



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FLORIDA BLUE FOUNDATION SELECTS MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND TO BRING
LOW VISION SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED SENIORS AFFECTED BY AGE-RELATED EYE
DISEASE**

Miami, FL – Florida Blue Foundation has announced that Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired (MLB) has been awarded a three-year grant for the purpose of implementing the project “Bringing Low Vision Assessments to Underserved Populations and Training Professionals to Work with Seniors Affected by Age-Related Eye Disease.” Miami Lighthouse works in concert with Florida International University and the Alliance for Aging, according to Virginia Jacko, President and CEO of Miami Lighthouse.

As funded by the Florida Blue Foundation, the project is expected to greatly improve the quality of life and level of independence of low vision, low-income seniors by providing direct service which is expected to result in reduced overall medical costs. During years one and two of the project, Miami Lighthouse will track patient and project data on low vision exams/occupational therapy services and insurance information. In the third year the information will be compared with equivalent services in Chicago and in New York to determine whether billing codes are adequate. A toolkit will be developed to replicate the training throughout Florida.

Florida Blue Foundation enables healthy communities by making grants, building coalitions and rewarding best practices. More than three million people in Florida have received direct health services as a result of grants made to nonprofit organizations since our founding in 2001. Florida Blue Foundation is a trade name of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Foundation, Inc., an independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

For more information about the Foundation, please visit www.bluefoundationfl.com. Florida Blue and the Florida Blue Foundation are on Facebook and Twitter.

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MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE MISSION STATEMENT:

*To provide vision rehabilitation
and eye health services
that promote independence,
to collaborate with and educate professionals,
and to conduct research in related fields.*

CONTACT:
Toni Woods
PHONE: 904-905-3153
EMAIL: Toni.Woods@floridablue.com

CONTACT:
Virginia Jacko, CEO
PHONE: 305-856-4176
EMAIL: vjacko@miamilighthouse.org