



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 117

September 2024

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Disney Internship Helps Miami Lighthouse Program Participant Discover Independence

We are so proud of Alondra, a former program participant at Miami Lighthouse. Alondra has just fulfilled a dream and credits the skills she developed at Miami Lighthouse with preparing her for her Disney internship at Hollywood Studios this summer. Alondra was born with a rare congenital disorder where she can only see light, colors and objects from a certain distance. Before starting her Disney Internship, Alondra interned in our Senior Groups Activities (SGA) Program where she gained work experience through a stipend from the Florida Division of Blind Services. As an intern in the program, she helped blind and visually impaired seniors stay active and engaged. To read about Alondra's Disney Internship in [Miami's Community News, click here.](#)



Alondra and Minnie Mouse pose at Disney's Hollywood Studios

It's "Back To School Time" at Miami Lighthouse Academy

We are extremely proud of our Miami Lighthouse Academy as it begins a new year. In collaboration with Miami Dade County Public Schools, we offer an inclusion setting for pre-kindergarten, and kindergarten, first and second grade classes for visually impaired students. As a certified Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Provider, Miami Lighthouse Academy enrolls students with and without vision impairments in pre-kindergarten promoting an inclusive program resulting in a sense of belonging for all children and families.

In support of our mission, children without vision impairments are selected to aid the learning environment for children with vision loss. Learning in all classrooms is conducted by Florida-certified early childhood teachers, Florida-certified teachers of the visually impaired and teaching assistants.

To learn more or schedule a tour of our Miami Lighthouse Academy please contact our Program Coordinator at (786)-362-7483 or e-mail our Academy Director, Mara Gonzalez, at MGonzalez@miamilighthouse.org



Students from our Miami Lighthouse Academy ready to start the new academic school year



Young Professionals of Miami Lighthouse Hosts Networker

On Thursday, August 22nd, the Young Professionals of Miami Lighthouse (YPOL) hosted a networking event at SAWA Restaurant & Lounge located at Merrick Park in Coral Gables. Guests enjoyed delicious appetizers and drinks provided by SAWA and came together to support our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program. The event raised funds to prevent blindness and provide comprehensive eye health vision exams and prescription eyeglasses at no cost to financially disadvantaged students. We thank all the donors who attended the event and support our important cause.



Photo of YPOL Chair Victor Lopez, Board Director Scott Richey and Miami Lighthouse Academy Officer Karla Richey



Miami Lighthouse Honors Lion Alan Campbell

On Sunday, August 25th, Lions for the Blind held their monthly committee meeting during which Miami Lighthouse honored Lion Alan Campbell for his tireless work to support and empower those who are blind and visually impaired, embodying the core values of Lionism. Lion Alan has played pivotal roles for Miami Lighthouse serving as the former Project Manager for the Lions Club International Sight for Kids Project, past President of the Miami Lions Club and Miami Club Foundation and as the last Director of the Lions Home for the Blind. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Lion Alan for his many years of service.



Lion and Senior Vice President Cameron Sisser and Supervisor of Fine Arts and Art Education Aaron Hill presented Lion Alan with a special gift, a handcrafted bronze sculpture of a lion, created by Miami Lighthouse's Senior Group Activities Program participants. The Sculpture is a symbol of strength, courage and dedication - qualities that Lion Alan has exemplified throughout his many years of service.

In the News:

- [Miami's Community News, August 17, 2024, 2024 – "Disney intern from Miami overcomes challenges, discovers independence"](#)
- [NBC6 News, August 6, 2024 – "A free Back-To-School event hosted by Miami Kids Magazine offers free vision tests, glasses, backpacks and school supplies to the community."](#)
- [CBS News, August 3, 2024 – "Visually impaired and blind teens get the chance to experience a baseball game"](#)

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Contributed by Joan Spector

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