



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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## In This Issue

- **Monster Jam invites Miami Lighthouse Academy students for sensory experience**
- **Mayor Daniella Levine Cava visits Miami Lighthouse**
- **Miami Lighthouse hosts the Executive Committee of the Miami-Dade Beacon Council**
- **A Weekend with Maestro Andrea Bocelli**

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## Monster Jam invites Miami Lighthouse Academy students for sensory experience

On Friday, January 24th, more than 15 kindergarten through second grade Miami Lighthouse Academy students were invited to visit Monster Jam at LoanDepot Park to experience Touch-A-Truck, a unique multisensory experience.

President & CEO Virginia Jacko said, "This collaboration with Monster Jam reinforces our Miami Lighthouse motto that 'It's Possible To See Without Sight!'" NBC-6 captured video of this very special event that allowed our blind and visually impaired students to engage in hands-on interactive activities through their sense of touch, smell and hearing. To watch the NBC-6 media piece [click here](#).



*Miami Lighthouse Academy students at Monster Jam*

## **Mayor Daniella Levine Cava visits Miami Lighthouse**

Miami Lighthouse was proud to host Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava on a tour of our campus. During her visit to the Miami Lighthouse Academy and Social Group Activities Program, Mayor Cava shared wonderful news that she will be holding an event that will include one of our Miami Lighthouse artist's tactile art piece titled "Super Eva." The artwork will be showcased at Miami-Dade Animal Services to raise awareness about the importance of guide dogs and service animals.



*Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, CEO Virginia Jacko with Miami Lighthouse Academy Students and Teachers*

## Miami Lighthouse hosts the Executive Committee of the Miami-Dade Beacon Council

The Miami-Dade Beacon Council Executive Committee, a powerhouse of local leaders championing economic prosperity in our community, held its year-end meeting at Miami Lighthouse. Among them was Rodrick Miller, President and CEO of The Beacon Council who is also a Miami Lighthouse Board Director and proud father to one of our Miami Lighthouse Academy's role model students.

At the meeting, our CEO Virginia Jacko led a conversation on the critical role businesses play in giving back to their communities. She also highlighted the vital need for Website Accessibility, ensuring that blind and visually impaired individuals can access business services digitally. For more information about Miami Lighthouse's Website Accessibility Services [click here](#).



*The Miami-Dade Beacon Council Executive Committee*

## A Weekend with Maestro Andrea Bocelli

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Anthony R. Abraham Foundation for inviting Miami Lighthouse to the Heart & Music Charity Dinner at Britto Palace, benefitting the Andrea Bocelli Foundation. It was an honor to meet the evening's distinguished guest, the legendary Maestro Andrea Bocelli and his wife Veronica Berti Bocelli. Adding to the magic, their talented daughter Virginia, delighted the audience with her incredible voice and even had a chance to meet Sama, our CEO Virginia Jacko's friendly guide dog.



The weekend featured a memorable performance by Maestro Bocelli at the Kaseya Center. Bocelli's production company, Gelb Productions, generously donated an allotment of tickets to attend the holiday performance and our guests attended an intimate Italian dinner before the show, serving as a fundraiser for Miami Lighthouse.



*Virginia Bocelli receives a kiss from Guide Dog Sama as Veronica Bocelli, Andrea Bocelli and CEO Virginia Jacko are in the background at Britto Palace*



*Norma Jean Abraham, Miami Lighthouse Musician Oman Pedreira, Miami Lighthouse Music Student Silvio Plata, CEO Virginia Jacko, Vice President Gelb Productions Pete Kepes, Thomas Abraham and Senior Vice President Cameron Sisser at the Bocelli Holiday Concert*

#### **In the News:**

- [AXIOS Miami, January 21, 2025 – "Team USA blind soccer player helps develop youth sports program"](#)
- [New Pelican, January 9, 2025 – "Free eye exams available at public schools this week"](#)
- [South Florida Hospital News, January 8, 2025 – "Deerfield Beach Public Schools to Receive NO COST Comprehensive Eye Exams and Prescription Glasses"](#)
- [Miami Herald, January 8, 2025 – "Florida children need comprehensive eye exams as a standard part of healthcare"](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector



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