



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Oseas De Leon selected for the USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team

Have you heard about Oseas De Leon? Well our Miami Lighthouse Students know Oseas De Leon as our Senior Technology Specialist. These days they are also excited to acknowledge that he is now one of four blind athletes selected for the 2024 USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team. He is also a Paralympic hopeful for the LA28 Paralympic Games.

The sport of blind soccer has been part of the Paralympic Games since 2004. “We’re elated to hear the news from USABA about Oseas,” said CEO Virginia Jacko. “His hard work, perseverance and dedication to the sport he loves so much is an inspiring story for other blind and visually impaired athletes. From everyone here at Miami Lighthouse, Oseas, we’re so proud of you!” [Click here](#) to watch WSVN Channel 7 News coverage [Miami Lighthouse employee scores spot on 2024 USA Blind Soccer Men’s National Team](#).



Oseas De Leon makes USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team.

[Watch full WSVN 7 story here](#)

Miami Lighthouse attends 2024 Concordia Americas Summit at University of Miami

CEO Virginia Jacko and Vice President Cameron Sisser attended the Concordia Americas Summit at the University of Miami. The duo were privileged to spend time with George Logothetis, Executive Chairman of the Libra Group and Dr. Eduardo Padron, former president of Miami Dade College. Their discussion focused on investing for impact and navigating the unique landscape of Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Logothetis highlighted his belief that we as humans need to turn our fears into hope in order to drive inclusive and sustainable growth.

Additionally, one of our braille music students, Kaden Jamid, now attending University of Miami, was invited to take part in a roundtable discussion with former president of Columbia Ivan Duque and Mr. Logothetis on strengthening democracy and the economy. The discussion was profound as President Duque asked the attendees what Democracy means to each of them, with many different responses given. Miami Lighthouse also welcomed the

Libra Philanthropies team after the Summit on a tour of Miami Lighthouse highlighting their core value of “sense of community – recognizing that together we can be more.”



Cameron Sisser, Senior Vice President for External Relations; George M. Logothetis, Chairman of the Board, Libra Group; Virginia Jacko, President and CEO.

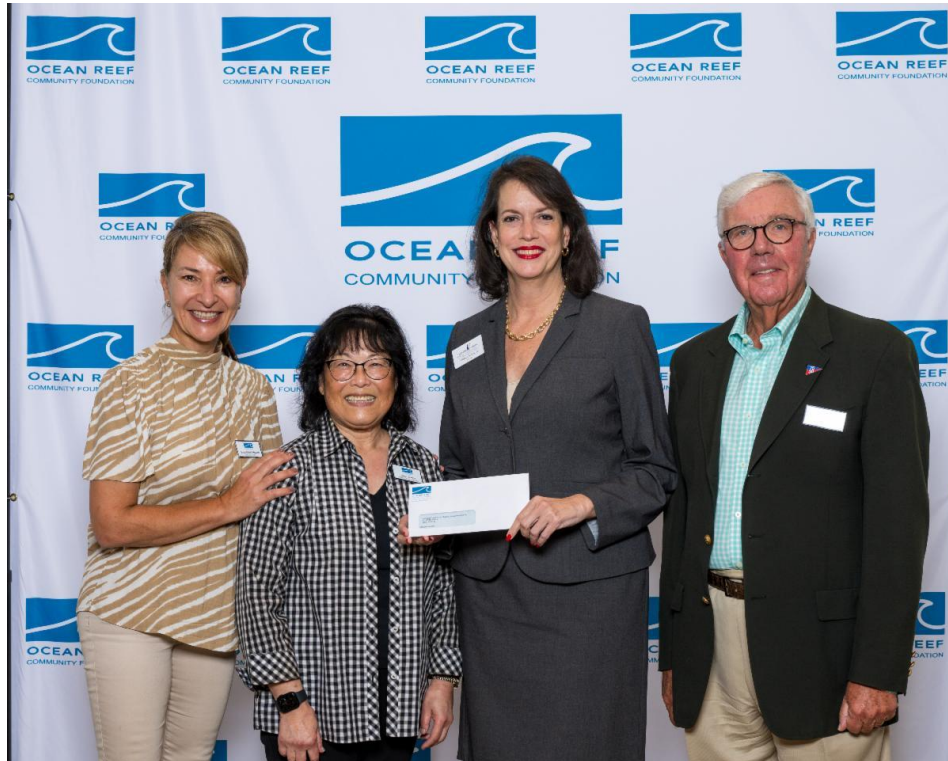


Libra Philanthropies Team: Nikiforos Bouros, Project Assistant; Gina Crivelli, Director of Programs & Impact; Virginia Jacko, President and CEO; Rosanna Mortoglou, CEO Libra Philanthropies; Chloe Lambrinidou, Programs Manager; Angeline Apostolou, Assistant Director Operations & Special Projects and Eva Soulia, Assistant Director Communications.

Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program receives award from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation

We are proud to announce that our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program was awarded \$10,000 by the Ocean Reef Community Foundation. We want to express our sincere gratitude to the Foundation for this generous award that will help provide 800 comprehensive eye examinations and prescription eye glasses when needed to low income children in Homestead, Florida City, and the Upper Florida Keys.

Our unique Heiken Program brings mobile optometric units directly to Title 1 schools, advancing eye health equity for many children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to have a dilated eye exam in addition to regular screening.



Susie Misini-Hassett, ORCF Board of Directors; Linda Owens, ORCF Board of Directors; Angela Vazquez, Director of Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program; William J. Nutt, ORCF Chairman and CEO.

Music Under the Stars: Bon Appétit Miami



Help support our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program as we celebrate our 32nd anniversary of providing comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses at no cost to underprivileged schoolchildren throughout the State of Florida.

Are you ready to be serenaded by Miami Lighthouse's award winning musicians while enjoying delectable culinary treats? Guests will also enjoy an incredible silent auction featuring fine vintage wine lots. Do not miss our 17th Annual Music Under the Stars: Bon Appétit Miami on Wednesday, May 8th from 6:00PM-9:00PM at Miami Lighthouse (601 SW 8th Ave.)

[Purchase Tickets to Music Under the Stars](#)



Music Under the Stars

Bon Appétit Miami

Wednesday, May 8, 2024
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



at Miami Lighthouse
Mary M. and Sash A. Spencer Campus
601 SW 8th Avenue • Miami, Florida 33130

Honoring

Dr. Jose L. Dotres

Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Recognizing Our Florida State Government Champions

Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Senator Bryan Avila,

Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera

and Representative David Borrero

Special Memorial Tribute to Dr. Murray Heiken

Emcee

Olga Villaverde, TV Host / *The Balancing Act* and *The Health Channel*

Featuring

The sensational sounds of our very own award-winning
Miami Lighthouse Band with special guest performances by
Miami Lighthouse Board Director **Rodrick Miller, CEO The Beacon Council**
and **Norby Rudel, President Rotary Club of Miami**

Complimentary Valet Parking in our Adjacent Garage

Entrance on SW 8th Avenue, just north of SW 7th Street

Please contact Cameron Sisser at 786.362.7515 or
cssisser@miamilighthouse.org for additional information.

The event honors Dr. Jose L. Dotres, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, for his leadership and partnership with Miami Lighthouse. Annually, thousands of M-DCPS schoolchildren who fail their school vision screening are referred to our Heiken Program, which provides a comprehensive eye exam and prescription glasses when prescribed at no cost to the child. With Superintendent Dotres' collaboration, students in our Early Learning and Early Elementary School programs register each year through M-DCPS at our Miami Lighthouse Academy. Additionally, Superintendent Dotres' support for our new Blind Soccer initiative demonstrated his commitment to inclusion.

We will also be recognizing Our Florida State Government Champions: Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Senator Bryan Avila, Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera and Representative

David Borrero. There will be a Special Memorial Tribute to Dr. Murray Heiken and the event will be Emceed by Olga Villaverde, TV Host of The Health Channel and The Balancing Act.

The event also features the sensational sounds of our very own award-winning Miami Lighthouse Band with special guest performances by Miami Lighthouse Board Director Rodrick Miller, CEO The Beacon Council and Norby Rudel, President Rotary Club of Miami.

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Our Generous Restaurant and Beverage Sponsors ★



We Express Appreciation to Our Annual Supporters



Our generous sponsors include ABB Optical Group, Publix Super Markets Charities, FP&L, Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Bizitss, BrightStar Care, Choice Waste, Grove Bank & Trust, Rotary Club of Miami, H. Angela Whitman Foundation, Community Newspapers, SFM Services Inc., Monster Sound Productions, Biz Solutions, Susan Conroy Design, Perry Ellis International, Affiliated Healthcare Centers, Inc., and more.

Our fabulous restaurant and beverage sponsors include Knights of Columbus providing Paella Campesina, Perricone's, Flannigan's, Season's 52, M.I. Mobile Chef, Roaster's and Toaster's, P.F Chang's, Sport's Grill, El Carajo, E11even Vodka, Eagle Brands and more.

[Purchase Tickets to Music Under the Stars](#)

In the News:

- [worldredeye, April 9, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse Documentary Premieres Miami Film Festival at Romero Britto Fine Art Gallery"](#)
- [7 NEWS WSVN, April 9, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse employee scores spot on 2024 USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team"](#)
- [Miami's Community News, April 8, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired Debuts Documentary at Miami Film Festival on April 11"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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Vision Insights



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