

Mission Statement

To provide vision rehabilitation, eye health services and education that promote independence, to collaborate with and train professionals, and to conduct research in related fields.

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Our New Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™



Architect's rendering of the 2017 Miami Lighthouse Campus

The groundbreaking ceremony for our new Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ was held on August 3rd in collaboration with leading design and building professionals Wolfberg Alvarez & Partners and Munilla Construction Management. Elected officials, civic leaders and education professionals, as well as Miami Lighthouse Board Directors and other supporters were in attendance. The new facility has been made possible by private donations in response to a challenge grant from a local philanthropist.



**LIGHTHOUSE
LEARNING CENTER
FOR CHILDREN™**

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED



Left to right: City of Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado; Thomas Abraham, Anthony R. Abraham Foundation; Senator Gwen Margolis; Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen; Mrs. Spencer; Chairman of the Board Ramón Casas; CEO Virginia Jacko; Representative David Richardson; Marcel Morlote, Wolfberg Alvarez & Partners; Jorge Munilla, Munilla Construction Management; and Richard Krasno representing The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust

Of the approximately 8,000 charities evaluated each year by Charity Navigator, Miami Lighthouse is ranked among the top 2% in the nation and is the only nonprofit in Miami with eight consecutive 4-star ratings.



Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends of Miami Lighthouse,

Committed to excellence, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired is pleased and proud to share the following three recent accomplishments.

First, The Children's Trust recognized our Blind Babies Early Intervention Program as 2016 Children's Program of the Year chosen from hundreds of nominations throughout Miami-Dade County.

Second, in August, we launched our pre-kindergarten pilot program with five blind children and four of their sighted peers. Our goal is to level the academic playing field for these children so they are prepared to enter our school system.

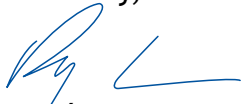
Third, construction has begun on our new Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™. Adjacent to our main building, this new facility will have five classrooms for blind and visually impaired children from birth through age six. Our new Learning Center is scheduled to open fall semester 2017, and we look forward to your joining us for our building dedication.

This newsletter contains photographs and additional information about these accomplishments and more.

Achieving excellence would not be possible without the dedicated supporters who invest in Miami Lighthouse, our programs and our facilities. Thank you for your commitment which enables blind and visually impaired persons of all ages to increase their opportunities for independent, productive, and fulfilling lives.

As we celebrate 85 years of service to the blind, we count on your continuing support.

Sincerely,



Ramón F. Casas
Chairman, Board of Directors



Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors

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Board Kudos

Board Director **Donna Abood**, Principal and Managing Director, Avison Young, was featured in the July/August issue of the *Real Estate Forum's* "2016 Women of Influence," which profiled women whose achievements have helped shape the commercial real estate industry by significantly influencing the market or having had outstanding successes in the past year.

85th Anniversary Pre-Event

Miami Lighthouse Celebrates 85th Anniversary with Launch of Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired previewed its 85th Diamond Anniversary Celebration on March 8th, 2016 with a special “thank you” to the family foundations, charitable trusts and major donors who have made it possible to reach \$8 million in capital funding for the launch of our innovative Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™. Our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ is being built on the grounds of the existing Miami Lighthouse complex. It will provide five classrooms for daily services for children from birth through age six, including a pre-kindergarten for three- and four-year-old visually impaired children and their sighted peers. Our pre-kindergarten is being piloted in existing instructional space this fall in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Early Learning Coalition.

The pre-event, hosted by Northern Trust, was highlighted by the screening of a new video that traces the remarkable trajectory of our 85-year-old award winning organization from its modest beginnings to its role today as a national Center of Excellence in vision rehabilitation.



*John Fumagalli, President,
Northern Trust Bank*

Miami Lighthouse 85th Diamond Anniversary Celebration Host Committee

- Ali and Ray Casas, Co-Chairs
- Janet and Louis Nostro, Co-Chairs
- Nancy and Jon Batchelor
- Julia and Bill Beckham
- Trish and Dan Bell
- Ana Maria de la Fe
- Swanee and Paul DiMare
- Ana and Tony Figueroa Cisneros
- Sara and John Fumagalli
- Pam Garrison
- Migna and Rene Gonzalez-Llorens
- Anne Helliwell
- Ana M. and Arturo V. Hernandez
- Jan and William Morrison
- Jackie and Jorge Munilla
- Sue and Alan Nichols
- Olga and Chuck Nielson
- Susan Kelley and Bill Roy
- Shelley Daniel Rutherford
- Mary Spencer
- Penny and Roe Stamps
- Angela Whitman



*CEO Virginia Jacko and
Board Director Jan Morrison*



*85th Diamond Anniversary Celebration
Committee Co-Chairs Board Chair Ramón
Casas, Ali Casas, Board Chair-Elect
Louis Nostro and Janet Nostro*



*Jon and Nancy Batchelor, CEO Virginia Jacko,
Trish and Dan Bell*

85th Diamond Anniversary Host Committee members Jan Morrison, Penny Stamps, Trish Bell, Nardis Kellar, Susan Kelley, Angela Whitman, Sara Fumagalli, Pam Garrison, Virginia Jacko, Nancy Batchelor, Shelley Rutherford, Olga Nielson, Janet Nostro, Ana M. Hernandez, Ana Maria de la Fe, Jackie Munilla, and Ana Figueroa-Cisneros at a luncheon underwritten by Jan Morrison and Shelley Rutherford. Jackie Munilla is also chair of the auction committee that is soliciting donations for the 85th celebration at the Biltmore on January 28th.



Events

McCrea Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

In the spirit of Valentine's Day Miami Lighthouse took time to say, "Thank you," to our volunteers at our annual McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Luncheon held on February 12th. This year's honorees include American Express, AB&A Advertising, Delta Gamma Beta Tau Chapter, and Lions for the Blind, with a special thank you to our Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors and Legal Counsel. Our guests and honorees were treated to beautiful musical tributes by our Music Program musicians and singers Natalia Sulca and Dan Johnson, with two special violin solos by Sofia Causa-Dumay, a Transition student.



Miami Lighthouse Board Directors (left to right): Pablo Gonzalez, José A. Abrante, Board Chair Ramón Casas, CEO Virginia Jacko, Louis Nostro, Esq., Legal Counsel René J. González-Llorens, Esq., Honorary Director David B. McCrea, and Stephen Morris, O.D.

Thank you to the McCrea family for their continued support and to David B. McCrea for his inspiring words he shared at the event about the spirit of volunteerism.

Music Under the Stars

Our annual Music Under the Stars event benefitting our Heiken Children's Vision Program was held at the historic Koubek Center. Emceed by radio icon Jade Alexander of 102.7 The Beach, the evening honored the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation as well as the optometric community's continuing leadership of our Heiken Program with special recognition of our two Board Directors Alan P. Levitt, O.D., and Stephen A. Morris, O.D. Music was provided by special guest Charles "Mr. Casual" DeChant of Hall and Oates and our talented Music Program musicians. The funds raised will enable our Heiken Children's Vision Program to provide approximately 550 free comprehensive eye examinations and glasses when prescribed for low-income schoolchildren who have no resources for eye care.

We express our gratitude to event sponsors including ABB Optical Group, Ophelia and Juan Roca, Publix Super Markets Charities, Baptist Health South Florida, JM Private Insurance, Signet Armorlite, Genesis Consulting, Gray-Robinson PA, Aetna and Essilor Laboratories of America among others. Additional sponsors include El Carajo, Perricone's, Brazilian Grill and Catering, Trader Joe's, Walgreens, Whisk, Sports Grill, Dr. Barry N. Burak of Affiliated Healthcare Centers, the Koubek Center, Monster Sound and 102.7 The Beach.



Jose Diaz of Robert M. Levy and Associates accepts tribute painting in memory of Bob Levy. Left to right: Event Emcee Jade Alexander, U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, CEO Virginia Jacko, Florida State Senator Anitere Flores, Jose Diaz and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman

Events

Yappy Hour: An Event for People and Dogs

This year's Yappy Hour took place on March 22 on the spacious outdoor patio of Apeiro Kitchen & Bar in Midtown Miami. The event was attended by nearly 100 guests and approximately 40 dogs of every size and breed. Giveaways included doggie bandanas featuring Britto's Azul as well as doggie tote bags with lots of canine goodies. Prizes were awarded for the most talented dog and best dog/owner look alike. We thank our generous sponsors: Apeiro Kitchen & Bar, Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, GrayRobinson PA, MAPFRE Insurance, Knowles Animal Clinics, BizSolutions, Absolute Graphics, and Susan Conroy Design.



Board Director Jan Morrison, Commissioner Sally Heyman, CEO Virginia Jacko; Rear: Honorary Board Director Shelley Daniel Rutherford at this year's Yappy Hour

Ninth Annual Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Reception at Miami Lighthouse

On August 31, more than 50 faculty, residents and fellows from Bascom Palmer Eye Institute gathered for an informative evening at Miami Lighthouse. Dr. Eduardo C. Alfonso, Chair of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, was in attendance with his faculty members. Guests toured the Miami Lighthouse facility learning about the variety of vision rehabilitation programs we offer, assistive devices and services available in our Low Vision Center.

A welcome presentation was given by Miami Lighthouse Board Director Sander R. Dubovy, M.D., Victor T. Curtin Professor of Ophthalmology, on "Continuing the Dream of Dr. Bascom Palmer through Collaboration." Virginia A. Jacko, President & CEO of Miami Lighthouse, talked to



Dr. Eduardo C. Alfonso, Chair of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Board Director Thomas E. Johnson, M.D., Virginia A. Jacko, President & CEO, and Board Director Sander R. Dubovy, M.D.

the participants about how Miami Lighthouse has provided hope, confidence and independence to the blind and visually impaired community for 85 years. To conclude the evening Miami Lighthouse Board Director Thomas E. Johnson, M.D., Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, gave a presentation about his patients with prosthetic eyes and their rehabilitation at Miami Lighthouse. We thank Bascom Palmer Eye Institute for their continued collaboration with Miami Lighthouse.

2nd Annual Chicken Wing Eating Contest Raises Funds for Miami Lighthouse Music Program

Our recent Chicken Championship Wing Eating Contest, hosted by the Young Professionals of the Lighthouse, was a smashing success! Held at Batch Gastropub in Brickell, 50 young professionals came together for a fun evening of networking, learning about Miami Lighthouse and wing eating, all the while raising funds and awareness for our Music Program. Thank you to our Young Professionals of the Lighthouse co-chairs Will Beckham, Kent Benedict, and Pablo Gonzalez.

Awards and Recognitions

Miami Lighthouse Early Intervention Blind Babies Program Named 2016 Program of the Year by the Children's Trust



Among the many hundreds of children's programs in Miami-Dade County, Miami Lighthouse's Early Intervention Blind Babies Program was named 2016 Program of the Year by The Children's Trust. This most prestigious award recognized our Early Intervention Program, in particular for including parents as teachers. The event took place at The Children's Trust Champion for Children's Awards held at the Arsht Center. "The true Champions for Children are the parents of the more than one hundred blind babies and toddlers in our Blind Babies Program," said CEO Virginia Jacko in her acceptance speech. The Children's Trust Champions for Children Awards honor individuals and programs that have achieved greatness in their service to children and families.

Lily de Moya, Board Member, The Children's Trust, with Miami Lighthouse Chief Program Officer Carol Brady-Simmons, CEO Virginia Jacko and Director of Children's Programs Isabel Chica



The Children's Summer Program, Better Chance Music Program, Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program and Early Intervention Program are funded in part by The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County.

Miami Lighthouse Wins Silver Medal at *Miami Today's* Awards Ceremony

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired received the Silver Medal Award from *Miami Today* at its Annual Gold Medal Awards Ceremony. The Awards Ceremony is a community endeavor of *Miami Today* honoring three outstanding individuals and four organizations selected as best in their fields. The winners were chosen by eight community leaders voting as judges.

"Miami Lighthouse is extremely honored to have received the Silver Medal organizational award from *Miami Today*," said CEO Virginia Jacko.

"Miami Lighthouse was selected based on two past awards won by our organization, the coveted Sapphire Award from Florida Blue Foundation in recognition of our distinguished leadership, innovation and achievements in community health in Florida and the Beacon Council Distinguished Industry Award for Education."



Michael Lewis, editor and publisher of Miami Today; Joe Jimenez, Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at Codina Partners; Virginia Jacko, President & CEO, Miami Lighthouse, Ramón Casas, Chair, Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors

Awards and Recognitions

CEO Virginia Jacko Recognized as One of *South Florida Business Journal's* Influential Business Women

CEO Virginia Jacko was named to the *South Florida Business Journal's* Class of 2016 Influential Business Women. The honorees are influential business women who not only excel in their respective fields, but also contribute to their local communities.

Honorees at the South Florida Business Journal's Influential Business Women Luncheon



Florida Division of Blind Services Celebrates 75th Anniversary

As Miami Lighthouse celebrates its 85th anniversary, we were pleased to have joined the Division of Blind Services (DBS) in their celebration of 75 years of fostering independence for blind and visually impaired Floridians. At the ceremony, DBS Director Robert Lee Doyle III and Florida Department of Education Commissioner Pam Stewart presented CEO Virginia Jacko with the "Successful 75" award in recognition of her accomplishments as a former DBS vision rehabilitation client at Miami Lighthouse.



DBS Director Robert Lee Doyle III, CEO Virginia Jacko and Florida Department of Education Commissioner Pam Stewart



Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, co-chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus, toured Miami Lighthouse.



Board Chair Ramón Casas and CEO Virginia Jacko with Juan and Ophelia Roca. We expressed our appreciation to Juan and Ophelia Roca at the 2016 Philanthropy Miami/Donor Next Door Luncheon. Their generosity has been transformative for children at Miami Lighthouse.

Collaborations

Engaging the Low Vision Community through Education, Research, and Service

On June 4, 2016 Miami Lighthouse in collaboration with the Florida International University Nichole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences Occupational Therapy Department offered its fifth continuing education seminar for Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists. The goal of the seminar is to empower healthcare professionals with the knowledge they require to meet the needs of the growing number of patients who are impacted by vision loss.



Miami Lighthouse Director of Children's Programs Isabel Chica's presentation was entitled, "The Developing Child with Visual Impairment"

University of Miami President Julio Frenk Visits Miami Lighthouse

On August 24th, Dr. Julio Frenk, President of the University of Miami, toured our programs and explored innovative new partnerships between Miami Lighthouse, the University of Miami Frost School of Music, and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. We look forward to expanding collaborations and a bright future between the University of Miami and Miami Lighthouse for the Blind.



Frost School of Music Dean Shelton Berg, UM President Julio Frenk, Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia Jacko and Board Chair Ramón Casas, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Chair Dr. Eduardo Alfonso

Billy the Marlin says "Good Vision Helps Keep Your Eye on the Ball!"



The Miami Lighthouse's nationally recognized Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program enjoys an ongoing collaboration with the Miami Marlins Foundation, with mascot Billy the Marlin a favorite participant when we celebrate White Cane Day each October. Billy joined other dignitaries as a grand marshal of our 2016 White Cane Day walk.


FLORIDA HEIKEN
Children's Vision Program, LLC
FOUNDED 1992
A DIVISION OF MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR
THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED, INC.

Major League Baseball dignitaries including Thomas C. Brasuell, Vice President of Community Affairs and Alfredo Mesa, Vice President and Executive Director, Marlins Foundation, toured Miami Lighthouse.



Collaborations

Miami Lions Continue Their Tradition as “Founders” of Miami Lighthouse

We are incredibly grateful to the Lions Club of Miami and their Foundation for continuing the tradition started in the early 1930s when they purchased Miami Lighthouse’s first building—a 900-square-foot bungalow on our present site, which has expanded into our modern 55,000-square-foot facility. Members of the Lions Club of Miami presented Miami Lighthouse President and CEO Virginia Jacko a check for our Center of Excellence Campaign to create our new Lighthouse



Lions Henry Castro, Alan Campbell, Harry Magee, Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia Jacko, and Greg Werra, Chief Program Officer Carol Brady-Simmons and Lion Hector Ferrer

Learning Center for Children™. The Lions Club of Miami has also generously supported our Senior Group Health and Activities Program since it became part of Miami Lighthouse ten years ago, and club members actively support and participate in our Annual White Cane Day celebration.

CEO Jacko Guest Speaker at the Rotary Club of Miami 100 Year Celebration



Left to Right: Rotary Club of Miami Vice President and Treasurer Phil Seipp, Diane Landsberg, Miami Lighthouse Board Director Scott Richey, CEO Virginia Jacko, Rotary Club of Miami President Oliver Ruiz and Cathy Cahill

Miami Lighthouse’s relationship with the Rotary Club of Miami harkens back to 1931 when, along with the Miami Lions Club, it was instrumental in founding Miami Lighthouse with Rotarian Thomas Grady serving as our first Board Chair from 1931 to 1933. The Rotary Club of Miami has continued to support Miami Lighthouse since that time. At a recent meeting at which CEO Jacko was invited to speak, the Rotary Club of Miami presented her with a check. In accepting the donation,

Ms. Jacko spoke about the Rotary Club’s important role in Miami Lighthouse’s establishment 85 years ago and thanked them for their continued generosity.

Miami Herald Prints Important Op Ed Column Titled “Give Visually Impaired Better Internet Access”

The *Miami Herald*’s September 13 edition included CEO Virginia Jacko’s Op-Ed article, “Give visually impaired better internet access.” This article’s purposes included helping readers understand:

- Why companies and organizations should make their online services accessible to blind and visually impaired internet users.
- How including keyboard-enabled interfaces can make more digital content accessible.
- Services that Miami Lighthouse can provide to private and public organizations to increase accessibility of their website content.

Miami Lighthouse provides auditing services of private and public websites offering a full examination of coding and design, audits accessibility of website content, and tests for usability within that ensure accessibility of information on the monitor with keystroke commands utilizing screen-reading software. For more information on the website auditing services provided by Miami Lighthouse contact Virginia Jacko at 305-856-4176 or vjacko@miamilighthouse.org



Programs

Pre-Kindergarten Launched on August 22nd

As part of our new Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ we launched our pre-kindergarten for blind children and their sighted peers on August 22nd in existing classroom space. It is the only inclusion program in the United States for blind and typically developing children. The objective of our pre-kindergarten is to enhance all areas of child development—cognitive, communicative, daily living, orientation and mobility, sensory and motor—in order for these children to transition successfully to kindergarten. Our new pre-kindergarten will truly make a difference in these children’s lives by providing specialized early intervention and training to help “level the playing field” when these visually impaired children enter the school system.



Miami Lighthouse Transition Students Attend Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Fire Safety Demonstration

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired summer program students, ages 14 to 22, had the opportunity to take part in an exciting fire safety demonstration at Miami-Dade Fire Rescue’s training facility in Doral. Miami Lighthouse Transition students experienced fire extinguisher training, kitchen safety, a truck demonstration, and an anti-venom presentation. “Reinforcing pre-fire preparations, for instance, planning and practicing an escape plan in the event of an actual emergency, installing smoke alarms, and involving the Fire Department to help plan an escape route are very important safety lessons and even more so for our visually impaired students at Miami Lighthouse,” said CEO Virginia Jacko. We express our appreciation to former Miami-Dade County Fire Chief Ed Donaldson for arranging this educational opportunity for our students.



Transition student Christian at fire safety demonstration

Programs

Marlins Touch Tour and Beep Baseball Classic



Our Transition students participated in the Annual Beep Baseball Classic at Marlins Park on Monday, February 15th. Hosted by the Miami Marlins staff, the teenagers competed in two games of Beep Baseball, an adaptive version with auditory feedback of America's favorite pastime especially designed for the blind and visually impaired. The competitive and playful nature of the Beep Baseball Classic is a great example of Miami Lighthouse's motto, "It's possible to see without sight™."

In July the Miami Marlins hosted a "touch tour" for our Transition Students at Marlins Stadium. The students spent time with Marlins Catcher J.T. Realmuto in the dugout before our home team took on the Atlanta Braves. We express our appreciation to the Miami Marlins for partnering on such a wonderful and memorable experience.

Transition Students at 2016 Youth Fair

Thanks to Christian Infante, President of SFM, five MLB Transition students had an opportunity to gain work experience at the 2016 Youth Fair. Outfitted in bright orange SFM T-shirts, the students learned teamwork and the importance of keeping things neat and tidy when almost 100,000 people a day come visit the fair. Natalie Fabian, the SFM on-site manager, took special care of our students. SFM's commitment to our community and to the citizens it serves—including those with disabilities—is a shining example of outstanding corporate leadership.

SFM representative Natalie Fabian with Transition students Eric and Jeffrey

Ronald McDonald Performs for Music and Transition Students

Ronald McDonald visited our Music and Transition Programs during Spring Break. His message to the audience was to stay active and exercise daily in order to stay healthy. Everyone cheered as he performed, and several lucky students and staff members were chosen to participate in his act. We thank the Montes family, owner-operators of the McDonald's located at 1400 SW 8th Street, for making Ronald McDonald's visit possible. We are also grateful to Ronald McDonald House Charities for providing a grant in support of our Music Program.

Jeffrey "high fives" Ronald McDonald



Testimonial from a Proud Father of a Miami Lighthouse Student

Dear Mrs. Jacko:

My name is Yamil, and I am the proud father of Kaden, a student at the Miami Lighthouse. Kaden is 10 years old and has just been accepted to Miami Art Studio, the magnet middle school, where he will be able to continue through high school.

As the parent of a child who has been visually impaired due to ocular cancer as a toddler, I can't imagine what it would be like not having the Miami Lighthouse in our lives. You hold our hands and help us cross all of the important steps in our lives, truly everything, from Braille, the latest technology, parental support, even emotional support. Everyone on your team knows our family and is always available for us.

This summer Kaden was a participant in the Lighthouse program where he studied Braille Music. He is also enrolled in your Science and Technology Program where he will learn to use JAWS, the computer screen-reading software, on his iPad. In other words, he will learn everything I can't teach him to prepare him for middle school.

We live in the Redlands and travel one hour each way on Saturdays to come happily to the Lighthouse. During summer camp, the Lighthouse van picked Kaden up so I could leave for work early in the morning with his Mom who is a nurse. We know he really loves it at the Lighthouse because he has to get up at 5:30 to be there, and he never complains. You know a kid loves something when he awakes early on his own and is excited about the day.

My dream for Kaden is to be independent. These are the things I am talking about from my heart. His Mother and I want to thank you and your team from the bottom of our hearts. We will always be grateful for your important role in our son's life.

Sincerely, Yamil

*Kaden during field trip
to petting zoo*



Staff News

Chief Program Officer Carol-Brady Simmons on Panel at AER International Conference

Miami Lighthouse Chief Program Officer Carol Brady-Simmons, COMS, participated on a panel at the 2016 AER International Conference held in Jacksonville. The panel was entitled "The Argus II Retinal Chip Implant: Experiences of Professionals and Consumer." The presentation provided an overview of the Argus II retinal implant, the first commercially available system, and highlighted the challenges and opportunities for the consumer. Miami Lighthouse provided vision rehabilitation for the first person in Florida to receive this innovative optical device. Ms. Brady-Simmons spoke about vision rehabilitation techniques developed by Miami Lighthouse professional staff to teach the patient to use the highly complicated system. Our article "Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired Case Study: Vision Rehabilitation for the First Florida Resident to Receive the Argus II 'Bionic Eye,'" appeared in the May-June 2016 issue of the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*, which is available on our web site.

Staff News

John Clapp, Orientation and Mobility Instructor 2002-2016 Retires

John Clapp, Certified Orientation and Mobility Instructor at Miami Lighthouse since 2002 retired in September. During his tenure he taught many hundreds of visually impaired people how to use a white cane and safely navigate their environment. John also supervised scores of O&M interns from universities throughout the country who came to Miami Lighthouse for their practicum training. To commemorate his service Miami Lighthouse presented him a crystal lighthouse. John was a crucial member of the Miami Lighthouse family, and we will miss him. We wish him well as he enters this new phase of his life.

In Memorium

On January 12, 2016, **David W. Sime, M.D.**, passed away. Following his residency at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, he practiced ophthalmology in Miami and was a pioneer in Laser Eye Surgery. Dr. Sime provided ophthalmological evaluations to needy children, and in his memory the Dr. David W. Sime Eye Care Fund has been established by Ambassadors Sue and Charles Cobb and Scott and Belinda Sime to support free eye care for underserved children in Miami-Dade County. Contributions made to this fund will be earmarked for our Heiken Children's Vision Program. To make a donation in Dr. Sime's memory go to the "donate now" page on our web site: <https://secure.miamilighthouse.org/Donations.asp>

D. Richard Mead, Jr., passed away on February 28, 2016. He was a dedicated supporter of Miami and a community leader. Dick and his wife Ginger generously contributed to Miami Lighthouse, and he was a trustee of The James Deering Trust which has a long history of supporting our services for low vision seniors.

Victor T. Curtin, M.D., professor emeritus of ophthalmology at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, died March 9, 2016. Dr. Curtin was the first faculty member recruited for Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where he served for 57 years. Miami Lighthouse has collaborated with BPEI since it was founded. Dr. Bascom Palmer served as Miami Lighthouse Board chair from 1947 to 1952 and established a fund at Miami Lighthouse for the creation of an eye hospital in Miami. From this fund, by 1959 Miami Lighthouse had contributed \$305,000 of the half-million dollars need to construct BPEI. Through the perseverance of Dr. Edward Norton and Dr. Victor Curtin, BPEI opened its doors in 1962 after Dr. Palmer's death in 1954. Later, additional funds were allocated by Miami Lighthouse for construction of the Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital. A strong collaboration between Miami Lighthouse and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute continues today as both institutions are partners in transforming lives through vision rehabilitation.

Friend of Miami Lighthouse **Simon Hassine** passed away on March 13, 2016. Simon and his wife Michele's history of giving to Miami Lighthouse dates back to 2006. In 2011, they were among the elite donors recognized as Ruby Jubilarians who generously supported our 80th Anniversary commemoration.

On September 1, 2016, **Morris Broad** passed away. He devoted time to philanthropic activities, including the Shepard Broad Foundation that for many years has awarded grants to our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program to provide vision screenings, comprehensive eye examinations and glasses when required for students at the Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center in grades 2 and 4, grades which are not mandated for vision screening by the State of Florida.

NEW ONE-FOR-ONE MATCHING CHALLENGE

The Wildflower Foundation, Inc. is generously providing a one-for-one matching challenge for our donors. This \$150,000 annual challenge over four years will raise \$1.2 million in unrestricted program support. In 2004 we served nearly 500 clients; during fiscal year 2015 we served nearly 14,000—a 28-fold increase.

The Wildflower challenge will help us meet this growing demand for our services.



Of the approximately 8,000 charities evaluated each year by Charity Navigator, Miami Lighthouse is ranked among the top 2% in the nation and is the only nonprofit in Miami with eight consecutive 4-star ratings.





Diandre

A Special Word of Thanks

We would like to thank the many generous donors who responded to our summer appeal enabling us to provide nutritious morning and afternoon snacks as well as a hot lunch to our summer campers. We received the following note of appreciation at the end of this year's summer camp:

Dear Mrs. Virginia,

I would like to thank you for the wonderful summer camp at Miami Lighthouse. I enjoyed the literacy, the exciting field trips, and the delicious lunches. I hope to return to summer camp next year.

Love, Diandre


MIAMI
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for the **BLIND**
AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
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SAVE THE DATE!

85th Diamond Anniversary Celebration

January 28, 2017 at the Biltmore

McCrea Volunteer Luncheon

February 14, 2017 at Miami Lighthouse



LIVING WITH LOW VISION

WHAT IS LOW VISION?
Low vision is a visual loss not correctable by standard eyeglasses, contact lenses, medicine or surgery.

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE CAN HELP. . .
An optometrist specializing in low vision and a licensed occupational therapist can help by providing low vision assessments and recommending assistive devices such as low vision aids and equipment.

To schedule an appointment or if you need assistive devices call our Vision Solutions Center at 786-362-7479.
801 SW 8th Avenue • Miami, FL 33130
www.miamilighthouse.org

Miami Lighthouse

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305.856.2288 Fax. 305.285.6967

HOURS: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Miami Lighthouse Lantern Newsletter

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