



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Annual Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Reception and Dinner at Miami Lighthouse

Thursday evening, August 29th, Dr. Eduardo Alfonso, Professor and Chairman at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and our CEO Virginia Jacko welcomed Bascom Palmer faculty, fellows, interns and residents to our annual Miami Lighthouse event that reinforces the strong relationship between the two institutions. Guests enjoyed a buffet dinner, tours of Miami Lighthouse programs and an educational presentation by Dr. Thomas Johnson, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Miami Lighthouse Board Director, entitled "Eye Enucleation and Vision Rehabilitation. Mirna Garcia, Braille and Technology Instructor at Miami Lighthouse and a former patient of Dr. Thomas Johnson, spoke about her experiences at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and her employment at Miami Lighthouse.

As early as 1943, Dr. Bascom Palmer, University of Miami Trustee and President of Miami Lighthouse's Board of Directors from 1947 to 1952, discussed the establishment of an eye clinic to serve the local community. Dr. Bascom Palmer made it his life's work to raise funds and support for the eye hospital in cooperation with Miami Lighthouse. Six years later, Miami Lighthouse contributed substantial funds toward the building of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. A strong collaboration between the two institutions continues to this day, as both entities transform lives through vision-related services and research. As part of this ongoing collaboration, Dr. Thomas Johnson invited CEO Jacko to write a chapter entitled "Psychological and Cognitive Adjustment to Vision Loss," for his forthcoming book Anophthalmia: The Experts Guide to Medical and Surgical Management.



Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Doctor's: Sander Dubovy, MD, Miami Lighthouse Board Director and Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology Thomas Johnson, MD, Professor and Chairman, Eduardo Alfonso, MD, and CEO Virginia Jacko in the Miami Lighthouse Vision Solutions Center

Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon honors Champions in the Florida Legislature

The Young Professionals of the Lighthouse recently hosted our annual Legislative Luncheon honoring Miami Lighthouse champions in the Florida Legislature. Appreciation was expressed to city and county elected officials for their ongoing support for many of our Miami Lighthouse programs including our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, as well as, our Senior Group Health and Activities Program.

Guests were welcomed by Lighthouse Board Chairman George Foyo. A highlight of the afternoon was a musical performance by our Music Program student ensemble. Special thanks was also given to Mitch Bierman of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, for the firm's sponsorship of this year's luncheon.



Adita Vazquez, Lion's District Governor 35-N, Representative Michael Grieco, Representative Nicholas Duran, CEO Virginia Jacko, Representative Juan Fernandez-Barquin, Representative Ana Maria Rodriguez, Board Chair George Foyo and Norby Rudel, President of Miami Rotary Club.

Miami Lighthouse Student Silvio Plata sings National Anthem at Miami Marlins Game

Miami Marlins game attendees were treated to a special performance of the National Anthem by one of our Miami Lighthouse stars Silvio Plata. It was a wonderful evening at the ballpark all thanks to the Miami Marlins Foundation for creating an unforgettable evening!

Silvio, a cancer survivor, is a talented pianist and singer, and especially skilled at typing and reading Braille. He recently excelled at the National Braille Challenge where he was tested on reading comprehension, spelling, speed and accuracy, proofreading and charts and graphs. Ilena Plata, Silvio's mother, noted that "Miami Lighthouse was the first door that opened to us when Silvio was 18 months old and he lost both his eyes. Where he is now would not be possible without Miami Lighthouse and all their support." You can watch his performance below.



*Watch Miami Lighthouse Student Silvio Plata
Sing the National Anthem at Miami Marlins Game*

Miami Lighthouse's 90th Anniversary Celebration at The Historic Biltmore Hotel

Join Miami's most influential philanthropists, business and civic leaders on Saturday, January 25, 2020, as Miami Lighthouse celebrates 90 years of service to the blind and visually impaired. The milestone gala is presented by Northern Trust and is a black tie event. Individual tickets are \$700, and sponsorship opportunities are available, as well as, advertisements congratulating Miami Lighthouse in the official 90th Anniversary Celebration program booklet. To purchase tickets, a table, or to place an advertisement in the program, please contact Cameron Sisser at csisser@miamilighthouse.org or at 786-362-7515.

SAVE THE DATE



It's Possible to See Without Sight™

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND
INVITES YOU TO OUR

90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

GALA PRESENTED BY NORTHERN TRUST

HONORING OUR LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS
AND 90TH ANNIVERSARY JUBILARIANS

JANUARY 25, 2020 | 7:00 PM
THE HISTORIC BILTMORE HOTEL

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT
CAMERON SISSER AT CSISSER@MIAMILIGHTHOUSE.ORG

INVITATION TO FOLLOW

90th Anniversary Celebration Save the Date

Mark your calendar! Miami Lighthouse's Chicken Championship is on September 13th

Join us for our Annual Miami Lighthouse Chicken Championship Wing Eating Contest sponsored by AXS Law at Batch Gastropub! All proceeds go towards back to school supplies for Miami Lighthouse students.

Network with local young professionals on Friday, September 13th and enjoy a complimentary drink, appetizers, and happy hour pricing beginning at 6:30 p.m. The wing eating contest will start at 8:00 p.m. Come as a spectator or a participant and help support a great cause while enjoying some friendly competition.

\$20 donation for spectators, \$50 entry for competitors (limited competitor tickets available).

For tickets, click [here](#).

Help spread the word by sharing our event on [Facebook](#).



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
of the **LIGHTHOUSE**
Visionaries of Tomorrow

**MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE
CHICKEN CHAMPIONSHIP
ANNUAL WING EATING CONTEST**

SPONSORED BY:

axs LAW

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2019
6:30 – 8:30 PM
CONTEST STARTS AT 8:00 PM

BATCH GASTROPUB
30 SW 12TH STREET
MIAMI, FL 33130



\$20 DONATION FOR SPECTATORS \$50 ENTRY FOR COMPETITORS
ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE STUDENTS

RECEIVE 1 COMPLIMENTARY DRINK & APPS
PLUS HAPPY HOUR PRICING ON DRINKS

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF THE LIGHTHOUSE CO-CHAIRS
Will Beckham Oriana Gonzalez Alex Suarez



Miami Lighthouse Chicken Championship Invitation

In the News:

[Inclusive communities | Interview with Virginia Jacko](#)

[NBC 6 Making a Difference | Blind, Visually Impaired Kids Experience Marlins Park](#)

[The 360 Mag | "Will Candidates Talk About Disability at the Debates?"](#)

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Contributed by Joan Spector

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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

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