

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE AND MIAMI MARLINS PROVIDING FREE VISION CARE TO STUDENTS AT KENSINGTON PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON AUGUST 27

MIAMI, FL -- Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired is teaming up with the Miami Marlins Foundation to provide free vision examinations to financially disadvantaged students at Kensington Park Elementary School on Tuesday, August 27, beginning at 9 a.m. Kensington Park Elementary School is located at 711 Northwest 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Media is invited to attend.

The visit by local optometrists is a component of the Miami Marlins Foundation Impact Week. The seven days of community impact aims to make a difference in South Florida's youth by creating opportunities to foster an active lifestyle, achieve academic success, and build leadership skills.

Eye examinations will take place in a newly rebranded colorful, fully equipped mobile optometric unit, donated by the Miami Marlins and Major League Baseball to the Heiken Program, which features baseball-themed graphics including Miami Marlins logos and images of team mascot Billy the Marlin.

ABOUT THE FLORIDA HEIKEN CHILDREN'S VISION PROGRAM

The mission of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is to make sure that all financially disadvantaged schoolchildren who fail their vision screening have access to a comprehensive eye examination including dilation and glasses, if required, to give them the best chance at academic success. These free services are offered statewide, either on-site at schools via five mobile eye clinics or by the Heiken Program's network of more than 1,100 participating optometrists.

Of 15,439 low-income schoolchildren receiving a comprehensive eye exam during the 2018-2019 school year, 708 were referred for medical intervention for retinal tears, glaucoma and other eye abnormalities. Approximately 77 percent of all children examined require and receive prescription eyeglasses, confirming the importance of a follow-up eye exam after a student fails the state-mandated vision screening.

**Cameron Ehren Sisser**

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