



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 124

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## Annual Beeping Easter Egg Hunt

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 17th at our Miami Lighthouse Academy Owen S. Freed Playground and it was a major success. Students searched for colorful beeping Easter eggs assembled by the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad. According to Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia Jacko, the beeping sounds emitted by the eggs enable our blind and visually impaired children to locate them by carefully listening, reinforcing Miami Lighthouse's mission that "It's possible to see without sight."

Easter baskets filled with candy were also distributed to the children who all enjoyed an outstanding afternoon thanks to the generosity of our annual event sponsor, the South Florida Police Benevolent Association. To view WSVN Channel-7 news coverage [click here](#).



*The South Florida Police Benevolent Association and the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad with students from our Miami Lighthouse Academy and the Easter Bunny*



## Senior Group Activities Program visits Calle Ocho McDonald's

Our Senior Group Activities Program (SGA) went on a field trip to our local McDonald's in Little Havana. During the visit, our senior program participants were warmly welcomed by staff, enjoyed a wonderful behind the scenes tour of the kitchen, and were treated to a delicious meal provided by the Montes Family McDonald's.

In addition, our group discussed the creation of an art installation by Miami Lighthouse SGA artist for the iconic restaurant located on Calle Ocho. The McDonald's themed piece will be a textured, mixed-media painting featuring a giant box of French fries with a heart on it and a wall in the restaurant has already been identified for the piece. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the Montes Family McDonald's for this exciting collaboration.



*Senior Group Activities Program participants pose in front of the iconic Calle Ocho McDonald's mural.*



## Music Students enjoy a Multi-Sensory Experience at Formula E

On April 12th more than 20 of our music students ages 12-18 participated in a fascinating sensory-based activity during Formula E at the Homestead-Miami Speedway. Our students received exclusive access to a specially curated experience that included behind the scenes access to the Formula E paddock, hands-on interaction with Formula E cars and drivers, exhibits specially tailored for their engagement, exclusive wristband access to a private meet-and-greet with autograph session, and insightful conversations around careers in motorsports and STEM.

Formula E is the world's first all-electric FIA World Championship and the only sport-certified net-zero carbon since its inception. This remarkable event with Formula E and our music program students reinforces our Miami Lighthouse motto that "It's possible to see without sight™".

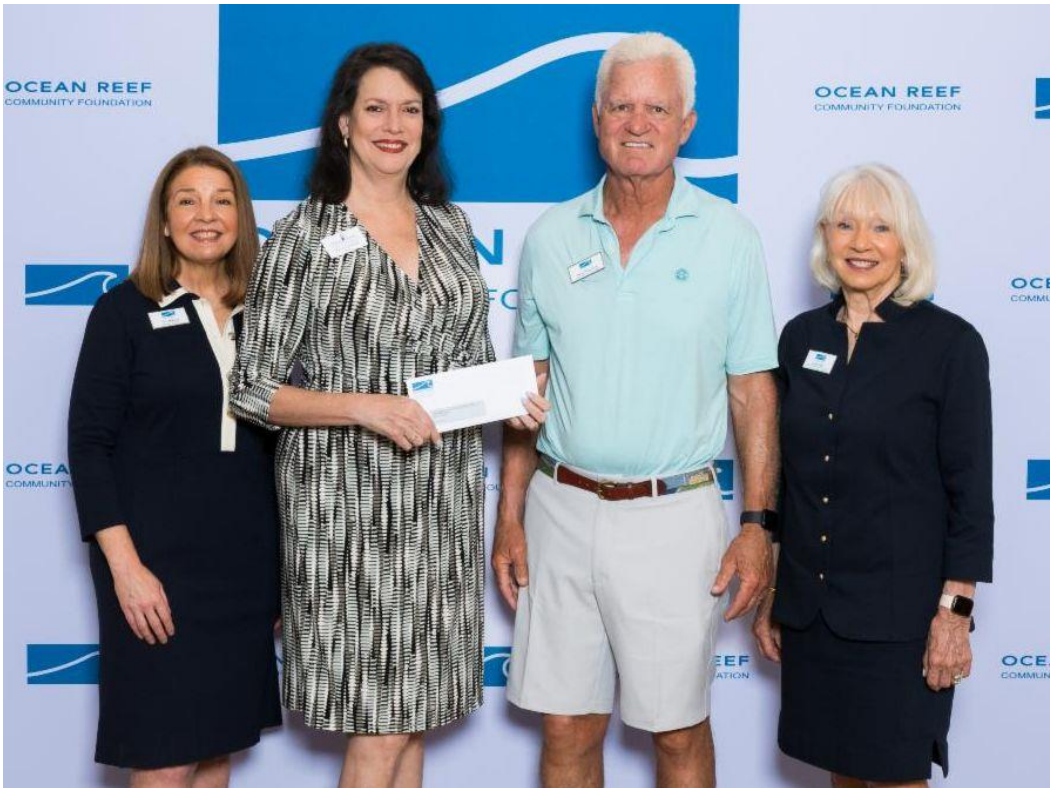


*Miami Lighthouse Music Students enjoy Formula E at the Homestead-Miami Speedway*

## Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program receives Award from the Ocean Reef Community Foundation

We are proud to announce that our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program was awarded \$10,000 by the Ocean Reef Community Foundation (ORCF). We want to express our sincere gratitude to ORCF for this generous award that will help provide over 710 comprehensive eye examinations and prescription eye glasses when needed to low income children in Homestead, Florida City, and the Upper Florida Keys.

Our unique Heiken Program brings mobile optometric units directly to Title 1 schools, advancing eye health equity for many children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to have a dilated eye exam in addition to regular screening. To support our Heiken Program, attend Music Under the Stars on May 21st. Information on the event in the next story.



*Yurianna Mikolay, ORCF Secretary; Angela Vazquez, Director of Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program; Stephen G. Woodsum, ORCF Executive Vice President; Janie Sims, ORCF Executive Vice President.*



## Music Under the Stars: Bon Appetit Miami

★ CELEBRATING 33 YEARS ★

Providing over 225,000 comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses at no cost to underserved school children since 1992

*Music Under The Stars*  
*Bon Appétit Miami*

Wednesday, May 21, 2025  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

benefiting our  
Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program  
A Division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Are you ready to be serenaded by Miami Lighthouse's award-winning musicians while enjoying delectable culinary treats? If so, you will not want to miss our 18th Annual Music Under the Stars: Bon Appétit Miami on Wednesday, May 21st from 6:00PM-9:00PM at Miami Lighthouse (601 SW 8th Ave.). Support our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program as we celebrate our 33rd anniversary of providing comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses at no cost to underprivileged schoolchildren throughout the State of Florida.

[Purchase Tickets to Music Under the Stars](#)





# *Music Under the Stars*

*Bon Appétit Miami*

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

at Miami Lighthouse

Mary M. and Sash A. Spencer Campus

601 SW 8th Avenue • Miami, Florida 33130



## *Honoring*

**City of Miami Commissioner Miguel Angel Gabela**

*Supporting 500 comprehensive eye exams for school children in District 1*

*Recognizing Our Florida State Government Champions*

**Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Representative Demi Busatta  
and Representative David Borrero**

## *Emcee*

**Barry E. Johnson**, *former President of The Greater Miami  
Chamber of Commerce; radio and television news anchor*

## *Featuring*

The sensational sounds of our very own nationally recognized Miami Lighthouse students and instructors, with special guest performances by Leo Quintero, Grammy award-winning jazz guitarist, Jeff Zvac, saxophone extraordinaire, and other guest performances.

**Complimentary Valet Parking in our Adjacent Garage**

Entrance on SW 8th Avenue, just north of SW 7th Street

Please contact Cameron Sisser at 786.362.7515 or  
csisser@miamilighthouse.org for additional information.

This year's event honors City of Miami Commissioner Miguel Angel Gabela for supporting 300 comprehensive eye exams for school children in District 1. We will also be recognizing our Florida State Government Champions: Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Representative Demi Busatta and Representative David Borrero.

The event will be emceed by Barry Johnson, former President of The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; radio and television news anchor and will feature the sensational sounds of our very own nationally recognized Miami Lighthouse music students and instructors with special guest performances by Grammy award-winning jazz guitarist Leo Quintero and Jeff Zvac, saxophone extraordinaire.

## ★ Our Generous Sponsors



## Our Generous Restaurant and Beverage Sponsors ★



## We Express Appreciation to Our Annual Supporters



Our generous sponsors include ABB Optical Group, Publix Super Markets Charities, Gray Robinson, FP&L, Rotary Club of Miami, Grove Bank & Trust, Bizitss, Choice Waste, H. Angela Whitman Foundation, H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern University, Miami-Dade Optometric Physicians Association, Bank United, Miami Kids Magazine, Monster Sound Productions, Biz Solutions, Susan Conroy Design, Perry Ellis International, SFM Services, Inc., Affiliated Healthcare Centers, Inc., Miami-Dade County Commissioners JC Bermudez, Ambassador Kevin Marino Cabrera and Senator Rene Garcia, and more.

Our fabulous restaurant and beverage sponsors include Knights of Columbus providing arroz con pollo, Flannigan's, P.F. Chang's, Season's 52, Roaster's and Toaster's, Sport's Grill, El Carajo, The Cheesecake Factory, Chocolate Fashion, Batch, Truman Vodka, Eagle Brands and more. Enjoy bidding on a fabulous silent auction including one-of-a-kind jewelry donated by A. Jeschel and fine wine lots donated by The Shelborne and special raffle sponsored by The H. Angela Whitman Foundation.



Purchase Tickets to Music Under the Stars

### In the News:

- [Miami's Community News, April 24, 2025 – "Miami-Dade County Animal Services in Partnership with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Raises Awareness for Service Animals on International Guide Dog Day"](#)
- [Authority Magazine, April 9, 2025 – "Unstoppable: How Virginia Jacko Has Redefined Success While Navigating Society as a Blind CEO"](#)
- [FIA Formula E, April 7, 2025 – "Formula E X Sustainability at the Miami E-Prix"](#)
- [Miami's Community News, April 7, 2025 – "Beeping Easter Egg Hunt for blind children"](#)

[Read more!](#)

*Contributed by Joan Spector*

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