



MEDIA ALERT

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE PROVIDING NO COST EYE EXAMS AND PRESCRIPTION GLASSES FOR OVERTOWN STUDENTS WITH JOHNSON & JOHNSON VISION AND LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION SUPPORT

- WHAT:** Vision examinations and glasses to provide equitable access to eye healthcare at no cost for low-income students
- WHEN:** Thursday, April 28, 2022, 10 A.M.-12 Noon
- WHERE:** Theodore R. and Thelma A. Gibson Charter School
1682 Northwest 4th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33136
- WHO:** Provided by Miami Lighthouse for the Blind
Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program
- PARTICIPANTS:** **Virginia Jacko**, President and CEO of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program
Kelly Gottfried, Head of Global Franchise Development, Johnson & Johnson Vision
Brian Sheehan, International First Vice President of Lions Clubs International
Yaneisy Abreu-Rozo, Principal Theodore R. and Thelma A. Gibson Charter School
Dr. James Bush III, Florida State Representative
Susan Holtzman, Office of Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
- DETAILS:** **The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program** will provide no cost examinations by licensed optometrists in fully equipped mobile optometric units to students facing inequitable access to eye healthcare. **These examinations are being funded by *Sight For Kids*, a co-founded program by Johnson & Johnson Vision and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).**

The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is administered by Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired in collaboration with a network of optometrists throughout the State. Five Heiken Program mobile eye-care units take primary eye care directly to Florida's school children. Each year, more than 1,000 schools Statewide refer underserved school children, so that the Heiken Program can provide dilated eye examinations and prescription glasses at no cost to needy children whose families cannot afford these services.

The *Sight For Kids* grant supports quality, comprehensive eye-health services and treatment for students in low-income and underserved communities across Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties. *Sight For Kids'* goal is for Lions volunteers in collaboration with Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program to provide vision screenings to 20,000 children across South Florida in its first year. The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is celebrating its 30th anniversary providing more than 165,000 school children no cost comprehensive eye examinations since inception while the *Sight For Kids* program celebrates 20 years of service and more than 42 million children reached since inception.

Approximately 77 percent of all children examined require and receive prescription eyeglasses, confirming the importance of the *Sight For Kids* screenings and a follow-up comprehensive eye exam by the Heiken Program.

About Johnson & Johnson Vision

At Johnson & Johnson Vision*, a part of Johnson & Johnson MedTech, we have a bold ambition to change the trajectory of eye health. Through our operating companies, we deliver innovation that enables eye care professionals to create better outcomes for patients throughout their lives with products and technologies that address unmet needs, including refractive error, cataracts and dry eye. In communities with greatest need, we work in collaboration to expand access to quality eye care and we are committed to helping people see better, connect better and live better. Visit us at jvision.com, or follow @JNJVision on Twitter, Johnson & Johnson Vision on LinkedIn, and @JNJVision on Facebook.

*Johnson & Johnson Vision represents the products and services of Johnson & Johnson Surgical Vision, Inc., Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc., and affiliates of both.

About Lions Clubs International Foundation

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International. Established in 1968, LCIF provides grant funding to support compassionate works of Lions, empowering their service and addressing the needs of their communities both locally and globally. Since its founding, LCIF has awarded more than 17,500 grants totaling more than U.S. \$1.1 billion. Connect with LCIF on Facebook or online at LCIF.org.

About Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program

The mission of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is to make sure that all financially disadvantaged school children have access to comprehensive eye examinations, including dilation and glasses, if required, to give them the best chance at academic success. These free

services are offered statewide, either on-site at schools, via five mobile eye clinics or by the Heiken program's network of more than 1,200 participating optometrists. Funding is provided by the State of Florida Department of Health, The Miami-Dade Children's Trust and generous private donors.

For more information about the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program and Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, contact Cameron Sisser at csisser@miamilighthouse.org or 786-362-7515.