



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 26 May 2016

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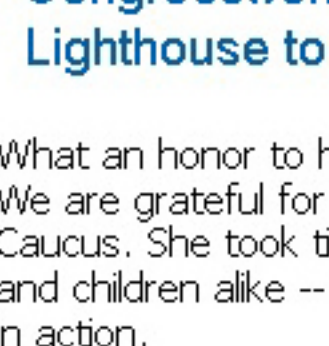
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## Music Under the Stars



Koubek Center  
2705 SW 3rd Street  
Miami, FL 33135

## Listen to Guest Performance of Hall & Oates' Top 100 Hits

Don't miss this year's exciting "Music Under The Stars" event benefiting free eye care for needy children through our Heiken Children's Vision Program taking place on May 4th from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the historic Koubek Center at 2705 SW 3rd Street.

If you are a Hall & Oates fan, you're in for a special treat with a performance by that award-winning group's Charles "Mr. Casual" DeChart on the saxophone and keyboard along with the talented Miami Lighthouse musicians, including Natalia Sulca, Miami Lighthouse music program alumna and Berklee College of Music graduate.



Charles DeChart, of Hall & Oates, will perform at this year's Music Under the Stars

If you haven't made your reservations already, call 786-362-7515. Space is limited!

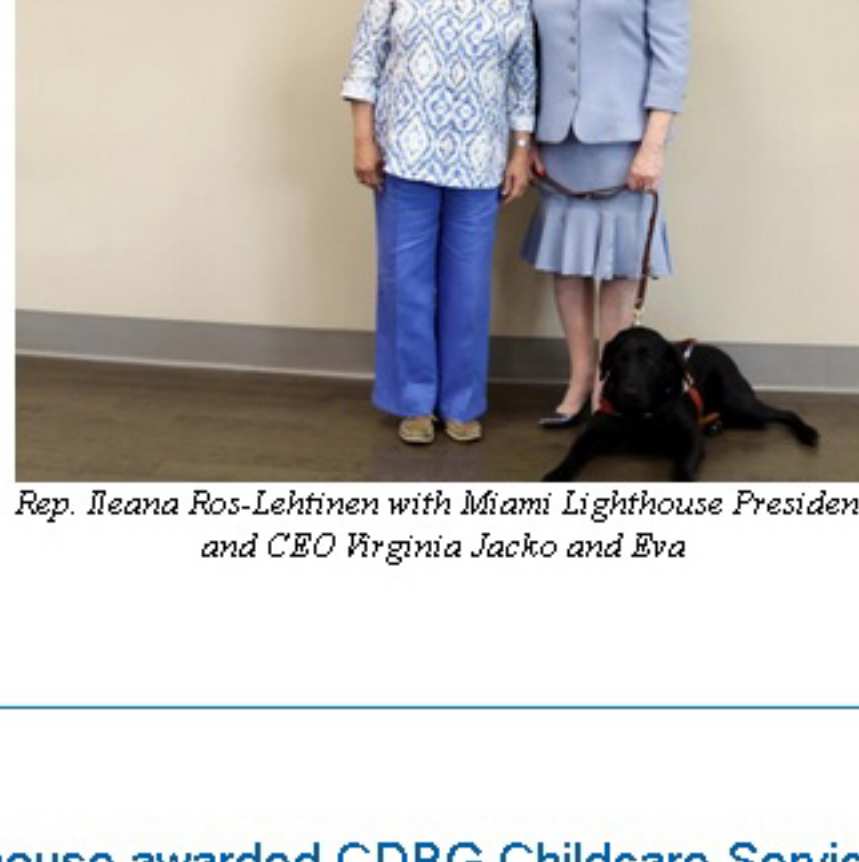
## Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen comes to Miami Lighthouse to meet Eva

What an honor to have Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen visit with us recently. We are grateful for her inspired leadership as the Co-chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus. She took time out from her busy schedule to speak with our clients -- adults and children alike -- and personally experience Miami Lighthouse's wonderful programs in action.



Hugo Meneses and May Luffino, clients in our Social Group Activities Program, meet with Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen

She also took particular pleasure in meeting Eva, CEO Virginia Jacko's new Guiding Eyes black Lab. Eva showed her appreciation for the Congresswoman's visit with lots of tail wags.



Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen with Miami Lighthouse President and CEO Virginia Jacko and Eva

## Miami Lighthouse awarded CDBG Childcare Services Program Grant

Wonderful news! Miami Lighthouse is the recipient of a \$5,000 award to be used specifically for childcare when we pilot our innovative Pre-Kindergarten program this coming fall semester. The letter announcing the award came from the City of Miami's Department of Community & Economic Development and is the gratifying result of an initiative by City Commissioner Frank Carroll.

Pre-kindergarten classes will follow the M-DCPS school calendar. This financing grant will provide underserved children with the much-needed day care before and after school so that their parents can get to work on time and stay the full work day.

## UM's Delta Gamma has a history with Miami Lighthouse

We love our Delta Gammas and for good reason. The University of Miami sorority has a long history of volunteering here at Miami Lighthouse going back to the beginning of both organizations. Most recently, current members of UM's Beta Tau Chapter dedicated a week in April for volunteer service at Miami Lighthouse.

Our clients of all ages enjoyed the youthful vibrancy and energy of these remarkable young women, and we deeply appreciate their ongoing commitment to Miami Lighthouse. Their tradition of philanthropy continued this academic year with proceeds from their annual Anchor Splash event of nearly \$12,000 once again being donated to support our rehabilitation services for the blind.



Delta Gamma Beta Tau Chapter volunteers with Miami Lighthouse President and CEO Virginia Jacko and her guide dog Eva

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

On April 14th 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 so that *Miami Today* may honor those that truly deserve recognition.

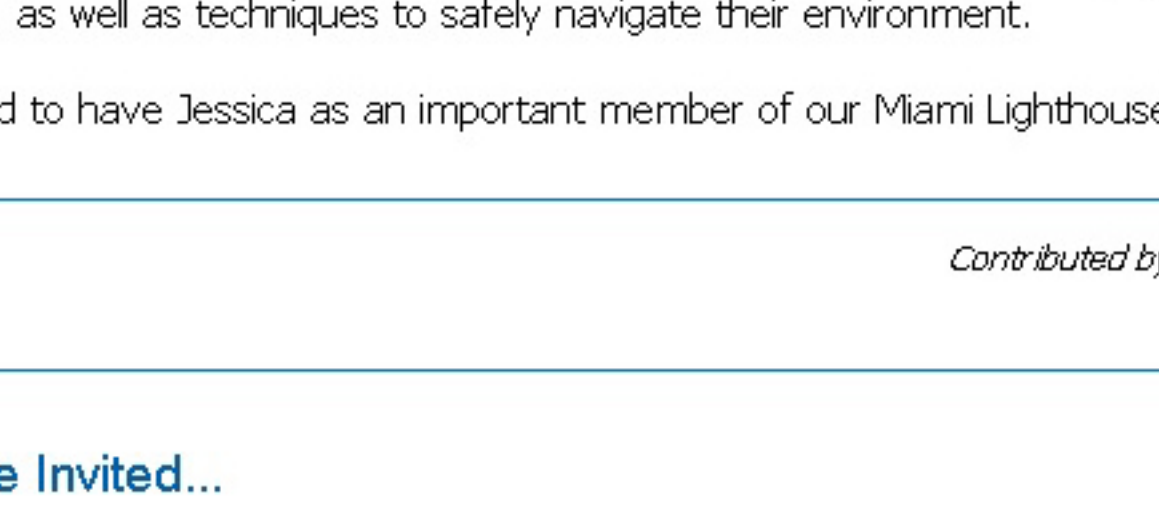


Left to Right: Michael Lewis, editor and publisher of Miami Today; Joe Jimenez, Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at Codina Partners; Virginia Jacko, President and CEO of Miami Lighthouse; and Ray Casas, Chair, Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors

"Miami Lighthouse is extremely honored to have received the Silver Medal organizational award from Miami Today," said CEO Virginia A. Jacko. "The criterion on which Miami Lighthouse was selected was based on two past awards won by our organization, one the Sapphire Award from Florida Blue Foundation and the other from the Beacon Council."

## Meet Jessica Alessio, Visual Rehabilitation Therapist

Jessica originally came to Miami Lighthouse for her internship in Orientation & Mobility as part her Master's Degree from the University of Massachusetts. She then finished her program and became certified through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals as an Orientation & Mobility Specialist. After completing her degree, Miami Lighthouse encouraged Jessica to continue her education and also pursue a Master's Degree as a Certified Visual Rehabilitation Therapist. Additional education for Miami Lighthouse professional staff is made possible by a grant from the Anthony R. Abraham Foundation.



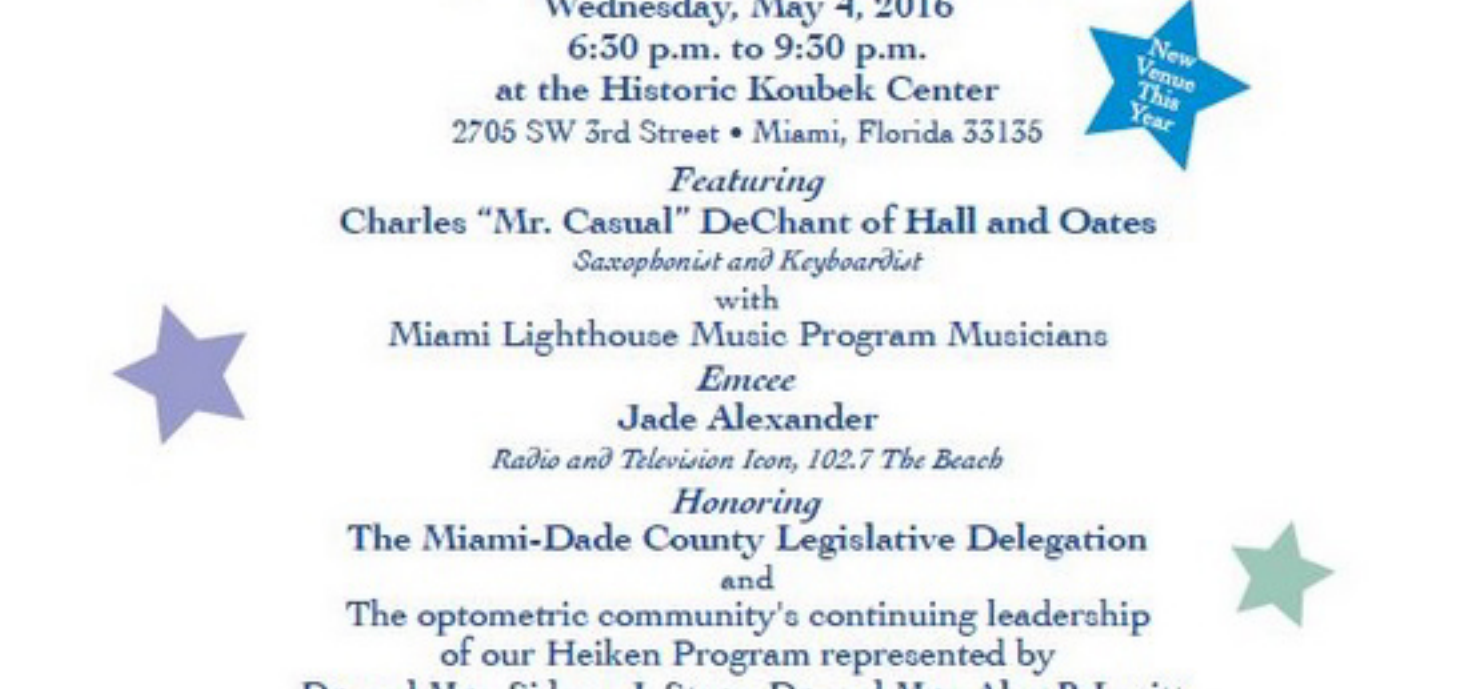
Jessica Alessio (center) with clients (left to right) Gabriel Betancourt, Victor Oliva, and Arnaldo Ariles during Miami Lighthouse's home and personal management class

Jessica uses her understanding of travel and daily living skills to help many individuals at Miami Lighthouse become more independent. Visually impaired clients receive instruction on daily living skills such as writing, meal preparation, money management, organization and safety, as well as techniques to safely navigate their environment.

We're proud to have Jessica as an important member of our Miami Lighthouse Team.

*Contributed by Joan Spector*

## You're Invited...



Wednesday, May 4, 2016  
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
benefiting our  
Heiken Children's Vision Program

## Music Under the Stars

benefiting  
Heiken Children's Vision Program  
a division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Wednesday, May 4, 2016  
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
at the Historic Koubek Center  
2705 SW 3rd Street • Miami, Florida 33135

Featuring  
Charles "Mr. Casual" DeChart of Hall and Oates  
Saxophonist and Keyboardist  
with  
Miami Lighthouse Music Program Musicians  
Emcee  
Jade Alexander  
Radio and Television Icon, 102.7 The Beach  
Honoring  
The Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation  
and  
The optometric community's continuing leadership  
of our Heiken Program represented by  
Dr. and Mrs. Sidney J. Stern, Dr. and Mrs. Alan P. Levitt,  
and Dr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Morris

Click [here](#) for tickets

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601 SW 8th Avenue, Miami, FL 33130