



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Batter up! Music students get a "touch" tour of Miami Marlins Park

Miami Lighthouse summer music students got to experience the sounds and smells of Marlins Park on July 30th, as guests of the Marlins Foundation and Marlins Ayudan. In addition to the hands on tour of the park, the kids were invited to stay and enjoy the ball game as the Miami Marlins took on the Washington Nationals. Miami Lighthouse is a past Charity Partner of the Marlins Foundation and the recipient of over \$50,000 in donations to underwrite the cost of providing vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses to underserved inner city school children through the Heiken Children's Vision Program.

You can read or listen to WLRN's story "'Touch Tour' Lets Blind Students Feel Their Way Through Marlins Park" [here](#).



Click to watch WSVN Channel 7 News story "Visually-impaired students tour Marlins Park"

It's summer and that means the kids are keeping busy at Miami Lighthouse!

Lighthouse Teenagers are "Lovin' McDonalds"

Despite being blind or visually impaired, our Transition Program teenagers enjoyed the rare opportunity this summer to have a "hands on, back of the house" tour of a McDonald's restaurant kitchen. Thanks to the Montes Family, owners of the McDonald's located at 1400 SW 8th Street just a few blocks from Miami Lighthouse, 20 of our Transition teens learned about cleanliness and hygiene as they toured the restaurant's storage area and got a chilly experience in the facility's freezer which is kept at 10 degrees below zero.

During the multi-sensory journey, the students even got to assemble (and eat!) their favorite McDonald's meal, from the Big Mac to the brand new Premium Asian Salad with Grilled Chicken. By experiencing the process of making food through touch and interaction, the students once again were made aware "that it's possible to see without sight."



Miami Lighthouse Transition Teenagers with Jose, Kristina and Melissa Montes outside their 8th Street McDonalds in Miami.

Our Heiken Children's Vision Program is featured in Florida Blue Newsletter

Florida Blue Foundation's July-August e-newsletter focused on Vision Care in Miami Dade County, noting that 53% of children living in poverty have uncorrected vision problems that interfere with reading, writing and classroom learning. Ninety percent of children who need eyeglasses don't have them and 74% of adolescents have undetected vision problems.

The article noted that during the 2013-2014 school year, Miami Lighthouse's Heiken Program provided 8,700 underserved children with comprehensive eye exams; 7,700 required and received prescription glasses at no cost to the families. In addition to the important school program, Miami Lighthouse offers a full range of vision rehabilitation services and programs for blind and visually impaired babies, children, adults and seniors suffering from age-related vision loss, as a means of helping everyone to lead independent and productive lives.

Mayor Regalado receives a Braille thank you note

Our summer camp kids got a treat recently when City of Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado spent a morning at the Miami Lighthouse, learning about our various programs. After enjoying time with our Senior Group Health & Activities clients, the Mayor was introduced to a group of our young STAR summer camp participants. He was delighted when one of the students read him a note of appreciation that he had written in Braille, especially for His Honor. Despite being totally blind, this student, like many of the others in the group, has become an avid reader and writer thanks to the emphasis we place on Braille literacy in our Summer Training & Recreation curriculum. Many of these students will go on to enter the South Florida Braille Challenge and take honors in divisions ranging from Novice to Junior High School.

Thanks, Mayor Regalado. The kids loved meeting you and can't stop talking about it!!



Contributed by Joan Spector

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS of the LIGHTHOUSE
Visionaries of Tomorrow

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE CHICKEN CHAMPIONSHIP WING EATING CONTEST

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
CONTEST STARTS AT 8:00 PM

BATCH GASTROPUB
30 SW 12TH STREET
MIAMI, FL 33130
305.808.5555

\$20 DONATION FOR SPECTATORS \$50 ENTRY FOR COMPETITORS
ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE MUSIC PROGRAM

RECEIVE ONE COMPLIMENTARY DRINK AND HAPPY HOUR PRICING

HOST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

KENT BENEDICT	PABLO GONZALEZ	ALI SOULE
BRIDGET DESENO	ELIAS G. PATSALOS	VITTORIO VALENTI
JACKIE GALVEZ	KATHY SALERNO	

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