



Miami Lighthouse Celebrates at 90th Anniversary Gala

On Saturday, January 25, 2020, Miami Lighthouse marked the historic milestone of 90 years of service to the blind and visually impaired at a celebratory, black-tie gala presented by Northern Trust at Coral Gables historic Biltmore Hotel. The event highlighted the organization’s founders Dolly Gamble, the Miami Lions and Rotary Clubs, and Shutts & Bowen, the law firm that drew up Miami Lighthouse’s Articles of Incorporation. Elite “Lighthouse Keepers” and “90th Anniversary Jubilarians” donors were also recognized.



Board Chair George Foyo; David Lawrence, Jr., Chairman, The Children’s Movement of Florida; President and CEO Virginia Jacko, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho

The evening’s festivities began with a champagne toast and wine provided by El Carajo and cocktails by Bacardí and a silent auction overlooking the Biltmore golf course. Guests enjoyed celebratory fireworks sponsored by Walter and Terri Shikany and SFM Services, Inc. followed by a gourmet dinner and dancing, with entertainment performed by the nationally-recognized Miami Lighthouse Music Program, with vocal performances by current and former students Silvio Plata and Stephany Camacho. Laurie Jennings served as Mistress of Ceremonies, and the keynote speaker was Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho.



Student performers Silvio Plata and Stephany Camacho

It was a fantastic night for making unforgettable memories, as the photographs attest. We are grateful for Presenting Sponsor Northern Trust, Florida Power & Light, Florida Blue, Comcast, Walgreens, Gunster, NEA Insurance Group, The Art of Shaving, Perry Ellis International, *Miami Herald*, *Miami Kids Magazine*, Royal Caribbean Cruises and our many other great sponsors in making this what will undoubtedly be one of the great events of 2020! *(more Gala photos on page 2)*

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.

Miami Lighthouse Celebrates at 90th Anniversary Gala



Immediate Past Board Chairman Louis Nostro and John Fumagalli, President of Northern Trust Florida, Presenting Sponsor



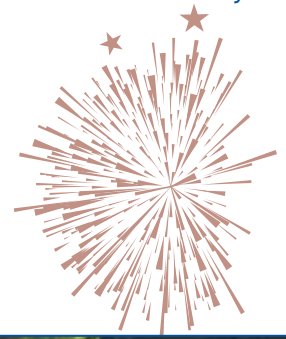
Board Director Harry W. Flynn, Jr., M.D., Board Director Angela Whitman, Ivette and Jose Mendez



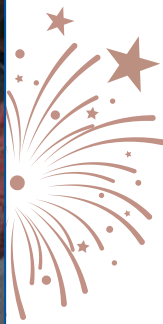
90th Anniversary Celebration Co-Chairs: Board Director Scott Richey and Karla Richey



Dan and Trish Bell and Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho



Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman presenting proclamation to CEO Virginia Jacko



90th Anniversary Celebration Host Committee: Ana Maria de la Fe, Silent Auction Chair Lourdes Collett, Linda Corey, Gala Co-Chair Karla Richey, Olga Nielson, Honorary Board Director Pam Garrison, Board Director Sheila Freed, Gala Co-Chair Terri Shikany and Board Director Angela Whitman



Board Treasurer Peter Harrison, President and CEO Virginia Jacko, and Honorary Board Director Steven Solomon



Honorary Board Directors William and Jan Morrison with President and CEO Virginia Jacko

Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends of Miami Lighthouse,

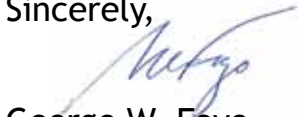
What an incredible beginning to Miami Lighthouse's 90th anniversary festivities! A jubilant crowd of nearly 350 supporters gathered at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables on Saturday evening, January 25 to celebrate nine decades of service to the blind and visually impaired. Simultaneously, with recognition of our many accomplishments, our guests were firmly focused on the future and sustaining the growing role of Miami Lighthouse throughout Florida and beyond.

When Dolly Gamble, the charismatic teacher of the blind, first envisioned a haven for Miami's visually impaired residents back in 1928, neither she nor her supporters could have imagined the role and broad scope of services that Miami Lighthouse would eventually provide. Today, on the original site of the tiny bungalow that housed Ms. Gamble's Florida Association of Workers for the Blind stands Miami Lighthouse's 120,000-square-foot facility. The four-story building is abuzz with activities on a daily basis, annually serving more than 25,000 program participants from birth through their senior years.

While celebrating 90 years of empowering the visually impaired, Miami Lighthouse finds itself at a crossroads. Our organization is already recognized as one of the nation's foremost and most innovative institutions serving the needs of the blind. Yet we are aware that there is so much more left to be done, particularly for visually impaired children. Thus, we have mounted our "Light the Way" campaign to expand our Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ to accommodate its rapidly growing enrollment of pre-school and kindergarten students. Additionally, we are experiencing increased demand for many other existing and future programs. To participate in this matching challenge, just return the envelope enclosed with this newsletter.

Miami Lighthouse is grateful to all of its benefactors, volunteers and staff for empowering our organization to reach this milestone anniversary. We also appreciate the role you play in energizing Miami Lighthouse to reach its full potential. Together we make a difference.

Sincerely,



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 26 members, and our honorary board consists of 26. 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.

Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors

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New Board Directors

We are pleased to announce that five new Board Directors were appointed at our December 12, 2019, meeting of the Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors.



David Harrison,
Owner, Harrison Crane Service



Craig A. McKeown, M.D.,
*Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology,
University of Miami Health System,
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute*



Deborah A. Montilla,
*Retired Executive Director,
Miami-Dade County Public Schools*



Ralph Niebles,
*Vice President I.T.,
The Art of Shaving,
Proctor & Gamble*

Robert J. Shelley III,
*Rotary Club of Miami,
Past District Governor*



The following Board Directors concluded their six-year terms of office, and we are pleased to report that they have been appointed as Honorary Board Directors:

Thomas E. Johnson, M.D., *Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, University of Miami Health System, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute*

Stephen A. Morris, O.D., *Optometrist, Vision Unlimited*

Board of Directors Kudos

Board Director Dr. Stephen Morris was honored on November 20th, 2019, for more than 30 years of service to the Miami-Dade County Public School District. Dr. Morris was recognized as one of the founders of our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, which annually provides more than 9,000 free dilated eye exams and nearly 5,500 pairs of prescription eyeglasses to needy children in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. His many years of service to the District School Health Medical Advisory Committee, including serving as president, were also acknowledged.

Board Director Harry W. Flynn, Jr., M.D., received The Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award 2019 from the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine at The Jones/Smolin Lecture at the American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting 2019.



School Board Member Mari Tere Rojas presents proclamation honoring Miami Lighthouse Board Director Dr. Stephen Morris

Congratulations to **Honorary Board Director Thomas Johnson, M.D.,** Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, on the textbook he edited *Anophthalmia: The Experts Guide to Medical and Surgical Management*, which was published by Springer, one of the academic world's most elite publishers.

**We express our gratitude to Mrs. Sash A. Spencer and
The Wildflower Foundation for their matching challenges.**

LIGHT THE WAY CHALLENGE

The “*Light the Way*” campaign is a one-for-one matching challenge to raise \$9 million in support of our Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ expansion. We raised \$1.5 million in 2019 toward the Spencer \$4.5 million “Light the Way” match. Now in 2020, we need to raise \$2 million and by June 2021 the remaining \$1 million before our August 2021 Ribbon Cutting for our classroom expansion.

We are one-of-a-kind and have built something special. Miami Lighthouse has the first fully inclusive childhood program in the country for children with and without visual impairments. Our Lighthouse Learning Center has been so successful since first opening its doors in 2016 that we’ve run out of classrooms to meet the growing demand. Additional space is vital for Miami Lighthouse to meet our current needs and expand access to our services for our growing enrollment.



A video entitled “Miami Lighthouse ‘*Light the Way*’ Challenge” is available on our website:
www.miamilighthouse.org



WILDFLOWER FOUNDATION MATCHING CHALLENGE FOR ART AND MUSIC

The Wildflower Foundation challenge supports year-round music and tactile arts programs at Miami Lighthouse to improve employment opportunities and provide social support for our visually impaired clients.

For our Art and Music Programs, we need to raise \$250,000 in new donor contributions or increases in existing donor contributions for the Wildflower Matching challenge; we have already raised \$75,000 for this year’s Wildflower challenge. If you attended our Gala, you heard our musicians and, indeed, you listened to Silvio and Stephany’s beautiful voices, and during the same weekend our art students, despite their vision loss, participated in award-winning art exhibits. Gala attendees took home our children’s art book *Shine Your Light*.

The Miami Lions Club support goes back to our founding 90 years ago and their continuing support has been crucial. Their most recent contribution will be used to expand art and music for our Senior Group Health and Activities Program and will be doubled by the Wildflower Foundation matching challenge.

Completing and returning the enclosed donation envelope will double your investment in our venerable mission of training and education. Please call CEO Virginia Jacko at 305-856-4176 for details.



Lions Alan Campbell and Gregory Werra present Lions Club of Miami Foundation check to Lion and CEO Virginia Jacko.

It's Possible to See Without Sight™

“Beauty for the Blind”

Partnering with a team of international beauty experts, Miami Lighthouse recently presented “Beauty for The Blind,” a seminar for more than two-dozen participants from our Senior Group & Health Activities (SGA) program. Leading the informative sessions were popular fashion stylists and designers Marla Cartin, Wilfred Marrero Jr., and Angelique Salcedo of Style Clinic International, and celebrity make-up artist and hair stylist Joshua Barrett, of Joshua Barrett Beauty. In addition to providing the program participants with expert hair and make-up advice and personalized style tips, the clinic addressed the special challenges faced by the visually impaired. Innovative devices sold in our Vision Solution Center, such as color identifiers, were demonstrated. The *Miami Herald* covered our event in their story, “How these vision-impaired seniors learned about fashion sense.”



Make-up artist Joshua Barrett with Miami Lighthouse client

Technology in the Service of the Blind and Visually Impaired

MIA Launches Aira Service for Visually Impaired Passengers

On October 25th, 2019, in recognition of Blindness Awareness Month, representatives from Miami International Airport (MIA), Aira, and the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired announced MIA's addition to the Aira Airport Network, a free mobile service that allows blind or low-vision travelers to receive up-to-the minute flight information, navigate security, use self-service kiosks, find restaurants and services, identify baggage, and more. Our Orientation and Mobility Program at Miami Lighthouse teaches blind and visually impaired travelers how to safely use technology like the Aira app, and we were on hand to applaud the partnership between Aira and MIA, which puts them at the forefront of assisting those who are blind and visually impaired. WSVN-7 covered the launch.



Miami Lighthouse Partners with OrCam “My Eye”



Former Israeli Consul General of Miami Lior Hayat, Motti Attia, Regional Manager OrCam and President and CEO Virginia Jacko present OrCam device to Miami Lighthouse client Henry

On October 29th, 2019, Miami Lighthouse hosted a technology demonstration day with OrCam and a ceremony awarding a new OrCam MyEye device to Henry Arguello. Henry, who is visually impaired, will be able to use his OrCam for his job at Home Depot, which involves reading product labels, reading information and invoices on his phone and other screens, checking packaging slips, locating inventory boxes and much more. Henry graduated from Miami Lighthouse's Job Readiness Program, and the OrCam will allow him greater personal independence and will enable him to perform his job more efficiently.

Virginia Jacko Honored with Global Award

Virginia Jacko, President and CEO, was one of 10 global leaders honored at the 2019 Henry Viscardi Achievement Awards in New York City. Viscardi was a disabilities advocate who served as an advisor to eight presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Jimmy Carter and implemented groundbreaking employment and education programs that continue to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. Leaders were selected for their extraordinary societal contributions and for having a profound impact on improving the quality of life of people in their countries and around the world. Jacko, joined a select group of award recipients from South Korea, Australia, India, Belgium, Pakistan and other countries.



Carol Brady-Simmons Recognized for 30 Years of Service to Our Community

Carol Brady-Simmons, Chief Program Officer of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, was recognized for thirty years of service at our annual employee service recognition luncheon, held Tuesday, January 21st at Miami Lighthouse. Carol's nearly three decades of work with Miami Lighthouse means that she has served the organization for one-third of our ninety historic years. Carol has helped the blind in many capacities during that time, serving in roles that have included Chair of Orientation and Mobility, interim Director of Adult Services, Director of Children's Services and Director of the Low Vision Program. The organization is thrilled that she continues to bring her vibrant energy, creativity and deep commitment to the many projects she undertakes here.



Carol Brady-Simmons and CEO Virginia Jacko

Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program Visits The State Capitol



Students from Sabal Palm Elementary in front of Heiken mobile unit at The State Capitol

Our Florida Heiken Children's Vision program brought primary eye care to the children of Sabal Palm Elementary in Tallahassee. Two-thirds of the students that received a comprehensive dilated eye exam from our optometrist needed glasses.

Principal Anicia Robinson of Sabal Palm Elementary said, "The children receiving glasses today will now be able to excel in class." One child said, "I did not know trees had leaves."

The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program will be celebrating its annual fundraiser, Music Under the Stars on May 13th, 2020, at Miami Lighthouse.



State Representative Ana Maria Rodriguez, President and CEO Virginia Jacko and Board Director Christian Infante

OTHER CELEBRATIONS IN OUR 90th YEAR

Young Professionals: Meet the “Chicken Champions”



YPOL Chicken Championship contestants

The Young Professionals of the Lighthouse (YPOL) hosted Miami Lighthouse’s Chicken Wing Championship on September 13th, 2019. The event was sponsored by AXS Law Group, and raised funds for back-to-school supplies for Miami Lighthouse students. The fun event, where participants ate chicken wings as quickly as possible, took place at Batch Gastropub and gave the attendees the opportunity to network with local young professionals. Congratulations to Lucy Foerster and Shane Phillips, who were crowned this year’s co-winners!

“White Cane Day” Brings Hundreds to Little Havana

On Tuesday, October 15, 2019, hundreds of people, including more than 150 blind and visually impaired Miamians walking with white canes and guide dogs, took part in a special march to mark our annual “White Cane Day” celebration. Miami Lighthouse is grateful to City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and Billy The Marlin for leading this year’s march, and thanks also go to the City of Miami Police Department and Fire Rescue Department for their help and guidance during the walk down SW 8th Street. We wish to thank our event sponsors, which included Florida Blue, OrCam, Mass Mutual Miami, Lions for the Blind, Tracfone, Telefonica, Ambutech, Walgreens Store #15994, Einstein Bros. Bagels #2300 and Burger King Store #12778.



White Cane Day Walk 2019



City of Miami Mayor Francis X. Suarez presents proclamation at 2019 White Cane Day

“See The Light” Luncheon

The new clubhouse of the Riviera Country Club was the scene of this year’s “See The Light” luncheon, Thursday, October 24th, 2019. Miami Lighthouse’s guests enjoyed wine, hors d’oeuvres, and a delicious lunch in this spectacular, contemporary setting. Attendees were treated to a moving presentation that began with Miami Lighthouse Music Program student Silvio Plata singing “Por Ti Volare,” which was followed by a performance from the adorable early learners from our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™. A stirring keynote address by blind Paralympian Danelle Umstead kept the audience spellbound as she recounted how Miami Lighthouse’s belief in her as a blind downhill skier led to her ultimate success as a 4-time Paralympic ski medalist, the first blind contestant on Dancing With The Stars, and her role as a sought-after motivational speaker.



Danelle Umstead and CEO Virginia Jacko

OTHER CELEBRATIONS IN OUR 90th YEAR

Guests were also introduced to “*Light the Way*,” our 90th Anniversary, \$4.5 million, one-for-one matching challenge, with a goal of raising \$9 million for our Learning Center expansion. The event raised more than \$150,000, which was matched dollar-for-dollar by the matching challenge.

Sponsors of this year’s luncheon included GenSpring/SunTrust Private Wealth, H. Angela Whitman Foundation, Norma Jean Abraham, GrayRobinson, El Carajo International Tapas & Wines, Monster Sound Production, MultiVision Video & Film, and Orchids by Olivier & Marlen Caudron.



*Board Director
Scott J. Richey and
Emcee Marissa Bagg*



*Performance by our
Miami Lighthouse Early Learners*

McCrea Family Volunteer Luncheon

On Valentine’s Day, February 14th, 2020, we celebrated our annual McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Luncheon by saying “thank you” to our volunteers.

A longstanding tradition at Miami Lighthouse, the event has been made possible by the McCrea family, whose legacy of volunteerism with us began in our early days when Helen Sloan McCrea (1889-1978) devoted herself to the important mission of serving the blind.

We wish to share a big thank you with our volunteers of the year, Pollo Tropical and Miami Lighthouse client Hugo Meneses, and to our Board Directors. A special heartfelt thanks to David B. McCrea for his continued sponsorship of this signature event.



Miami Lighthouse Board Directors: Charles J. Nielson, David Harrison, Stacey W. Jones, Sheila Freed, Peter R. Harrison, Deborah A. Montilla, President & CEO Virginia A. Jacko and Robert J. Shelley III



Pollo Tropical Corporate Volunteers

*“Belen Beacon” volunteers from
Belen Jesuit Preparatory School*



Andrea Bocelli Visits Miami Lighthouse

Legendary tenor Andrea Bocelli recently visited Miami Lighthouse and met with our President and CEO Virginia Jacko and our amazing student Silvio Plata. Not only did Bocelli play piano in our music classroom while our blind student Silvio sang opera, Bocelli learned about new Braille devices offered at Miami Lighthouse.

What an incredible day!

CEO Virginia Jacko observes as opera singer Andrea Bocelli and Miami Lighthouse student Silvio Plata read from a Braille device

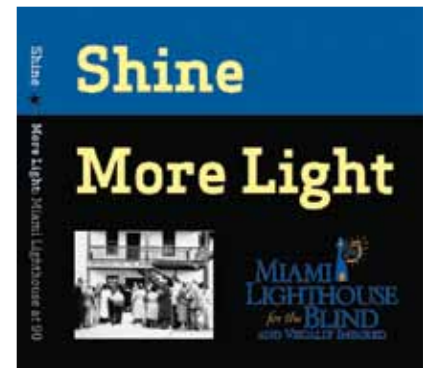


Two New Books: *Shine Your Light* and *Shine More Light*



Children's artwork enhances the cover of the book Shine Your Light

At our 90th Anniversary Celebration, guests received two books made possible by a generous Beacon Sponsor. *Shine More Light* is a history book that tells the story of Miami Lighthouse from its inception to the present. Artwork created by children in our Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ programs is featured in *Shine Your Light*.

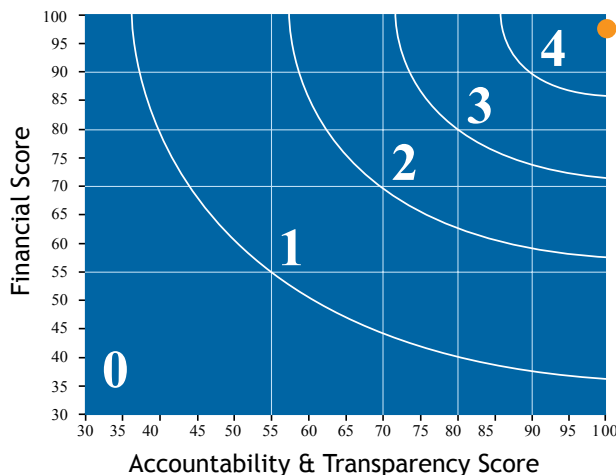


Shine More Light history book cover

Miami Lighthouse Rated in the 99th Percentile of U.S. Charities by National Evaluator Charity Navigator

For the twelfth consecutive year, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired has received a 4-star rating, the highest rating possible, from Charity Navigator. Miami Lighthouse is currently the only nonprofit in Miami to attaining this highly coveted status, a distinction achieved by only 35 (or 1% nationwide) of the more than 9,000 charities rated by Charity Navigator in the United States. "This exceptional designation sets Miami Lighthouse apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness," said Michael Thatcher, Charity Navigator's President and CEO.

Our President and CEO Virginia Jacko said, "This consistent record of recognition by America's premier evaluator of charitable organizations reflects Miami Lighthouse's long-term commitment to providing the highest level of service to our almost 25,000 program participants and the greatest degree of value to our donors."



	SCORE (out of 100)	RATING
OVERALL	98.23	★★★★
• Financial	97.50	★★★★
• Accountability & Transparency	100	★★★★

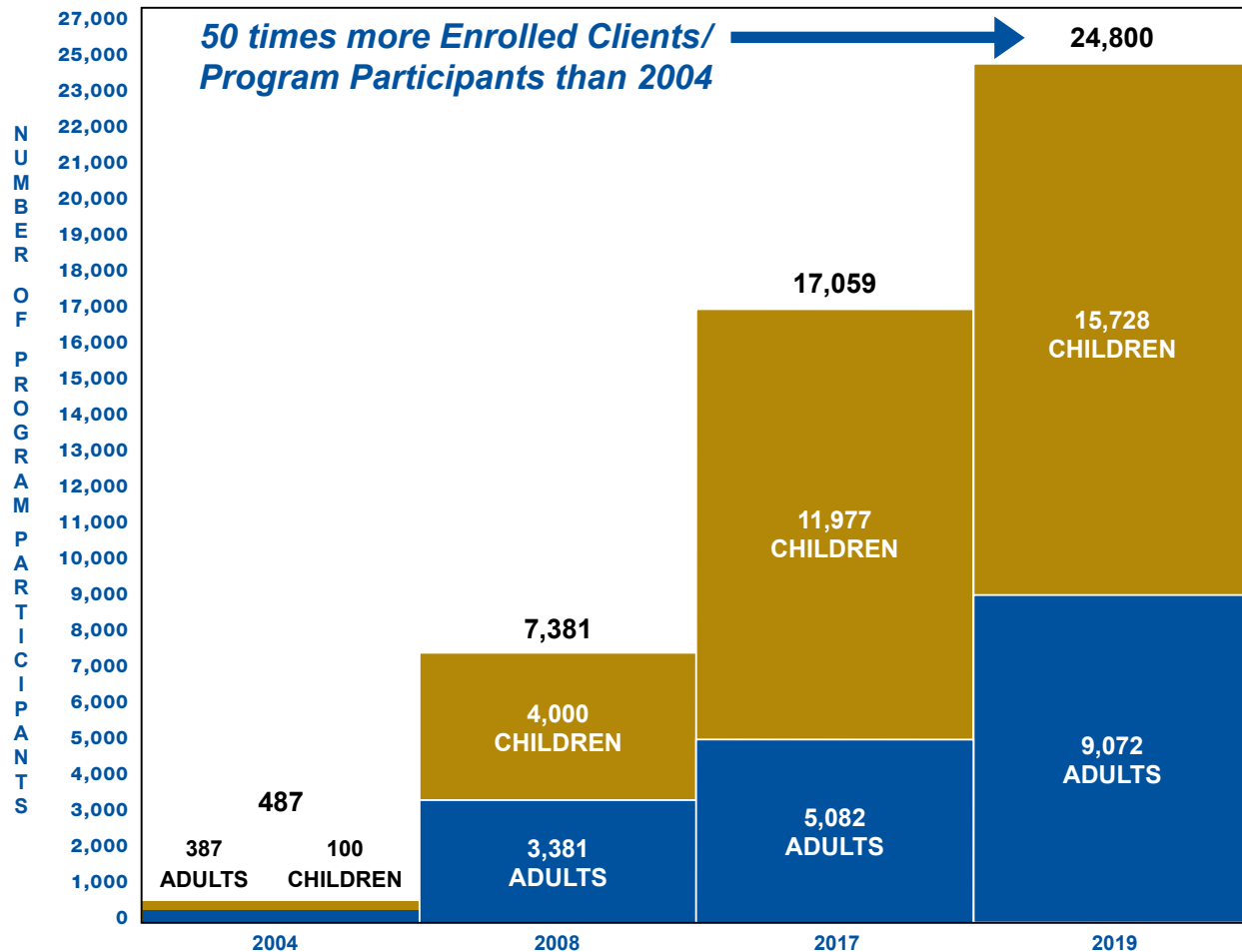


Source: Miami Lighthouse listing on Charity Navigator website www.charitynavigator.org

Fifteen Years of Exponential Growth in Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired

A recent review of participation in Miami Lighthouse’s programs reveals exponential growth in the organization’s capacity over the course of the last 15 years. From a starting point of 487 program participants in 2004 (387 adults and 100 children), the organization’s growth in capacity and increased program offerings has yielded a fifty-fold increase in the number of program participants served to a high of 24,800 participants, including 9,072 adults and 15,728 children in 2019. Demand for our first-rate programs continues to be high, and through our matching challenges and campaigns, we are working to increase capacity even further in the coming years.

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired History of Program Participants 2004-2019



Parent Testimonial

My daughter Antonella was initially diagnosed fully blind at birth due to toxoplasma. After a while of having her moving around and living her life, we realized that she started developing peripheral vision. We used to live in California and all her medical treatments as well as her special education started there. I was concerned when we knew that we were relocating to Florida, since all her treatment and school was already established there. I had moments when I was anxious just thinking about how we were going to find something similar or that it wouldn't be as good as what she had in California. We finally moved and as to my surprise, after being advised to bring her to the Miami Lighthouse Center for Children™, we found the best place where our daughter can be. There is no place like this! We are extremely happy and grateful to all the Lighthouse teachers and executive members. We are especially thankful to Virginia for creating this amazing school where our children have no limitations and can be as successful as any other person in the world. We have no words to thank you all enough. We have seen so much improvement and happiness in our daughter's daily life. Thank you!

God Bless, The Sandoval Family

EASY WAYS TO DONATE!

We would like to thank friends of Miami Lighthouse who support our mission when making online purchases through AmazonSmile and eBay giving works.

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.



If you are shopping on eBay, make Miami Lighthouse your "Favorite Non-Profit" and choose to give a donation at checkout.



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Please assure delivery by March 10, 2020

BECOME A 90th ANNIVERSARY JUBILARIAN DURING 2020

by making a commitment ranging
from \$9,000 to \$90,000 over 3 years

SAVE THE DATE! MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE EVENTS

Music Under The Stars
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
Miami Lighthouse

White Cane Day
Thursday, October 15, 2020
Miami Lighthouse

Miami Lighthouse

Tel. 305-856-2288 • Fax. 305-285-6967

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

Miami Lighthouse Lantern Newsletter

Publisher: Virginia A. Jacko

Co-Editors: Cameron Sisser, Jennifer Aleman
and Sharon Caughill



Lighthouseshop.org

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experiencing low vision problems?



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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