



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 75  
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## New Centner Family Matching Challenge to Help Our Families

In honor of David's father, Mr. and Mrs. David Centner have created the Dr. Herman Centner Matching Challenge for Family Security. The Challenge will match dollar for dollar contributions to Miami Lighthouse up to \$25,000. Many of our families, 87% of whom reside in zip codes defined as poverty zones, have been financially impacted by the pandemic and are experiencing food and/or shelter insecurity as well as job loss as a result.

Gifts made to this fund will be earmarked for families of children in our Lighthouse Learning Center who are struggling to make ends meet during this difficult time. To make a contribution click here: [Dr. Herman Centner Matching Challenge for Family Security.](#)



*David and Leila Centner, Founders of Centner Academy, the world's first school dedicated to mindfulness education*

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## **Miami Alumnae Chapter of Delta Gamma provides meals from Perricone's Marketplace to needy families with blind or visually impaired children**

In response to growing economic distress surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, we received a generous financial donation from the Miami Alumnae Chapter of Delta Gamma. Perricone's Marketplace & Café and Sullivan Street Bakery prepared meals for our needy families and the event was featured on [CBS-4](#) and [FOX News](#).

"We appreciate the opportunity to bring comfort through good Italian food to others during these times," said Steven Perricone, owner of the restaurant and bakery. Lauren Firtel, Vice President of Philanthropy with the Miami DGs, added that her chapter is proud to support Miami Lighthouse's Family Security Fund because it makes a difference for those who are visually impaired and their loved ones at a time when so many people are already challenged by unemployment and economic adversity.



*Miami Lighthouse Family receives meals (photos courtesy of David Stiefel, Great Communicators)*



*Isabel Chica, Director of Children's Programs; Steven Perricone, owner of Perricone's Marketplace; Amber Seidle Lazo and family, representing Miami's Delta Gamma Alumna Chapter; and Cameron Sisser, Vice President for External Relations deliver food to families in need Lighthouse*

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## **Our Florida Heiken Program provides free eye exams in partnership with Miami Kids Magazine**

Saturday, August 22nd was a remarkable day here at Miami Lighthouse. That's when Miami Kids Magazine joined with our subsidiary, The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, to provide free eye exams and glasses to disadvantaged children in preparation for Back to School.

Appointments were set up for 50 students to receive eye exams and glasses when prescribed. We even had a special visit from SHARKY, the Miami Kids Magazine mascot! Thank you to Miami Kids Magazine Publisher Karla Richey for partnering with us on this special event, to Florida Blue for providing giveaways and our eye doctors for making a difference in our community!



*SHARKY, The Miami Kids Magazine mascot*



*Miami Lighthouse Board Director, Scott Richey & Publisher of Miami Kids Magazine, Karla Richey*

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## Miami Lighthouse receives TD Bank Charitable Foundation grant to help seniors in isolation during COVID-19



### **Charitable Foundation**

The TD Charitable Foundation recently provided funding through their Connected Communities Initiative for our Senior Group and Health Activities Program (SGA). The funding helps 150 older adults (age 55+) with significant and uncorrectable vision loss, develop their independence, build connections, practice a healthy lifestyle and prevent social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic through arts and crafts, music, exercise and health and nutrition monitoring both in-home and virtually. TD Bank was also instrumental in securing critical Payroll Protection Program funding for Miami Lighthouse.

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## Miami Lighthouse Featured on CNN en Español

CNN en Español recently featured our Miami Lighthouse's mission to help provide opportunities and generate independence for our blind participants. Check out how our summer programs, both on-campus and virtually, are impacting the lives of so many during this crisis.

[Click the video to enjoy the CNN en Español segment!](#)



*CNN en Español segment titled,  
"A mission to make blind people independent"*

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## In the News:

[Patch, August 5, 2020 - "Coral Gables Museum Celebrates 90th Anniversary Of Miami Lighthouse For The Blind With Exhibit"](#)

[Today's Grocers, August 1, 2020 - "America's Grocers Take the Lead in Ensuring Virtual Access for The Blind"](#)

[PRWeek, July 30, 2020 - "'PRWeek US Awards 2020: The Winners" Miami Lighthouse wins Non-profit Award"](#)

[Read more!](#)

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*Contributed by Joan Spector*

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