



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Miami Lighthouse honored at Florida Blue Sapphire Awards Luncheon!

It is with thanks and gratitude that we share with you some very special news. Miami Lighthouse was recognized as an organization whose work is distinguished by leadership, innovation and achievement in community health at the Florida Blue Foundation's 2015 Sapphire Awards Luncheon. On behalf of our entire community, we extend our appreciation to the Florida Blue Foundation for their exceptional philanthropic leadership and investment in Miami Lighthouse's mission. We are proud to share with you the video about Miami Lighthouse that was shown at the luncheon. [Click here](#) to view the video on our home page.



William Beckham, Miami Lighthouse Board Director; Steven Marcus, Health Foundation of South Florida President & CEO; Penny Shaffer, Market President for Florida Blue; Virginia Jacko, Miami Lighthouse President & CEO; Ray Casas, Miami Lighthouse Board Chair

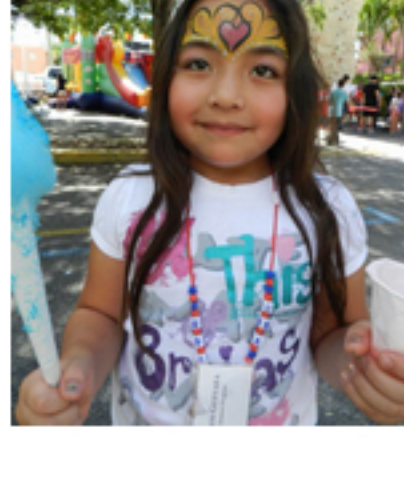
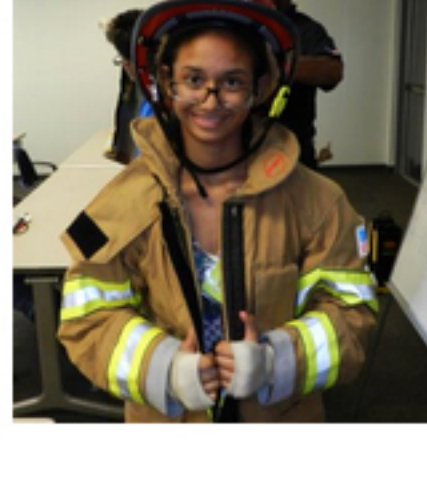
June's here and the excitement is growing!

Talk to staff members Joe Green, Isabel Chica or Nick Mastrovito about what's going on at the Miami Lighthouse these pre-summer days and you have to talk fast, because all three are deeply involved in setting up and running exciting summer programs for youngsters, teenagers and young adults.

Joe will oversee a one week, pre-summer camp intensive Braille session, from the 8th to the 12th, designed for students from 6 to 13 years of age. He will also oversee the Transition Program from June 15th to July 24th, designed specifically to help blind and visually impaired teen-agers get ready for the work world and hone employability skills.

Isabel's world for the next few weeks will revolve around the Lighthouse's Summer Camp Training & Recreation Program (STAR) for kids from 6 to 13. STAR program students will receive Braille and technology literacy training to help them maintain and improve their skills over the summer break. But STAR is not all work and no play. Field trips are scheduled to recreational and educational places such as an ice skating rink, a fire station and Jungle Island. The kids will also participate in arts and crafts activities and learn how to make ceramics. Ten sighted siblings of the visually disabled youngsters will also participate in this reverse inclusion program.

Music is where you'll find Nick. As Music Coordinator of our Better Chance Music Program, for students ages 14 to 22, his summer schedule, running from June 8th to July 31st, is full of production classes and vocal & instrument sessions held in the Lighthouse's 2nd floor Music Studio, plus field trips and bi-weekly live performances. Classes include theory, composition and songwriting.



"Music Under the Stars: Bon Appétit Miami" is a major success.

Wednesday evening, May 6th was truly a night to remember with guests ending the evening giving a standing ovation to our Miami Lighthouse Big Band Jazz, special guest internationally acclaimed jazz vocalist Nicole Henry and Miami Lighthouse former client and now professional singer, Natalia Sulca. The exciting evening of great food, delicious wines, super music and live and silent auctions was all to benefit our very important Heiken Children's Vision Program that provides free comprehensive eye exams and glasses to low-income schoolchildren.

This year's event was emceed by G. Eric Knowles, President and CEO of the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by the ABB Optical Group, Publix Super Market Charities, Baptist Health South Florida, Brown & Brown Insurance, Marlins Foundation, Miami-Dade Commissioner Sally Heyman, Genesis Consulting, Gray Robinson, Aetna, Essilor Laboratories, Perry Ellis International, Monster Sound Productions, Magazine Brickell, Bob's Barricades and Brazilian Grill Party Rentals. Delicious food was provided by A. Thierry's Catering, City Hall The Restaurant, Whisk, Perricone's Marketplace, Shorty's BBQ, Dr. Barry Burak and Gail Beckham. Wine and beverages were provided by El Carajo, Samuel Adams, The McCallan and Starbuck's.



Eric Knowles, Dr. David K. Moore, Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho, Virginia Jacko and Chair Ray Casas



Eric Knowles, Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho, Senator Gwen Margolis, Virginia Jacko and Chair Ray Casas

There's a "revolution" going on at our Vision Solutions Center!



It's called "Revolution" and according to John Garcia, Manager of our popular Solutions Center, it's the absolute latest in CCT (closed circuit TV). Not only can users with visual disabilities greatly enlarge type, but they can also use it as a computer and a full scanner. To top it off, the "Revolution" is bilingual! It can only be ordered at the Miami Lighthouse and it comes with lessons from John in all its remarkable uses.

Contributed by Joan Spector



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