



President and CEO 2025 Mid-Year Report to Stakeholders **January 1 through July 30, 2025**

You, our stakeholders, are crucial to Miami Lighthouse's continued fulfillment of our mission and ability to enhance our programs. With your help, we have already served more than 15,600 program participants this year. This report highlights our strategic initiatives and achievements made possible by contracts, grants, and most importantly, the generosity of our donors.

- **Comprehensive Blind Soccer Initiative:** In 2023 Miami Lighthouse began a significant collaboration with the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes (USABA). On October 1, 2024, a grant of \$90,000 from The Children's Trust (TCT) was awarded to launch our Comprehensive Blind Soccer Program for youth ages one to 18. Our new, first-of-its-kind program is already teaching 85 children the fundamentals of the game. We are now seeking donor funding to sustain and grow this successful pilot.
- **Third Grade:** As of August 16, 2025, our nationally recognized Academy expanded to include a pivotal third grade class in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools Department of Exceptional Student Education. Parent and teacher feedback demonstrates that visually impaired students need to be taught how to access and successfully complete standardized testing, which begins in fourth grade.
- **Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) Diagnostic Indicators and Educational Best Practices for Affected Children:** Our CVI Collaborative Center's two-year \$2 million study, which began in 2024 and ends in 2026, has already yielded 133 learning assessments. The data confirms the profound positive impact of our unique learning modalities, and we have submitted two professional journal manuscripts for peer review to share these vital findings.
- **Blind Babies & Senior Artists:** Our in-home **Blind Babies Program** continues to provide essential early intervention through supporting families and empowering parents, serving 130 blind babies in the last year. Additionally, artists from our **Senior Group Health and Activities Program (SGA)** continue to achieve national recognition, with multiple works selected for prestigious festivals and international exhibitions such as the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts and the "Art of Possibilities" exhibition in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

While our programs are succeeding, we are facing an unprecedented financial challenge.

The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is experiencing a 36% surge in demand over last year's all-time high, with 30,000 requests for service. Compounding this crisis is a devastating \$500,000 funding cut from the Florida Department of Health. Last year, we were unable to serve 12,000 low-income children due to lack of funding. Without help, that number will grow substantially.

Funding has also been eliminated for our Senior Group Health and Activities Program (SGA), the only program of its kind in Miami-Dade County, jeopardizing services for the 108 visually impaired seniors who rely on it for their health and independence.

Your support today is more critical than ever to fill these funding gaps. We are thrilled to announce two matching grant opportunities that will double the impact of your generosity:

- The Wildflower Foundation will match new donations and increased donor support for our children and adult art and music
- an Anonymous Family Foundation will match up to a total of \$40,000 donor support for our Academy

For our Heiken Program, a gift of just \$150 provides a child in need with a comprehensive eye exam and new prescription glasses. How many children can you help us reach?

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Miami Lighthouse has earned 14 consecutive 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator, the nation's premier independent nonprofit evaluator, and has achieved nearly perfect scores of 100% on their new Encompass Beacons of Finance, Leadership, Impact, and Community Engagement.