



## **“Miami Lighthouse for the Blind” One Noble Organization**



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Since 1931, The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind has offered rehabilitation services for those affected by uncorrectable vision loss. Throughout its history, this important organization has responded to the growth of a community in need of its services.

Its facility, in the heart of Little Havana, is still located in what was once a small single story house and is now a state-of-the-art, 37,000 square-foot facility. Under the direction of its President Virginia A. Jacko, the Miami Lighthouse has experienced rapid growth in recent years, and the number of participants in its program has increased 500%, especially children and seniors. As the need for the services offered by this generous organization continues to grow, all of us should come together as a unified community and support the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind.

Vision is a gift and one of the most important tools we have to interact and understand the world that surrounds us. Without vision, a person has to learn almost everything in a different manner. The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind helps its program participants transition to independence and has become a strong voice for those who are visually impaired. Many of its programs are free and are designed to meet the needs of all from a summer camp program for children to the vocational rehabilitation program for adults and social activities group for seniors.

In addition to offering emotional and vision rehabilitation therapy to persons facing visual impairments, the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind focuses its efforts on early detection of visual problems for the entire community. The Miami Lighthouse Heiken Children’s Vision program offers free eye exams and glasses to needy students in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools system.

I recently visited the facility at the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, and I was able to witness the positive impact that the participation in the programs offered by this commendable institution has in the lives of the children and adults affected by vision loss. I know that this nationally recognized Center of Excellence in Vision Rehabilitation will continue to expand its programs to meet the growing need in our community, and I have taken the necessary steps in Congress to support them and other similar causes.

As a member of the Central Committee on Vision in Congress, I was one of the first to co-sponsor the law for Vision Care for Children, which has as its objective early detection and prevention of visual impairments. The incidence of vision loss continues to increase, and as a consequence there is an increased demand from the public who need support for preventive measures such as early detection and access to treatment.

For more information visit [www.miamilighthouse.org](http://www.miamilighthouse.org) or call 305-856-2288.