



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 116

August 2024

In This Issue

- [Miami Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon](#)
- [Our Comprehensive Blind Soccer Program](#)
- [It's summer camp time at Miami Lighthouse!](#)
- [Young Professionals of Miami Lighthouse Networking Event](#)

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Miami Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon

Our annual Miami Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon was held on Tuesday, July 23rd in appreciation of our elected officials' support of our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, Miami Lighthouse Academy and our Senior Group Activities Program. The special event provided attendees with the opportunity to meet and network with local elected officials, Miami Lighthouse Board Directors, and other community leaders.

Appreciation was given to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation for continuing funding of our programs and a new allocation from the Department of Education for our Miami Lighthouse Academy. Guests enjoyed a musical performance by our talented Miami Lighthouse Summer Music Program student ensemble and a fascinating tour of our campus. We thank Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman for sponsoring the luncheon.



Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation Check Presentation: Senior Vice President Cameron Sisser; Director Deborah Montilla; Director Frank Voytek; Director Ali Mandsaurwala; President and CEO Virginia Jacko, Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez; Representative Juan Porras; Representative Christopher Benjamin; Director Dr. Stephen Morris; Director Robert Shelley

Our Comprehensive Blind Soccer Program

Children of all ages, from 1 to 22, are going to have the opportunity to enjoy Comprehensive Blind Soccer thanks to an award from The Children's Trust Innovaion Grant. Early learners will learn "echo localization" with soccer balls that have ball bearings inside so students, despite their vision disability, can locate the soccer ball.

Miami Lighthouse is also thrilled to announce that Thomas Abraham, a dedicated supporter, benefactor, and the first sports ambassador to the United States Olympic and Paralympic Blind Soccer Team, will be competing in the prestigious Paris 2024 Marathon Pour Tous on August 10, 2024. As part of his efforts, Thomas aims to raise crucial funds for the Miami Lighthouse Comprehensive Blind Soccer Program. These funds will assist with essential equipment and certifications, including blind soccer balls, blinders, shoes, and soccer panels.

To make a donation visit [BLINDERSUSA - Etsy](#).



Oseas De Leon, Miami Lighthouse Senior Technology Specialist and USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team member, playing Blind Soccer

It's summer camp time at Miami Lighthouse!

Students enjoy exciting visit to US Coast Guard base

Our Pre-Employment Transition Services students got a chance to visit the US Coast Guard Miami base recently, thanks to Captain Robert Grant, USCG (Ret.). Captain Grant conceived this exciting adventure some 15 years ago so that teenagers could personally experience the critical importance of the U.S. Coast Guard's role. Students gained insight into the Coast Guard's day-to-day tasks and responsibilities, boarded one of the airplanes used for Search and Rescue operations, and learned about the different equipment used to assist the Coast Guard in providing help to others.



Captain Robert Grant, USCG (Ret.) with Miami Lighthouse Pre-Employment Transition Students in front of US Coast Guard Helicopter

Zoo Miami welcomes Miami Lighthouse Summer Campers

Summer Camp at Miami Lighthouse includes unique field trips to such fascinating places like Zoo Miami. Using their senses of smell, touch, and hearing, the children learned that “it’s possible to see without sight” while exploring Zoo Miami’s exhibits. Channel 10 covered their visit which you can view by [clicking here](#).



Miami Lighthouse STAR Summer Camper’s at Zoo Miami

Elandis offers summer job-shadowing

The outstanding team at Elandis spared no details in teaching our students about the career choices and goals that led them to become part of the exceptional Elandis real-estate team. Students had an unforgettable experience learning about real-estate attorneys, portfolio management, marketing, property management, property acquisition, accounting, human resources, and what it takes to work at a successful company like Elandis. Spending time at Elandis was memorable for our students, who are immensely grateful for the opportunity and eager to explore new job-shadowing experiences next summer.



Miami Lighthouse Pre-Employment Transition students at Elandis

Young Professionals of Miami Lighthouse Networking Event

Join us for a Networking Mixer to benefit our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program on Thursday August 22nd from 6:00pm - 8:00pm at SAWA Restaurant & Lounge located at 360 San Lorenzo Avenue #1500 Coral Gables, Florida 33146.

RSVP via email to csisser@miamilighthouse.org and find out how you can make an impact on our blind community.



THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE
INVITE YOU TO A NETWORKING MIXER TO BENEFIT
OUR FLORIDA HEIKEN CHILDREN'S VISION PROGRAM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND

6:00 - 8:00 PM

AT

SAWA RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE
360 SAN LORENZO AVENUE #1500
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33146

JOIN US FOR FOOD, DRINK AND NETWORKING

\$20 SUGGESTED DONATION AT THE DOOR

RSVP TO CAMERON SISSER
AT CSISSER@MIAMILIGHTHOUSE.ORG

In the News:

- [WPLG Local 10, July 19, 2024 – "Visually impaired music students enjoy multisensory experience at Zoo Miami"](#)
- [Miami's Community News, July 11, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse Approved for \\$30,000 Grant from NEA"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector



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Vision Insights

WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?

CHOOSE MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE

AS YOUR CHARITY ON FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER

A teal-colored banner featuring a cupcake with a lit sparkler on the left. The text is centered and reads: "WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?", "CHOOSE MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE", and "AS YOUR CHARITY ON FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER".



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