



## President and CEO'S Report to Stakeholders January 1 through December 31, 2023

As we enter the New Year, I want to share with you some highlights and achievements of 2023:

- The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce awarded Miami Lighthouse their prestigious 2023 Novo Award as Nonprofit of the Year recognizing our Cortical Visual Impairment Collaborative Center.
- The lives of nearly 25,000 program participants were transformed through our many programs, for example:
  - We are especially proud that all of the visually impaired Miami Lighthouse Academy second grade students who graduated in 2023 are attending third grade at their community school.
  - Our statewide Florida Heiken Children's Vision program provided the "gift of sight" to 18,000 low-income schoolchildren who received dilated eye exams and prescription glasses at no cost to their families.
  - Our artistic children and adults, despite their vision loss, received state, national, and international recognition during 2023 with their works chosen for juried art exhibitions, the American Printing House for the Blind Global Art Competition and the state-wide Arts4All Florida art contest.
  - Our Cortical Visual Impairment Collaborative Center (CVI) Center is creating a CVI-conscious community by facilitating community-wide events for educational and health professionals, and has been featured in national publications such as [\*Exceptional Parent Magazine\*](#). Approximately 30 to 40 percent of children with visual impairments have CVI.
  - Our summer campers had educational and enjoyable experiences in 2023. Thanks to support from The Children's Trust and our

community partners they went on field trips sponsored by the Miami Seaquarium, U. S. Bankruptcy Court, the Miami Marlins, and the Florida Panthers, and at our inaugural Cars for Charity event more than 50 students were able touch and interact with a fleet of over 20 high-performance vehicles when car enthusiasts and sponsors donated their time to help our students explore these captivating cars.

- Programs such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living, Job Readiness, and computer and technology training, are giving visually impaired adults the skills they need to succeed in the workforce and to manage their everyday lives.

- President and CEO Virginia Jacko was featured in the November 27, 2023 issue of [The New York Times in “Profiles of Change: For 7 Women, a Heartfelt Cause Became a Mission--Virginia Jacko, Accessibility and Education.”](#)

Our achievements are made possible by your support and commitment to Miami Lighthouse. As we celebrate 95 years of transforming the lives of the blind and visually impaired in 2024, we thank you for your help in sustaining our incredibly important mission of providing hope, confidence and independence to people of all ages.

For additional information email me at [vjacko@miamilighthouse.org](mailto:vjacko@miamilighthouse.org) or phone 305-856-4176.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virginia A. Jacko". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Virginia A. Jacko  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*  
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind & Visually Impaired,  
Inc.  
President, Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program,  
LLC  
**President & Founder Miami Lighthouse  
Academy, LLC**

P.S. Miami Lighthouse ranks among the elite 1% of U.S. nonprofits and is the only nonprofit in Miami to have earned 13 consecutive 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator, the nation's premier independent nonprofit evaluator. Receiving such a distinction reflects our sound fiscal management, responsible use of donor dollars, and financial strength.