



# LIGHT LINE™

*A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND*

**Issue 122**

**March 2025**

## **In This Issue**

- **Miami Lighthouse Unveils Blind Soccer Mini Pitch**
- **2025 McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Luncheon**
- **When filing your taxes, here's something important to think about**

[DONATE NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **Miami Lighthouse Unveils Blind Soccer Mini Pitch**

We celebrated the dedication of our Blind Soccer Mini Pitch on February 24th marking a major milestone for our campus and our Comprehensive Blind Soccer Initiative. Miami Lighthouse has developed the first comprehensive blind soccer curriculum for young early learners, ages 1 to 4. In collaboration with the U.S. Association for Blind Athletes (USABA), the Comprehensive Blind Soccer Initiative aims to overcome challenges faced by blind and visually impaired children and young adults across Miami-Dade County who could benefit from participating in a team sport.

As a recipient of the highly competitive Children's Trust Innovation Grant, Miami Lighthouse's Comprehensive Blind Soccer Initiative aims to reach 85 youth, ages 1 to 22, and teach them the game of blind soccer. Nine Miami Lighthouse employees and three community soccer experts received training from USABA to earn their Blind Soccer Coach Credentials. Miami-Dade County Public Schools, led by Superintendent Dr. Jose L. Dotres, is planning to introduce blind soccer so that children with and without sight can play the sport together.

Our Comprehensive Blind Soccer Initiative is made possible with grant funding support from The Children’s Trust, U.S. Association of Blind Athletes, and the Honda USA Foundation. Miami Lighthouse has the first blind soccer pitch in Miami thanks to the generosity of the Anthony R. Abraham Foundation, AJNFF Family Foundation, Dixie Landscape and SFM Services. To view WSVN Channel 7 news coverage from the unveiling of our blind soccer mini pitch [click here](#).



*Blind Soccer Mini Pitch Ribbon Cutting*

## 2025 McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

Miami Lighthouse celebrated Valentine’s Day with our annual McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. This year, three exceptional individual volunteers were honored: Julietta Jacobs, Yuki Sommer, and Dr. Robert B. Jacko. Julietta and Yuki, through their work with the Ceramic League of Miami, volunteered with both our seniors and Miami Lighthouse Academy students. Dr. Jacko saved Miami Lighthouse countless man hours and money doing an array of volunteer work including completing the annual Energy Star building performance standards. Dr. Jacko even brought skills he learned at Miami Lighthouse to Purdue University helping a blind engineering student graduate which you can read about in the [Purdue University Magazine](#).

We also celebrated Lions Clubs and Rotary Clubs for their ongoing support, and we recognized our volunteer Board Directors, Honorary Board Directors, Legal Counsel, and the many volunteers who give their time to volunteer in our many programs. This cherished tradition is made possible through the generosity of the McCrea Family Foundation, whose commitment to volunteerism began in our earliest days when Helen Sloan McCrea (1898-1978) dedicated herself to serving the blind community.



*Miami Lighthouse Board Directors: Mauricio Villasuso, Robin Shelley, Jill Granat, Chair Steven Solomon, President and CEO Virginia Jacko, Deborah Montilla, Laura Lagomasino-Sabo, Scott Richey, Charles Nielson, and Stacy Jones.*

### When filing your taxes, here's something important to think about



As tax season approaches, now is the perfect time to think about your financial planning. Your financial support makes it possible for Miami Lighthouse to provide free programs and services that empower blind and visually impaired people of all ages, from infants to older adults, helping them overcome the challenges of vision impairment. We are hoping you will help us in a way that is suitable to you this tax season.

Making a tax-deductible contribution is just a click away: You can make your gift by mail or phone, and there are multiple ways to do it, from memorial or tribute donations to wills and bequests. There's also tax-free giving from your IRA account and you can donate through your Donor Advised Fund.

[Click here](#) to find out about the many ways you can contribute to Miami Lighthouse this tax season. Join our 95th Anniversary one-for-one matching challenge to grow and sustain Miami Lighthouse Programs for another 95 years. Our deepest thanks go out to you if you make the decision to make us part of this year's financial planning.



**In the News:**

- [WSVN Channel 7, February 24th, 2025 - "Miami Lighthouse for the Blind opens up mini soccer pitch for blind children can play, learn key skills"](#)
- [Purdue University, CCE Impact Maganize, Spring 2025 – "Engineering Accessibility"](#)
- [ABC7, January 28, 2025 – "Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program coming to Sarasota County Schools"](#)

[Read more!](#)



*Contributed by Joan Spector*



[Visit Our Website](#)

**Follow us**



Listen to our Podcast



Vision Insights



WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?  
CHOOSE MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE  
AS YOUR CHARITY ON FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER



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.



