



LIGHT LINEtm
A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Music Under the Stars Bon Appétit Miami

On Wednesday, May 21st, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind raised funds for our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program to empower more than 1,000 underprivileged school children with the gift of vision. The event honored City of Miami Commissioner Miguel Angel Gabela's funding support for 300 comprehensive eye exams for school children in District 1. The event also recognized the Miami Dade Optometric Physicians Association and our Florida State Government Champions: Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Representative Demi Busatta, and Representative David Borrero.

The event was emceed by Barry Johnson, former President of The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and a longtime radio and television news anchor. The program featured an unforgettable lineup of entertainment, headlined by our very own nationally recognized Miami Lighthouse Band, with special guest performances by Grammy award-winning jazz guitarist Leo Quintero, saxophone extraordinaire Jeff Zava, and Cantor Marcos Askenazi, a proud second grade parent at Miami Lighthouse Academy.



Miami Lighthouse Academy student artwork presented to Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez and Representative David Borrero by CEO Virginia Jacko

Our generous sponsors include ABB Optical Group, Publix Super Markets Charities, Gray Robinson, FP&L, Rotary Club of Miami, Grove Bank & Trust, Bizitss, Choice Waste, H. Angela Whitman Foundation, H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University, Miami Dade Optometric Physicians Association, Miami-Dade Beacon Council, George and Luisa Foyo Foundation, Bank United, Miami Kids Magazine, Monster Sound Productions, Biz Solutions, Susan Conroy Design, Perry Ellis International, SFM Services, Inc., Affiliated Healthcare Centers, Inc., Miami-Dade County Commissioners JC Bermudez, Ambassador Kevin Marino Cabrera and Senator Rene Garcia, and more. Our fabulous restaurant and beverage sponsors include Knights of Columbus providing arroz con pollo, Flannigan's, P.F. Chang's, Season's 52, Roaster's and Toaster's, The Big Cheese, Batch, El Carajo, The Cheesecake Factory, Truman Vodka, Eagle Brands and more.



Event Sponsors left to right: Emcee Barry Jonhson, Miami-Dade Beacon Council, Rotary Club of Miami, Bizitss, H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University, Affiliated Healthcare Centers, Gray Robinson, Choice Waste, Bank United, Walgreens, Miami Dade Optometric Physicians Association, Miami Kids Magazine, Susan Conroy Design, George and Luisa Foyo Foundation

[Music Under the Stars 2025 Photo Gallery](#)

Miami-Dade County Mayor Levine Cava and Animal Services Raises Awareness for Service Animals on International Guide Dog Day

On International Guide Dog Day, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and Miami-Dade County Animal Services raised awareness for service animals by unveiling a unique art piece created by Miami Lighthouse program participants enrolled in our Social Group Activities Program. "SUPER EVA," a vibrant tribute to "Eva" Miami Lighthouse President and CEO Virginia Jacko's retired guide dog, is now on display at Animal Services headquarters in Doral. The colorful, tactile painting honors Eva's years of service as a loyal Seeing Eye Dog. We extend our gratitude to Guiding Eyes for the Blind for their continued support in providing guide dogs to the

blind, and we thank Mayor Levine Cava for supporting our venerable mission. To watch NBC-6 media coverage on the event [click here](#).



Former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, CEO Virginia Jacko and Animal Services Director Annete Jose with "SUPER EVA" the Seeing Eye Dog painting

2nd Annual Bouldering for Blindness event raises funds for Miami Lighthouse

Sean Murphy, a student from Christopher Columbus High School, created a unique fundraising event last year, "Bouldering for Blindness," as his service project in honor of his uncle, Michael Harries, who has Usher Syndrome. Now in its second year, the event raised vital funds for Miami Lighthouse's services and programs as participants climbed rock walls in the dark. We thank The Edge Rock Gym for hosting the event and other generous sponsors for making the event a success: R&L Printing, Wendy's, The Harries Family, Patience Purchasing and 305 Hive® Media.



Event organizer Sean Murphy with his family and his uncle Michael Harries at The Edge Rock Gym

Miami Lighthouse Music Student honored

We congratulate our talented music student, Christopher Bedrossian, on winning the Power Access Scholarship for Excellence in Music Award. Christopher was honored by Miami Beach Mayor Steven Meiner at the South Beach Jazz Festival Scholarship Awards Brunch on Sunday, May 18. Christopher also gave a standout performance at the event. He was nominated for this scholarship by Miami Lighthouse Music Program Manager Carlos Camacho. All of us at Miami Lighthouse applaud Christopher on this well-deserved achievement.



Carlos Camacho, Miami Beach Mayor Steven Meiner, Daniel Bedrossian, Cristopher Bedrossian and Venezia Leal

Miami Lighthouse Band performs at Temple Beth Am

Thank you to Temple Beth Am for inviting our Miami Lighthouse Band to perform at the Committee of 100 Annual Brunch. Special thanks to Senior Rabbi Jeremy Barras and Miami Lighthouse Board Chair Steven Solomon for creating this incredible opportunity for our musicians, who were honored to serve as the event's premier entertainment. To learn more about our nationally acclaimed Music Program or to hire our Miami Lighthouse Band, [click here](#).



Senior Rabbi Jeremy Barras and Miami Lighthouse Board Chair Steven Solomon pose in front of Miami Lighthouse Band

In the News:

- [Exceptional Parenting Magazine, May, 2025 – "Empowering Independence: Essential Tools for Orientation and Mobility"](#)
- [NBC6, May 1, 2025 – "Miami Lighthouse Celebrates International Guide Dog Day"](#)
- [Hoodline, April 29, 2025 – "Miami-Dade Celebrates International Guide Dog Day with Special Event and "SUPER EVA" Tribute Painting"](#)
- [Miami's Community News, April 24, 2025 – "Miami-Dade County Animal Services in Partnership with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Raises Awareness for Service Animals on International Guide Dog Day"](#)

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Contributed by Joan Spector

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