

A Booklet of Letters of Appreciation

March 2009



Each Month

600 Miami-Dade County Public Schoolchildren

Receive Free Eye Care From

Miami Lighthouse Heiken Children's Vision Program

<http://www.miamilighthouse.org/HeikenFund.asp>



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

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February 12, 2009

Ms. Virginia A. Jacko
President and Chief Executive Officer
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Inc.
601 Southwest 8th Avenue
Miami, FL 33130

Dear Ms. Jacko:

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Division of Student Services is pleased to submit this letter of support on behalf of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. They have provided a strong commitment to the needs of our student by providing comprehensive eye examinations and eyeglasses free of charge to financially disadvantaged children who have failed the state-mandated vision screening and whose parents are unable to afford and/or access eye care services.

After the screening is performed by Health Connect in Our Schools and Miami-Dade Public Schools, we refer children to the Miami Lighthouse Heiken Children's Vision Program, the only provider of comprehensive eye examinations of children who fail the screening.

We support the mission of the Miami Lighthouse Heiken Children's Vision Program. We look forward to continued collaboration with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind who provides excellent services to the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Montilla, District Director
Division of Student Services

DAM:lg
L114/08-09

cc: Ms. Ava Byrne
Ms. Wilma Steiner



Office of the Mayor City of North Miami

Kevin A. Burns
Mayor

August 29, 2008

Dear Community Partner:

This letter is to express my heartfelt thanks for your outstanding collaboration, dedication and commitment in the 2008-2009 Community Back to School "Health and Education Fair" hosted by the City of North Miami Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with W.J. Bryan Elementary School, The Office of Senator Frederica Wilson, The Office of Representative Ronald Brisé, Miami Dade County Health Department, The Children's Trust and Miami-Dade College School of Nursing on Saturday, August 30, 2008.

I am honored and truly grateful to recognize dedicated Community Partners such as yourself for your valuable contribution in helping increase awareness of healthcare and related issues in our community through education and prevention.

The event provided useful medical screening and was an enjoyable and successful community outreach experience. The necessary leadership you provide makes a significant and positive impact on the lives of the most needy and vulnerable city residents and the surrounding neighborhoods. *The City of North Miami and its Community Partners are proud to acknowledge AETNA foundation "Title Sponsor" of the 2008-2009 Community Back to School Health and Education Fair*

Again thank you for your effective and remarkable partnership. We welcome any suggestions you may have to help us better prepare for our next Community Health and Resource Fair.

Please feel free to contact our Health Fair Organizer, Hebert Jules, Community Outreach Coordinator or Andrea Ramos, Special Events Supervisor at 305-895-9840 x12227.

Cordially,

Kevin Burns
Mayor



Principal

Milagros Maytin-Miret

September 29, 2008

Ms. Carmen Arguijo
Heiken Program Coordinator
Miami Lighthouse
601 Southwest 8th Ave.
Miami, Fl. 33130

Dear Ms. Arguijo:

August 30th, 2008 was an unforgettable day for the Community of North Miami. Indeed, W. J. Bryan Elementary School located at 1201 NE 125th Street in North Miami, in conjunction with the City of North Miami Parks and Recreation Department, hosted the 2nd Annual Community "Back to School" Health and Education Fair. The invitation was extended to all residents of North Miami, schools in the North Central Regional Center and surrounding neighborhoods. This significant event would not have been possible without the strong leadership of our community partners, their dedication and the willingness to serve a population of mostly disadvantaged and low income families.

We would like to express our special thanks and recognize the support of Senator Frederica Wilson, State Representative Ronald Brise, Commissioner Dorrin D. Rolle, Mayor Kevin Burns, Councilman Scott Galvin, Councilman Michael R. Blynn, Parks and Recreation Director Terry Lyttle, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Geimer, The Florida Lottery, General Surgeon of the State of Florida Ana Viamonte Ros, Administrator of Miami Dade County Health Department Lilliane Rivera, Director of Communication and Legislative Affairs for Miami Dade County Health Department Olga Connor, Lieutenant Pat Santangelo FHP, Miami Dade College School of Nursing Marie Etienne, President of HANA Marlene Cesar, the Children's Trust and the *Aetna Foundation as the event sponsor*.

This partnership resulted in a rich community experience beyond our expectations. Approximately four thousand people; parents, students, teachers, and community members were in attendance. They had the opportunity to visit about sixty seven providers/partners/sponsors who responded with enthusiasm to the invitation. The positive feedback received confirms that visitors were delighted with the services received in physical exams, dental and eyes exams, asthma, obesity, cholesterol testing, hepatitis, blood pressure, glucose, breast cancer screenings, immunization, family planning, counseling and substance abuse just to mention a few of the services provided.

Furthermore, the visitors received a tremendous amount of free materials such as school supplies, book bags, fruits and other foods. These items are well deserved for a community that is in such need of not only health care services, but also school related items.

Once more, we are so pleased that this experience was a huge success. We commend the effort of every single member of this community, especially Mr. Hebert Jules, Community Outreach Coordinator from the City of North Miami who made it possible by proving that partnering with each others makes us stronger. We look forward for a continued partnership.

Sincerely,


Milagros Maytin-Miret, Principal


Darfelle Darucaud, CIS

W. J. BRYAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1201 N. E. 125th Street • North Miami, Florida 33161

305-891-0602 • Fax 305-895-4708 • <http://wjbryan.dadeschools.net>

January 25, 2009

Dear Miami Lighthouse Heiken Children's Vision Program,

I am Lennie Chyn Adaza and I received a pair of glasses from your program. These new glasses helped me see something far better and clearer. My old glasses have been with me for 3 years and they became blurry by the minute. Who knew vision could be really worse after a long period? I did not even notice it. When I heard about the vision screening, I was determined to get new glasses. Thank you very much for helping me see much better and helping me get through these days with these new glasses. I hope that the next time I see you will be soon and that you could provide me with better vision again. Thanks again! Keep up the great work you people are doing. God Bless!

Sincerely yours,
Lennie Chyn Adaza
Lennie

THANK YOU!

Dear Helen Memorial
Fund,

Thank you so
much for my beautiful
brand new glasses. It
is wonderful to be
able to see the board
now in my class.

Love,
Tyasha

Dear Miami Lighthouse Heikeh Children's
Vision Program. I am so glad you gave
me these glasses. I can see much
better now what my teacher
writes on the board. Keep on
the great work you are doing
with the kids thank you

Love
Miriam

1/20/09

To a Heiken vision program

I would like to thank you for an opportunity to receive my glasses. Because without them I would probably still have trouble seeing the board from far away or any sign from a far place. I would be struggling to see words on paper or pictures on television, if I had not received my glasses.

Another reason why I am happy and thankful to receive my glasses is because now I can view my computer and television from any position and see it clearly. And now when I do my home work or class work I don't struggle to see the words, letters, or numbers that are small.

In conclusion this is why I write my letter of thanks to : Miami Lighthouse Heiken Childrens vision program.

From : Priscette

Thank You!



Dear Heiten
Fund

I never knew how
my eyes were till I
got eyeglasses. Every-
thing looks so clear,
it's great. I really
appreciate it.

Best wishes,
Ruth

1/22/08

Dear Miami lighthouse for the blind,

Thank you for the glasses I recieved. Since I've recieved those glasses I've been able to see the board much better. My glasses have helped me do better in all of my worst classes. Also since I recieved my glasses I never have to squint my eyes again. Thank you very much!!

Sincerely,

Melissa