

Transforming Lives on the Road to Independence



Fort Lauderdale Antique Car Museum briefly suspended the “look, but don’t touch” rule for our teenage Miami Lighthouse Transition Students. Wearing white gloves to protect the automobiles, about 20 students ran their hands over the massive, luxurious Packard automobiles.

Bob Jacko, chief restoration officer for the Museum, welcomed the group with a brief history lesson about the cars and featured a 1930 Packard giving us a glimpse of luxury vehicles 90 years ago when our Miami Lighthouse was founded.



Mission Statement

Through education, training, research and vision enhancement, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides hope, confidence, and independence to people of all ages.

We've come a long way in 90 years...
Wait till you see what's next!



From a 900 square foot bungalow house to a soon to be 144,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility on the Mary M. and Sash A. Spencer Campus.



Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends of Miami Lighthouse,

It has been an exciting six months as Chairman of the Board of the Miami Lighthouse of the Blind and Visually Impaired. This innovative organization, with its wide range of programs, better the lives of so many across all ages in our community and abroad.

As we have been hard at work preparing to celebrate our 90th anniversary, I have had the chance to learn more about the history of our Miami Lighthouse. It is truly an honor and a privilege to follow in the footsteps of change agents like Bascom Palmer, Maurice "Mo" Harrison, and Owen Freed, among many others.

While tracing our roots back to the late 1920s, what strikes me most in our rich history is the dramatic increase in the number of people served, particularly over the last decade. We have tripled the number served annually to over 22,000 in just over 10 years! Unfortunately, our unmet demand has also tripled and we need additional resources to address it. There is still so much work to be done and we will need the help of all of our Miami Lighthouse friends and donors to close the gap.

On behalf of all of our program participants – past, present, future, and continually increasing – we thank you for your help in sustaining our incredibly important effort. We appreciate all of our donors, supporters and our dedicated staff for helping us change the lives of so many in need.

Yours Truly,



George W. Foyo
Chairman, Board of Directors



Miami Lighthouse bylaws state that "the corporation shall be governed by a Board of Directors of not less than 10 but not more than 36 persons." Our board currently has 24 members, and our honorary board consists of 22. The honorary board is comprised primarily of former board members who have a continuing interest in helping Miami Lighthouse. All board members are volunteers who give generously of their time, talent and treasure. It is because of their dedication and support that we are known as a Center of Excellence in Vision Rehabilitation.

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Board and Employee Happenings

CEO **Virginia Jacko** received Rotary Club of Miami's 2019 "Distinguished Citizens Award" at the 103rd Presidential Installation Ceremony for their new President, Norby Rudel.



YPOL Chair **Will Beckham** married Allison on February 16, 2019 in Miami. The ceremony took place at the First Miami Presbyterian Church in Brickell, followed by a reception at The Rusty Pelican, and an after party at The Wharf. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

Liana De Angelis, Associate Director at our Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™, completed her Doctor of Education degree with a specialization in Special Education from Northcentral University. Liana has over 15 years of experience working with students with disabilities ranging from birth to 12th grade and has been on our team since 2017.



Jeffery Rabalais was recently promoted to Director of Facilities and Transportation at our Miami Lighthouse where he is responsible for our 114,000 square foot facility, our fleet of 18 transportation units, and serves as the Owner's Representation on construction projects. Jeff has been an invaluable member of our team since 2006.

Friends of Miami Lighthouse

Darlene Boytell-Pérez and Christina Pérez visited our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ along with Belissa Alvarez, Director of The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation. They enjoyed some of the tactile art created by our Learning Center students with President and CEO Virginia Jacko and Director of Children's Programs Isabel Chica.



Miami-Dade County Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo Jr. visited our programs and interacted with Pre-K students in our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™.

Miami-Dade Commissioner Eileen Higgins and Miami-Dade Commissioner Sally Heyman present Miami-Dade County White Cane Day proclamation to President and CEO Virginia A. Jacko.



City of Miami Commissioner Wifredo (Willy) Gort poses with Pre-K students and teachers in our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™.

Cuban artist Sergio Lastres is being featured in a documentary about his 1994 Cuban raft exodus in 1994. Lastres and his wife were among 15 migrants rescued when their raft filled with water. Lastres' recent Blackout painting hangs in our lobby.



Summer Camp Recap

The Miami Lighthouse Learning Center Early Intervention Summer Camp was initiated this year with 22 children. The summer camp is a full-day, seven week summer program for children ages 1 to 5 who are attending school year services funded through Individual with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Part C (birth through age 2) or Part B (above age 3) with a visual impairment and at risk of subsequent developmental delays. The summer camp provides continuity of our current early intervention center-based services. Each week the children enjoyed visits from various community locations including Miami Children's Museum, Little Farm, Miami-Dade County Public Library, and Miami City Ballet.



The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired 2019 STAR summer program was a huge success. This year, 48 children participated in the vast activities available throughout the seven week camp. The curriculum focused on literacy, technology, science, art and social skills. The program also allowed children to explore healthy lifestyles by means of nutrition and fitness. The children enjoyed exciting field trips to various community locations including Biscayne Nature Center, Frost Science Museum and Grapeland water park.

The Music Program successfully completed the first year of its unique Music Entrepreneurship summer camp! This 10-week, full

day camp introduced 30 participants to a comprehensive curriculum that included instrument instruction and music ensemble participation, entrepreneurship, and Social Emotional Learning. Students of all abilities from ages 12-18 worked together to write, arrange, perform, and record their own original music as well as covers of popular songs. Students also chose a business idea and learned about the entrepreneurial process of making it into reality. Summer campers developed Social Emotional Learning skills that helped facilitate a positive and welcoming environment.



The Miami Lighthouse Summer Transition Program consisted of 42 legally blind teenagers ages 14-22. The nine week summer camp provided students with the opportunity to work on employment readiness skills such as resume writing, mock job interviews and technology training. Students were also provided with work experience this summer and participated in field trips that focused on exposing them to new employment opportunities and careers. Business leaders from the community were invited to be guest speakers and provide students with information on different careers, financial literacy, and the latest in adaptive technology.

Miami Lighthouse's 90th Anniversary Celebration at The Historic Biltmore Hotel

Join Miami's most influential philanthropists, business and civic leaders on Saturday, January 25, 2020, as Miami Lighthouse celebrates 90 years of service to the blind and visually impaired. The milestone gala is presented by Northern Trust and is a black tie event. Individual tickets are \$700, and sponsorship opportunities are available, as well as, advertisements congratulating Miami Lighthouse in the the official 90th Anniversary Celebration program booklet.

To purchase tickets, a table, or to place an advertisement in the program, please contact Cameron Sisser at cssisser@miamilighthouse.org or at 786-362-7515.





SAVE THE DATE

It's Possible to See Without Sight™

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND INVITES YOU TO OUR

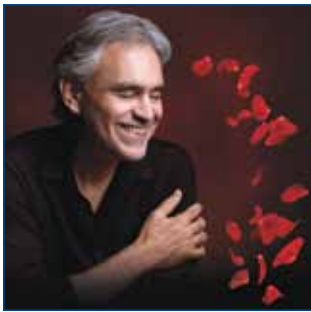
90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
GALA PRESENTED BY NORTHERN TRUST

HONORING OUR LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS AND 90TH ANNIVERSARY JUBILARIANS

JANUARY 25, 2020 | 7:00 PM
THE HISTORIC BILTMORE HOTEL

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT
CAMERON SISSER AT [CSSISSER@MIAMILIGHTHOUSE.ORG](mailto:cssisser@miamilighthouse.org)

INVITATION TO FOLLOW

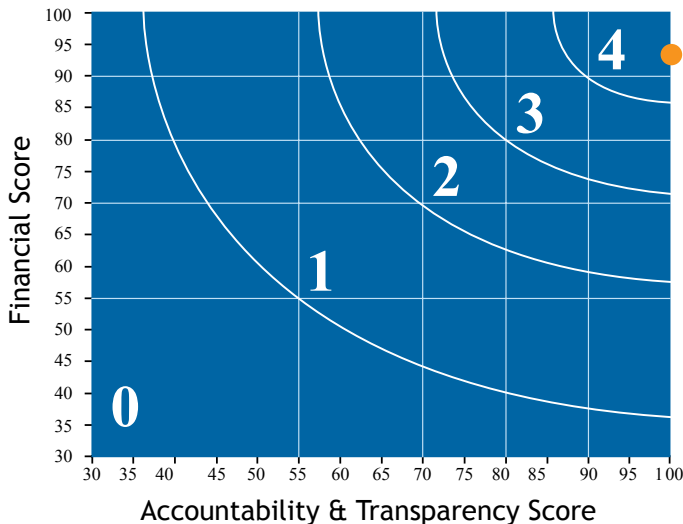


Andrea Bocelli Concert

Andrea Bocelli, world-renowned tenor, is coming to Miami in honor of the Valentine's Day holiday on February 11, 2020 at the American Airlines Arena. Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired is thrilled to be co-presenting the performance! If you are interested in attending an unforgettable event, please contact Cameron Sisser at cssisser@miamilighthouse.org or at 786-362-7515.

CHARITY NAVIGATOR SCORE SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired is rated nationally in the 99th percentile of the over 9,000 charities rated by Charity Navigator. In other words, we are among the elite 35 charities in the U.S. that have received 12 consecutive 4-star ratings, the highest rating possible, from the nation's premier independent nonprofit evaluator Charity Navigator reflecting our sound fiscal management, responsible use of donor dollars and financial strength. We are currently the only not-for-profit organization in Miami to have attained this coveted status.



	SCORE (out of 100)	RATING
OVERALL	94.74	★★★★
• Financial	97.5	★★★★
• Accountability & Transparency	93	★★★★



Source: Miami Lighthouse listing on Charity Navigator website
www.charitynavigator.org



Acquired the Lions Home for the Blind program to expand our **Senior Group Activities (SGA) Program**.



Acquisition of the Dr. Bruce Heiken Memorial Fund from the Miami-Dade County Optometric Physicians Association to create the **Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program**.

Awarded Florida Department of Health Statewide contract, establishing the **Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program** statewide.

2003

2005

2006

2007

2008

2010

2012

Division of Blind Services (DBS) funded **Blind Babies Program** is introduced as a year-round program that provides home visitations and early intervention support to visually impaired children from birth to age five.

Miami Lighthouse Music Program is established to provide year-round music education targeted sighted and visually impaired students. Program participants learn the latest techniques with skilled music professionals in a state-of-the-art setting.

Founded our **Vision Solutions Center** for adults with low vision with a grant from The Peacock Foundation and the James Deering Trust.

Expanded our **SGA Program** to include music appreciation, exercise, and art.



MILESTONES



Initiated collaboration with MDCPS Adult Education to create **ESOL and Adult Basic Education/GED**.

Commenced **Website Accessibility Audit** services.

Piloted a first-of-its-kind, fully inclusive pre-kindergarten for visually impaired students and their sighted peers at our **Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™**.

Expanded our **Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™** to include a **kindergarten** for blind children.



2013

2014

2018

2013

2014

2018

2019

Launched our international **Distance Learning Braille Music** curriculum, based on expanded course content from its nationally acclaimed **Better Chance Music Production Program™** and the **Braille and Technology Literacy Program**.

Created a new **High School High Tech** initiative with a grant from The Able Trust which enhanced our DBS **Miami Lighthouse Pre-employment Transition Program** for teenagers and provided more paid internships to acquire real life work skills.

Established **sister school relationship with ELIYA** the Association for Blind and Visually Impaired Children in Petach Tikva, Israel.



Miami Sports Teams Support Our Programs

Blind and Visually Impaired Miami Lighthouse STAR Summer campers enjoyed a day at the ballpark, courtesy of the [Miami Marlins](#). They met Miami Marlins Manager Don Mattingly, several players and were treated to a touch tour. Our summer campers got the chance to feel and explore Marlins Park and were able to try on equipment, sit in the dug out and touch the freshly mowed grass.



The visit ended with a VIP experience inside a luxury suite where the kids cheered on their Miami Marlins!

Our Transition program for teenage students took part in a hands-on hockey clinic thanks to the [Florida Panthers Foundation](#). The teenagers played hockey at the BB&T Center and participated in a touch tour and career development panel conducted by Doug Plagens, Announcer for the Florida Panthers.

With a \$25,000 Community Champions grant from the Florida Panther's Foundation, Miami Lighthouse's Florida Heiken Children Vision Program has broadened its reach throughout South Florida and serviced more students who are in dire need of eye care. The Panther Foundation's generous donation was earmarked to refurbish our oldest Heiken Children's Vision Program mobile eye care unit and purchase up to date optometric equipment. The renovated unit will help our Heiken Program reach this year's goal of visiting approximately 500 schools and providing free comprehensive eye exams to more than 15,000 needy students statewide.



FLORIDA PANTHERS
FOUNDATION



Young Professionals Host The Annual Legislative Luncheon

The Young Professionals of the Lighthouse hosted the annual Legislative Luncheon on August 9, 2019 honoring Miami Lighthouse champions in the Florida Legislature.

The Florida Legislature supports our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, as well as our Senior Group Health and Activities Program. Miami Lighthouse Board Chairman George Foyo welcomed the luncheon attendees after which The Star Spangled Banner was sung by our Miami Lighthouse Music Program Participants. Miami Lighthouse Transition student Amanda Saintil told attendees what Miami lighthouse meant to her and the afternoon ended with a musical performance by our Miami Lighthouse Music Program Student Ensemble.

A special thank you was given to Mitch Bierman and Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman for their generous sponsorship of this year's luncheon.



Pollo Tropical Carnival

Miami Lighthouse summer campers celebrated Independence Day on July 3rd with a fun-filled carnival, thanks to Pollo Tropical, the famous quick-service restaurant company. Pollo Tropical generously provided our students with a robo surfer surfing simulator, a rock-climbing wall, bounce houses, face painting, karaoke and carnival games. Our seniors also got to enjoy the day with Braille bingo, tactile memory games, live music by members of the Miami Lighthouse Music Program and so much more.

It was a fantastic day, full of fun, delicious food and unforgettable entertainment. Miami Lighthouse Board Chairman George Foyo welcomed Pollo Tropical executive Willie Romeo and Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell. As a thank you to Pollo Tropical for the wonderful day, we unveiled a tactile mixed media art painting of the company's mascot, Pedro the Pollo, made by participants of our [Social Group Activities Program](#).



We Need Your Help: The Growing Gap

\$500 transports one low-income child to school for one semester.

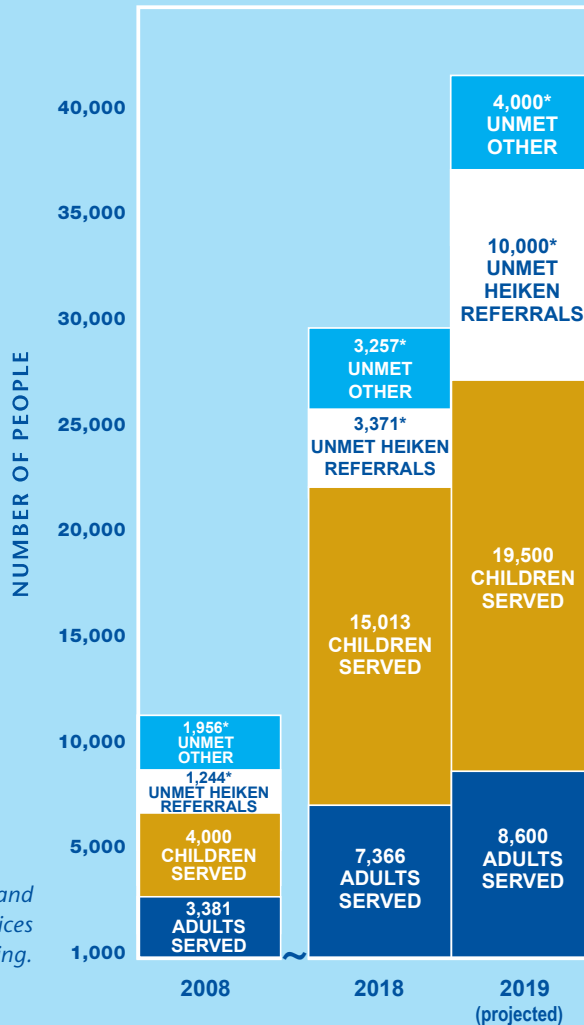


\$1,000 provides 10 needy children with a dilated eye exam and prescription glasses.

\$5,000 supports breakfast and lunch for 30 low-income seniors for 30 days.



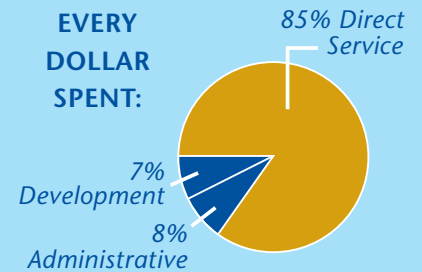
*Unmet referrals and other unmet services due to lack of funding.



3x

In the last 10 years, services have more than tripled; unmet need has also more than tripled.

EVERY DOLLAR SPENT:



MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE
for the **BLIND**
AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
Celebrating 90 Years

Help Sustain Our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™

Enrollment at our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ has quadrupled. Earmark your contribution for early learning to support our programs for our youngest visually impaired students.



Join the Helen Keller Legacy Society by including Miami Lighthouse in your estate plans. Contact Virginia Jacko, President and CEO, at 305-856-4176

Participate in a new \$1 Million Matching Challenge from The Wildflower Foundation

This new four-year incentive challenge of \$250,000 per year from The Wildflower Foundation will support blind and visually impaired participants in our Music and Tactile Art Programs, and your gift may be matched one for one. Please call CEO Virginia Jacko at 305-856-4176 for details.



THE WILDFLOWER FOUNDATION, INC.

Miami Lighthouse Donor Bill Of Rights

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<http://www.miamilighthouse.com/Docs/ADonorBillOfRights20100812.pdf>

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If you are shopping at Amazon, simply shop through the AmazonSmile website and choose Miami Lighthouse as your charity. Amazon will then donate 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Miami Lighthouse.



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SAVE THE DATE! MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE EVENTS

White Cane Day

Tuesday, October 15, 2019
Miami Lighthouse

See the Light Luncheon

Thursday, October 24, 2019
Riviera Country Club

90th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, January 25, 2020
The Biltmore Hotel

Andrea Bocelli Concert

Tuesday, February 11, 2020
American Airlines Arena

Miami Lighthouse

Tel. 305-856-2288 • Fax. 305-285-6967

HOURS: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Miami Lighthouse Lantern Newsletter

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Editor: Melissa Serna



Lighthouseshop.org

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experiencing low vision problems?



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OrCam-MyReader



35x magnifier

Visit our new site
or call 786.362.7489

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For more information, call 786-362-7514 or visit our website at
www.miamilighthouse.org

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For vision rehabilitation program information call: 786-362-7479

Visit our website www.miamilighthouse.org