



Annual Report to Stakeholders
March 2017
It's Possible to See Without Sight™

Thanks to you, our stakeholders, babies, children, youth and adults are empowered through your generosity to lead productive and independent lives.

- Miami Lighthouse continues to demonstrate it is worthy of our donors' philanthropic investments having received our ninth consecutive 4-star rating, the highest rating possible, from Charity Navigator, the national nonprofit evaluator, based upon our sound fiscal management and responsible use of donor dollars. Of the 8,000 organizations evaluated annually by Charity Navigator, we are now among the top 39 nonprofits in the entire nation.
- In 2016 we completed the Spencer Challenge to create our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ which is under construction. When finished it will house five classrooms for children from birth through age five. The building dedication will be held on August 16th.
- In collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Early Learning Coalition we launched our inclusion Pre-K program for 15 three- and four-year-old visually impaired children and their sighted peers this fall. Using the evidence-based HighScope Curriculum, blind or visually impaired students are supported in a print/braille rich environment where accommodations are implemented by onsite licensed instructors trained in visual disabilities and/or certified orientation and mobility specialist. With the completion of our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ this August, our pre-kindergarten will expand to 30 children and daily services will be offered for 10 toddlers.
- An NBC Nightly News feature about our new Pre-K is viewable on our home page at www.miamilighthouse.org
- Seventy-seven visually impaired adults are currently taking classes to both learn English and attain their GED in our fourth-floor Sash A. Spencer Educational Empowerment Center.
- Through our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program over 9,500 financially disadvantaged schoolchildren received a comprehensive eye examination with 7,700 prescribed glasses at no cost.
- Through our Job Readiness Training Program, eleven clients in 2016 were placed in competitive, mainstream positions by our Job Readiness team as a result of our employment collaborations with the Florida Division of Blind Services, Jackson Health, South Miami Hospital, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Baptist Hospital International Marketing, Blue Diamond Translations, the Miami Heat, Haitian-American Community Development Center, the Miami Children's Initiative, and others.
- During our 2016 summer camp, 34 students had paid employment experiences, such as working at Miami Children's Museum, Miami Theater Company, McDonald's, Fausto Commercial Realty, Smart Bites Café, Miami Lighthouse Vision Solutions Center and Walgreens. One of the students who worked at Smart Bites Café during the summer subsequently accepted a part-time position and remains employed there while attending high school.
- With partial funding from the Florida Department of Education Division of Blind Services and Miami-Dade County nearly 150 seniors attend our daily Social Group Health and Activities Program which offers fitness, nutrition, tactile art, music and computing. This important program enables blind seniors to stay out of costly assisted living facilities and reduces medical costs.
- Through effective work in seeking public funding and expanding philanthropic support, Miami Lighthouse enhanced its financial health and its sustainability while serving a more than 24-fold increase in clients since 2004—now serving nearly 13,000 program participants annually and reaching an additional 4,000 individuals through community education and outreach programs.

Collaborations

- More than 40 faculty, residents and fellows from Bascom Palmer attended our ninth annual Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Reception. Guests toured our facility and learned about the variety of vision rehabilitation programs we offer for blind and visually impaired babies, children, adults and seniors. Subsequently, Chief Program Officer Carol Brady-Simmons was invited to participate in weekly grand rounds at BPEI. She serves as a resource for the doctors who refer children and adults to Miami Lighthouse for vision rehabilitation.
- Members of the Miami-Dade Optometric Physicians Association held their November meeting at Miami Lighthouse. Scott Gartner, O.D., Miami Lighthouse Low Vision Consulting Optometrist, provided a continuing education presentation on “Remaining Independent with Low Vision.”
- As part of our Center of Excellence in Vision Rehabilitation initiatives, Miami Lighthouse continues to address the shortage of professionals in the low vision rehabilitation field by supervising interns. During 2016 our certified low vision and occupational therapist provided practicum internships for eleven occupational therapist students from Florida International University, Barry University and Keiser University, and our Certified Orientation and Mobility Instructor supervised one intern from Florida State University.
- New collaborations include two with the University of Miami: conducting a longitudinal study of our pre-kindergarten by their research faculty and providing curriculum assessments and mentors for our Music Program.
- To empower healthcare professionals with the knowledge they require to meet the needs and the growing number of patients who are impacted by low vision, in collaboration with the Florida International University Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences Occupational Therapy Department we held our sixth continuing education seminar for Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and Nurses which was attended by more than 40 registrants who received continuing education credits for their participation.

Recognitions

- Among the many hundreds of children’s programs in Miami-Dade County, our Early Intervention Blind Babies Program was named program of the year by The Children’s Trust.
- Miami Lighthouse received the Silver Medal Award from *Miami Today* at its 2016 Gold Medal Awards Ceremony. The Awards Ceremony is a community endeavor of *Miami Today* honoring four organizations selected as the best in their fields.
- In September, *The Miami Herald* published an Op-Ed article by CEO Virginia Jacko, “Give visually impaired better internet access.” The article’s purpose was to help readers understand the Americans with Disabilities Act website content accessibility requirements. 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.

Opportunities

Thanks to the support of individuals, foundations, companies, and government entities, Miami Lighthouse continues to offer vision rehabilitation programs for people of all ages and eye health care for children based upon best practices in the profession and is known as a Center of Excellence in vision rehabilitation.

- At our 2016 See the Light Luncheon, The Wildflower Foundation announced a generous one-for-one matching challenge to our donors. This \$150,000 annual challenge over four years will raise \$1.2 million in unrestricted program support. This challenge will help us meet the ever increasing demand for our services.

