



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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## Miami Lighthouse Announces Two New Challenges at annual "See the Light Luncheon"

Miami Lighthouse announced two new challenges at the annual See the Light Luncheon held at The Biltmore Hotel on October 27th. The Wildflower Foundation challenge encourages support for our year-round music and tactile art programs, which improve employment opportunities and provide social support for our visually impaired children and adults. The Family Foundation challenge will lend support to sustaining our Miami Lighthouse Academy for visually impaired early learners through 2nd grade and our inclusion model Pre-K, which enrolls visually impaired and sighted early learners.

Nearly 300 guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and watched a fascinating program led by Emcee Marissa Bagg, NBC-6 Journalist. A heartwarming musical performance of "Three Little Birds" was sung by our adorable early learners from our Miami Lighthouse Academy. Jason Eckert, Executive Director at Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation, gave an inspiring Keynote speech, urging attendees to be bold and stand up for the rights of the blind and visually impaired. The call to action continued with the parent testimonial presented by Ali Mandsaurwala, Miami

Lighthouse Board Director whose daughter Naaya attends our Miami Lighthouse Academy. Ali shared the many ways, big and small, in which the audience can help make a difference at Miami Lighthouse.



*Miami Lighthouse Academy Students perform "Three Little Birds"*



*Emcee Marissa Bagg, NBC-6 Journalist with Miami Lighthouse Board Director Ali Mandsaurwala*



*Jason Eckert, Executive Director Reader's Digest Partners for Sight Foundation with CEO Virginia Jacko*

The event raised over \$200,000 which will be matched dollar for dollar by the two challenges. Sponsors for this year's luncheon included Northern Trust Bank, NEA Insurance Group, The H. Angela Whitman Foundation, TD Bank, DEX Imaging and Norma Jean Abraham.

## **You Can Help Make a Difference**

*We rely heavily on the generosity of individual supporters to help us transform the lives of over 90,000 blind and visually impaired individuals, from babies to seniors, and their families each year.*

Support art and music at Miami Lighthouse and join the **NEW Wildflower Foundation Matching Challenge for Music and Arts** by making a [donation today](#).

Help us sustain critical classes in our Miami Lighthouse Academy for early learners and join the **NEW Sustainability Matching Challenge from The Family Foundation** by making a [donation today](#).

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## **White Cane Day is a major success!**

Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> marked another highly successful National White Cane Day Walk for Miami Lighthouse. More than 150 advocates for White Cane Safety Laws joined us in our walk through the streets of Miami's Calle Ocho. This iconic street symbolizes the many achievements of our community just as the "white cane" stands as the symbol of independence for the blind and visually impaired. Like accessible technology, the white cane is an essential tool that gives blind people the ability to achieve full and independent lives. It allows us to move freely and safely from place to place—whether it's at work, at school, or around our communities.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate our successes through in-kind donations, event support, sponsorship, and more, including: our emcee Jammin' Johnny Caride from EL ZOL 106.7 FM, lunch sponsor McDonald's, Uber, Florida Blue Medicare, OrCam, Meraki Wellness & Healing Inc., Vispero, Tracfone, Tropical Financial Credit Union, Ambutech, 2VDG Jane Colona and many others.



*2022 Miami Lighthouse White Cane Day Walk*

### **In the News:**

- [Miami Herald, October 20, 2022 – "70 percent of blind adults are unemployed. Miami Lighthouse is helping to change that"](#)
- [NBC6 News, October 14, 2022 – "Celebrating and Commemorating White Cane Day"](#)
- [Atlanta News First, October 7, 2022 – "Georgia campaigns fail to meet digital requirements for the visually impaired"](#)

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*Contributed by Joan Spector*

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