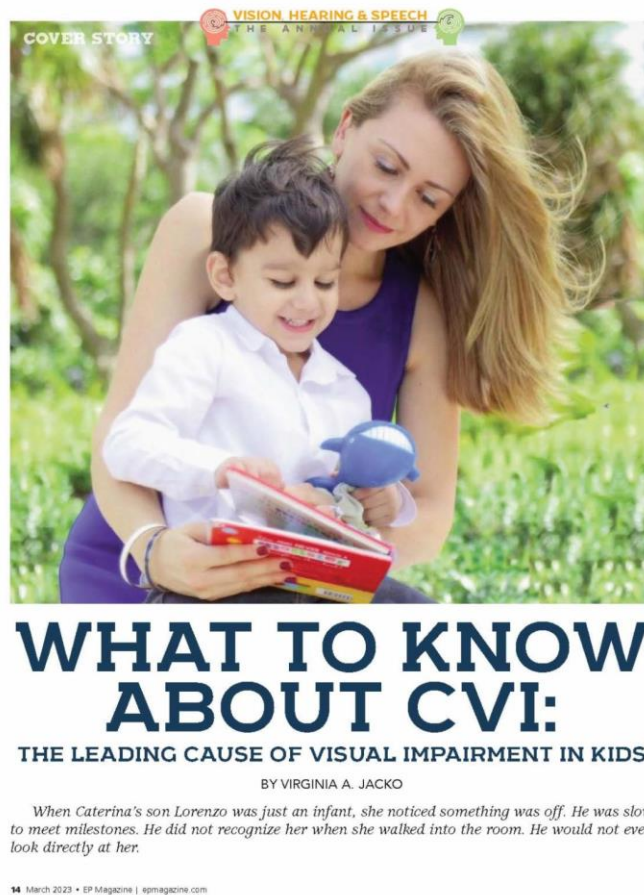
Harley Miller, CEO of Miller Construction, presents Eagle Award to Virginia Jacko, President and CEO and Charles Nielson, Chair of the Board of Miami Lighthouse.

Miami Lighthouse Academy Graduate featured in *Exceptional Parent Magazine*

An article featured in this month's [Exceptional Parent Magazine](#) highlighted one of our Miami Lighthouse Academy graduates. Lorenzo is one of thousands of children across the United States with Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI), a condition that affects approximately one third of children with visual impairment.

Despite being told that there was no cure for her son's condition, Lorenzo's mother was determined to get help. She took him to Miami Lighthouse where he joined our inclusive preschool program and began CVI-educational intervention. Now as an elementary school student, Lorenzo is reading adapted text at grade level, with appropriate spacing between words and lines to reduce complexity.

Lorenzo's story is a testament to the power of early diagnosis and intervention, two things that are critical when it comes to CVI. [Click here](#) to read the article.



Cover of *Exceptional Parents Magazine*.

Annual Art Walk at Miami Lighthouse

On Saturday, March 11th we celebrated our 3rd Annual Art Walk at Miami Lighthouse. The tactile and visual arts show was created by artists who are blind or visually impaired, from our early learners to seniors, guided by our motto, "It's Possible to See ART Without Sight."

Art attendees enjoyed our various art exhibits, music by our Miami Lighthouse United Voices Choir, and our interactive community art experience that culminated in a collaborative magnificent mural. Our unique art show continues to embrace inclusion, diversity and equity in the arts.



Interactive Community Art Project.



Miami Lighthouse Academy second grade student interpretations of famous artists.



"See" Shark' created by Social Group Activities Program Participants.



'Seeing Eye Dog #2' created by Social Group Activities Program Participants.

In the News:

- Purdue University, March 8, 2023 – "Purdue Women's Conference 2023 to feature more than 20 empowering speakers" for which our President and CEO Virginia Jacko is the opening Keynote Speaker telling her story about the transformational services she received as a client of Miami Lighthouse
- The Ensemble, March 1, 2023 – "Miami Lighthouse Youth Music Program: Reimagining Music as an Empowerment Tool"
- Miami's Community News, February 27, 2023 – "Miami Lighthouse Academy Early Learning Program Gets High Marks"

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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