



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 61
June 2019

In This Issue

An Evening Celebrating 27 Years of Preventing Blindness

[DONATE NOW](#)

Florida Panther's Mobile Eye Exam Unit Makes Inaugural Visit at North Miami Elementary

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

County Commissioner Bovo visits Miami Lighthouse

LighthouseShop.org offering 20% off all sunglasses

An Evening Celebrating 27 Years of Preventing Blindness

Wednesday, May 15th, was an evening to remember as nearly 300 Miami Lighthouse supporters enjoyed our spectacular Music Under The Stars: Bon Appétit Miami. The event, benefiting our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, featured our talented Miami Lighthouse Musicians who delighted attendees with a variety of performances including a beautiful rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Miami Lighthouse student Silvio. We thank Olga Villaverde, TV host of The Balancing Act and The Health Channel, for being an excellent Mistress of Ceremonies and Miami Dade-County Public School Board Member Susie Castillo who acknowledged the importance of the comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses our Heiken Program provides for underserved children in an effort to improve academic success and prevent blindness.



Silvio performs "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" at Music Under the Stars.

This year's honorees were Florida State Senator Anitere Flores in recognition of her efforts in Tallahassee on behalf of our Heiken Program and optometrist Dr. Scott Gartner for his expertise in giving children the gift of clear vision through our Heiken Program and seniors the gift of independence through low vision exams offered by our Low Vision Solution Center.



CEO Virginia Jacko, Emcee Olga Villaverde and Miami Lighthouse Board Chair George Foyo.



Aide to Senator Anitere Flores, Nicholas Alvarez, accepts painting made by Miami Lighthouse's Social Group Activities Program participants from CEO Virginia Jacko and Board Chair George Foyo.



Optometrist Dr. Scott Gartner accepts painting made by Miami Lighthouse's Social Group Activities Program participants from CEO Virginia Jacko and Board Chair George Foyo.

A luscious array of delicious culinary treats were provided by Caffè Abbracci, Cantina La Veinte, Perricone's, Black Market Miami, The Big Cheese, Mario the Baker, Season's 52, Roaster's and Toaster's, El Carajo, Zyr Vodka, Whitley Neill Gin and more. We express our appreciation to our sponsors for supporting our Heiken Program which included Eye South Partners, ABB Optical Group, Publix Super Markets Charities, Baptist Health South Florida, Florida International Bankers Association, Grove Bank & Trust, U.S. Ophthalmic, Essilor, Park Grove, H. Angela Whitman Foundation, Genesis Systems Consulting, GrayRobinson, Monster Sound Productions, SFM Services, Inc., Biz Solutions, Susan Conroy Design, and Miami Kids Magazine. The Art of Shaving generously provided a special gift for everyone at the end of a truly wonderful evening.

Florida Panther's Mobile Eye Exam Unit Makes Inaugural Visit at North Miami Elementary

Miami Lighthouse and the Florida Panther's Foundation joined forces to provide financially disadvantaged students the opportunity to have better vision at no cost. The Panther Foundation's generous donation of \$25,000 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. On behalf of the schoolchildren who receive eye care through our Heiken Program, we express our gratitude to the Florida Panthers Foundation for this generous gift and for supporting our blindness prevention program.



Randy Moller, VP of Broadcasting and Panthers Alumni, Lauren Simone, Executive Director of the Florida Panthers Foundation, Stanley C. Panther, Dr. Alan Levitt, Florida Board Certified Optometric Physician, Miami Lighthouse Board Director and Treasurer of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, Debra Dubin, North Miami Elementary School Principal, and CEO Virginia Jacko join students from North Miami Elementary to unveil Florida Panther's mobile unit.

County Commissioner Bovo visits Miami Lighthouse

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., recently visited Miami Lighthouse. After touring our campus he said, "I was honored to tour the Miami Lighthouse with President Jacko and see the wonderful work they are doing to empower the visually impaired in our County. I can definitely see why the caring professionals here at the Lighthouse love coming to work every day." We extend our appreciation to Commissioner Bovo for taking time to visit us and learn about the programs we offer for people of all ages ranging from blind babies to seniors with age-related low vision. To watch Commissioner Bovo's interview at Miami Lighthouse [click here.](#)



Miami-Dade County Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. and CEO Virginia Jacko visiting our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™.

Lighthouseshop.org offering 20% off all sunglasses



Visit Lighthouseshop.org
for 20% off all sunglasses
in June!

In the News:

- [MSN, May 23, 2019 - "Florida Panthers Help Kids Score Free Eye Exams And Glasses"](#)
- [HighScope's Journal for Early Educators, Spring 2019 - "Seeing Without Sight"](#)
- [The Epoch Times, May 10, 2019 - "Blind & Homeless Florida Student Graduates From University With Degree in Psychology"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

Forward this email

STAY CONNECTED



 Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to Miami Lighthouse!

If you are shopping at Amazon, shop instead at smile.amazon.com and choose Miami Lighthouse as the charity to receive a donation every time you make a purchase.

[Get Started](#)

 Shop on eBay and give at checkout!

If you're shopping on eBay, make **Miami Lighthouse** your "Favorite Non-profit" and choose to give a donation at checkout.

Selling on eBay? You can also support us by designating Miami Lighthouse to receive 10-100% of your final sale price.

[Get Started](#)

EMPLOYER ID #59-0637847. MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED, FLORIDA REGISTRATION #CH775. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED, INC. NON-PROFIT IRS EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IS 59-0637847.

Copyright © 2018. All Rights Reserved.



Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired,
Inc., Mary M. and Sash A. Spencer Campus, 601 SW 8th Avenue, Miami, FL 33130