



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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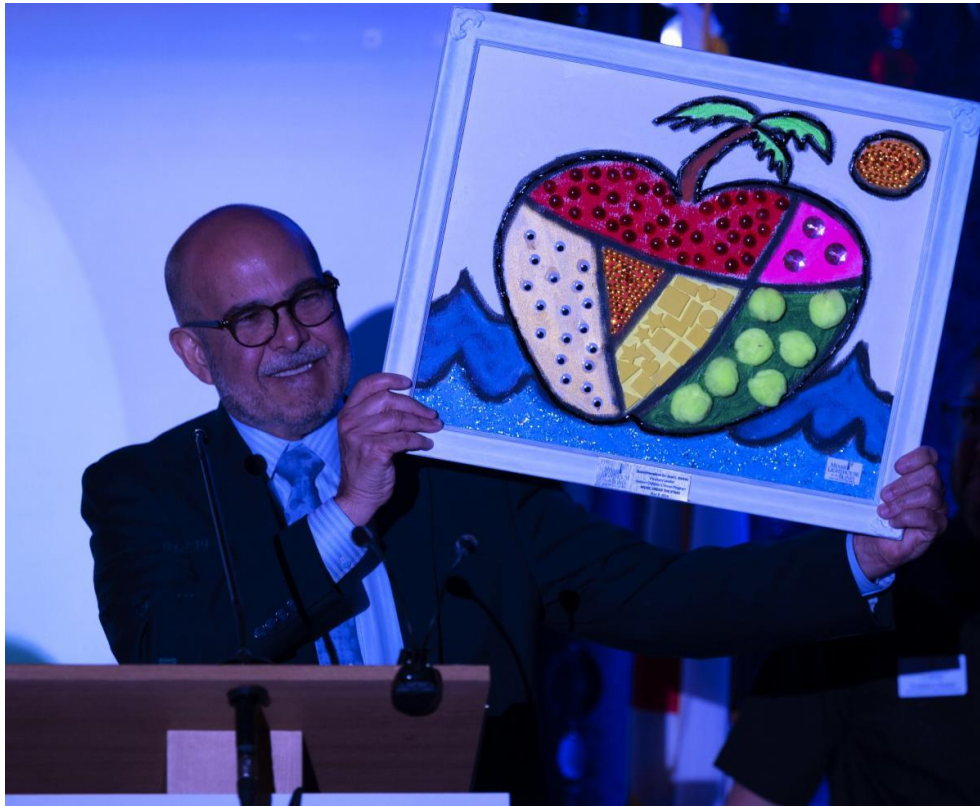
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## Music Under the Stars Honors Superintendent Dr. Jose L. Dotres

On Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> Miami Lighthouse for the Blind honored Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Jose L. Dotres, with recognition for the collaborative efforts between M-DCPS and Miami Lighthouse. Miami Lighthouse Academy 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders made a beautiful interactive apple using different tactile materials. The symbolic apple represented the students' gift to their lead teacher, Superintendent Dotres. The event was emceed by Olga Villaverde, host of The Health Channel's Balancing Act.



*Tactile apple presented to Superintendent Dr. Jose Dotres made by Miami Lighthouse Academy 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students using materials that included Glitter paint, Googly eyes, Pom Poms, Gems, Padded Craft paper, Tempura paint sticks and Puffy paint*

Our generous sponsors included ABB Optical Group, Publix Super Markets Charities, Rotary Club of Miami, Bizitss, FP&L, Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Grove Bank & Trust, H. Angela Whitman Foundation, TD Bank, MDOPA, BrightStar Care, Choice Waste, Perry Ellis International, Susan Conroy Design, Biz Solutions, Miami Kids Magazine, SFM Services Inc., Monster Sound Productions, Affiliated Healthcare Centers, Inc., Knights of Columbus, Miami's Community Newspapers and more. Our fabulous restaurant and beverage sponsors included Perricone's Marketplace, Verace Cucina Italiana, P.F. Chang's, Roaster's and Toaster's, Sports Grill, Flanigan's, M.I. Mobile Chef, Season's 52, El Carajo, Eagle Brands, E11even Vodka and more.



*Event Sponsors left to right: Martha-Trinidad Kempt and Raul Diaz, Grove Bank & Trust; Christian Infante, SFM Services; Sharon Quarters, Choice Waste; Norby Rudel, Rotary Club of Miami; Esteban Delgado, Bizitss; Dr. Eric Chow, MDOPA; Susie Conroy, Susan Conroy Design*

Music Under The Stars Event Photo Gallery

## **Daniel Solomon is on a mission to reshape perceptions of the blind**



Daniel Solomon was brought to Miami Lighthouse when he was a small child diagnosed with ocular albinism. Daniel has never let his vision disability keep him from living a full life. Today he is a student at Brown University after graduating summa cum laude from Palmetto Senior High School where he was named a Silver Knight.

*Daniel Solomon, Brown University Student*

At Brown, Daniel has worked to develop programs to bridge the gap between education and inclusivity for the blind. Since arriving at the university two years ago, he has co-founded and serves as president of the student organization "Blind at Brown", which brings together students who are blind, visually impaired or low vision. Now, Daniel is visualizing a more inclusive, accessible future through public art with a project called "The Blind Urban Subject." To read more about Daniel's ["The Blind Urban Subject"](#) click below.

Daniel's "The Blind Urban Subject" Project

## **Bouldering for Blindness raises funds for Miami Lighthouse**

Sean Murphy, a student from Christopher Columbus High School, created a unique fundraising event, "Bouldering for Blindness", as his service project in honor of his Uncle, Michael Harries who has Usher Syndrome. We thank The Edge Rock for hosting this event and we thank Sean for creating an impactful event raising awareness and funds for Miami Lighthouse.



*Climbers ascend rock wall in the dark during "Bouldering for Blindness"*



## **Miami Lighthouse Music Program, former Transition Program Student honored**

We are proud to announce that the Advocacy Network on Disability honored Miami Lighthouse's Music Program as their 2024 Winn Family Change Maker recipient. In addition, Emily Bejerano, a former Miami Lighthouse Pre-Employment Transition program participant, was named as one of the 2024 Breakfast for Champions award winners.

The award quoted our President and CEO Virginia Jacko who predicted in 2007 that "our Music Program would expand and highlight inclusion bringing together talented students both with and without visual impairments to write songs, perform musically, and create CDs."



*Betty Chavarria, Case Manager; Emily Bejerano, former Miami Lighthouse Music and Transition program Student and Carol Brady-Simmons, Chief Program Officer*

## Miami-Dade County Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera visits Miami Lighthouse

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera recently visited Miami Lighthouse. After touring our campus he said, “I was honored to tour the Miami Lighthouse and see the wonderful work they are doing to empower the blind in our County. Their commitment to excellence in education for the blind and visually impaired is truly remarkable.” We extend our appreciation to Commissioner Cabrera for taking time to visit us and learn about the programs we offer for people of all ages ranging from blind babies to seniors with age-related eye disease.



*Angela Vazquez, Director of Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program; Miami-Dade County Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera and Cameron Sisser, Senior Vice President for*

*External Relations in front of Heiken Mobile Unit*

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## In the News:

- [CBS4 Miami, May 2, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse gives underserved children free eye exams and glasses"](#)
- [CBS4 Miami, May 2, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse on a mission to ensure underserved children have access to quality eye care"](#)
- [WCTV, May 2, 2024 – "Something Good: Ruediger Elementary students receive free eye exams"](#)

[Read more!](#)

*Contributed by Joan Spector*

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