



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Beeping Easter Hunt allows Visually Impaired Children to enjoy a beloved holiday tradition.

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Vision Care Provided to KIPP Sunrise Academy Students Battling Income Inequity.

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Beeping Easter Hunt allows Visually Impaired Children to enjoy a beloved holiday tradition.

On March 29th, Miami Lighthouse Learning Center students were treated to a very special Easter Egg Hunt courtesy of the South Florida Police Benevolent Association and the Miami-Dade Police Department. At the event, blind and visually impaired children enjoyed searching our campus garden for beeping eggs hidden by the fabled Easter Bunny. These colorful eggs emitted sounds that enabled children to locate them by listening, rather than searching by sight. The children also received baskets with candy and got to meet a friendly police K-9 and a police robot. Click the below image to view the National story on Yahoo! News.



Miami Lighthouse for the Blind holds Easter Egg Hunt featured on Yahoo! News.

Miami Lighthouse expands classrooms and names its school Miami Lighthouse Academy at "Topping-out" Ceremony.

On March 31st, Miami Lighthouse celebrated the "topping-out" of our expanded facility, as well as, unveiling our school's new name - Miami Lighthouse Academy. This ceremony, held in collaboration with Miller Construction Company and Wolfberg Alvarez Architects, pays homage to a long-held construction tradition marking the installation of the highest piece of structural steel on the roof of a new building and is held to thank and honor the workers and employees of these companies for their efforts. Construction on the newly branded Miami Lighthouse Academy is expected to be completed in time to begin the new school year in August 2021.

The 30,000 sq. ft. expansion to the current 115,000 sq. ft. facility was made possible by private donations in response to challenge grants from local philanthropists. Miami-Dade County Commissioner's Sally Heyman and Eileen Higgins challenged donors at the event to contribute to the completion of the project. [Click here](#) to donate!



"Topping-Out" Tradition: American Flag and pine tree placed on top of the 5th story of Miami Lighthouse Classroom Expansion.

Florida Department of Health collaborates with Miami Lighthouse to provide vaccines to the blind and visually impaired

It may have looked like any other vaccination site, but what made this one different on the morning of March 10th at our Miami Lighthouse campus was that it recognized the difficulties that the visually impaired have experienced throughout the pandemic and the vaccine effort.

“We struggle with social distancing, so I have my employees here helping our blind clients to be certain they are wearing masks and social distancing,” said President and CEO Virginia Jacko. “I am so grateful to the Department of Health for having their nurses here today so that the blind and visually impaired can have an opportunity to get their vaccination.” Click the image below to view CBS-4 News coverage on the event.



Watch how Miami Lighthouse helps visually impaired get COVID-19 vaccine on CBS-4 News.

Vision Care Provided to KIPP Sunrise Academy Students Battling Income Inequity.

On March 9th, Miami Lighthouse teamed up with the Miami Marlins to provide no cost vision examinations for KIPP Charter School students that come from low-income households. Miami Marlin's mascot, Billy the Marlin, entertained the children and told them that "good vision helps keep your eye on the ball".

Eye examinations took place at a fully equipped mobile optometric unit donated by the Marlins to the Miami Lighthouse Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program. The unit features baseball-themed graphics including Marlin logos and images of mascot Billy. The mission of the Heiken program is to ensure that all financially disadvantaged school children who fail their vision screening, have access to a to a comprehensive eye examination and glasses if required.



Watch our Florida Heiken Children's Program deliver No-Cost Eye Exams to Students at KIPP Sunrise Academy on CBS-4 News

In the News:

[Digital Journal, March 26, 2021 – "Lavish Laser Med Spa Remains the Only Full-Service Med Spa in the Heart of Coconut Grove"](#)

[University Times, March 15, 2021 – "What This Year's TCDSU Elections Teach Us About Web Accessibility?"](#)

[WPLG Local 10, March 10, 2021 – "Miami Lighthouse for the Blind helps to distribute COVID-19 vaccine"](#)

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Contributed by Joan Spector

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