



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 115

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## In This Issue

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- Florida Panthers Win!
- Students enjoy fascinating visit to U.S Bankruptcy Court
- Miami Lighthouse students and staff welcome important visitors
- Miami Dolphins Rookie Class hosts Miami Lighthouse Students and Families
- Miami Lighthouse Completes Fourth Charity Navigator Encompass Beacon
- Young Professionals of the Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon

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## Florida Panthers Win!

With the Florida Panthers winning The Stanley Cup, our Miami Lighthouse Florida Panthers branded mobile eye care unit was out in full force the day after the big win providing comprehensive eye examinations and prescription glasses, if needed, at no cost to underprivileged Broward County Parks and Recreation summer campers.

Broward County Commissioners Robert McKinzie and Lamar Fisher were in attendance at Delevoe Park. “This incredible initiative,” stated McKinzie, “led by the Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program, is a great benefit for our youth. Through their dedicated exams and provision of prescription glasses, they are not only enhancing children’s vision but also

nurturing their overall health.” Commissioner Fisher said, “I commend Miami Lighthouse’s Heiken Program for its exemplary work impacting the lives of young individuals across our state and in particular for our Broward County School children.”

In addition to improving academics, our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program helps detect underlying medical conditions such as amblyopia, torn retina, glaucoma, and others that if left untreated, could cause uncorrected vision loss for children.



*Broward County Parks and Recreation summer campers, Broward County Commissioner's Robert McKinzie and Lamar Fisher in front of Miami Lighthouse's Florida Panthers branded mobile eye care unit at Reverend Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park*

## **Students enjoy fascinating visit to U.S Bankruptcy Court**

Miami Lighthouse students experienced a fascinating visit to the United States Bankruptcy Court recently as guests of Chief Judge Laurel Isicoff and her courtroom staff. The students were present in several hearings held via Zoom. Judge Isicoff explained important

information about the bankruptcy proceedings and laws established in the U.S. She also engaged in a Q&A with students and answered all their questions.

During the visit, which was organized by Miami Lighthouse Board Chair Steven Solomon, the students had the opportunity to tour the different courtroom areas and learn about the various roles of each person who works with Judge Isicoff during a court case. Our thanks go out to Judge Isicoff and her staff for providing our students with this meaningful summer experience.



*Chief Judge Laurel Isicoff with our Pre-Employment Transition Program Students at The United States Bankruptcy Court*

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**Miami Lighthouse students and staff welcome important visitors**

Students, teachers and school officials welcomed two important visitors recently with the arrival of Kimberly Richey, Senior Chancellor of the Florida Department of Education, and Robert Doyle, Director of the Division of Blind Services. After touring our campus, Chancellor Richey said "it was such an honor to visit the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind. For 95 years this organization has worked to improve outcomes and opportunities for students and individuals who are blind and visually impaired. We are proud to partner with this great team to serve all blind and visually impaired Floridians!"

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Chancellor Richey and Director Doyle for visiting us and observing many programs we offer people of all ages, from blind babies to seniors.



*Senior Chancellor Kimberly Richey, President and CEO Virginia Jacko, Director of the Division of Blind Services Robert Doyle and students in our Miami Lighthouse Academy*

## **Miami Dolphins Rookie Class hosts Miami Lighthouse Students and Families**

The Miami Dolphins recently gave a group of our blind and visually impaired families a completely accessible tour of their training facility at the Baptist Health Training Complex. This incredible experience was specifically designed to accommodate the special needs of our families so that they could fully enjoy an enriching experience exploring the facility and interacting with the Miami Dolphins Rookie class.

Our students loved training with the players, wearing football gear, and getting hand-on participation with the equipment. Our thanks go to the Dolphins Passing Game Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach Darrell Bevell and his brother Adam Bevell, for making this wonderful experience happen. GO FINS!



*Miami Dolphins Rookie Class with Miami Lighthouse Families and Students*

## **Miami Lighthouse Completes Fourth Charity Navigator Encompass Beacon**

In addition to having earned 13 consecutive 4-star ratings, the highest rating possible from Charity Navigator, we are proud to announce that as of June 3, 2024, Miami Lighthouse has

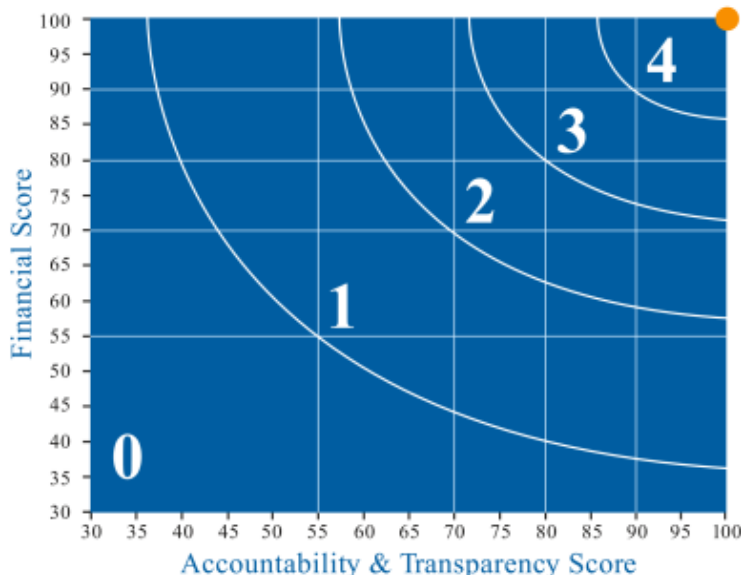
also completed all four of their new Encompass Beacons. These Beacons provide a comprehensive analysis of our performance across four key domains. You can view our complete rating on the Charity Navigator website by [clicking here](#).



## CURRENT CHARITY NAVIGATOR SCORES

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired has received 13 consecutive 4-star ratings, the highest rating possible, from the nation's premier independent nonprofit evaluator Charity Navigator.

Attaining a 4-star rating indicates that our organization adheres to sector best practices, exceeds industry standards and executes its mission in a financially efficient way.



	SCORE (out of 100)	RATING
OVERALL	100.00	★★★★
• Financial	100.00	★★★★
• Accountability & Transparency	100.00	★★★★



Source: Miami Lighthouse listing on Charity Navigator website [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)

## CHARITY NAVIGATOR ENCOMPASS BEACONS

**June 3, 2024** - Miami Lighthouse is proud to announce that we have successfully completed all four of the new Charity Navigator Encompass Beacons, which provide a comprehensive analysis of our performance across four key domains:

### ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCE 100%

This beacon provides an assessment of a charity's financial health (financial efficiency, sustainability and trustworthiness) and its commitment to governance practices and policies.

### LEADERSHIP AND ADAPTABILITY 100%

This beacon provides an assessment of the organization's leadership capacity, strategic thinking and planning, and ability to innovate or respond to changes in constituent demand/need or other relevant social and economic conditions to achieve the organization's mission.

### IMPACT AND MEASUREMENT 98%

This beacon estimates the actual impact a charity has on the lives of those it serves and determines whether it is making good use of donor resources to achieve that impact.

### CULTURE AND COMMUNITY 100%

This beacon provides an assessment of the organization's culture and connectedness to the community it serves.

[Charity Navigator Website](#)

## **Young Professionals of the Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon**

Join us for our annual Miami Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon on Tuesday, July 23rd from 12:00pm to 1:30pm on our campus located at 601 SW 8th Avenue.

The complimentary luncheon, sponsored by Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, will provide attendees the opportunity to network with local elected officials, Miami Lighthouse Board Directors, and other community leaders. Guests will enjoy a special performance by our Miami Lighthouse Summer Camp Music Students and a tour of our campus.

RSVP via email to [\*\*csisser@miamilighthouse.org\*\*](mailto:csisser@miamilighthouse.org) and find out how you can make an impact on our blind community.



**YOUNG  
PROFESSIONALS  
OF THE LIGHTHOUSE**

**INVITE YOU TO**

# **MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON**

*IN APPRECIATION TO ELECTED OFFICIALS SUPPORT OF OUR  
MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE ACADEMY, FLORIDA HEIKEN CHILDREN'S VISION PROGRAM  
AND SENIOR GROUP HEALTH AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAM*

**TUESDAY, JULY 23<sup>rd</sup>  
12:00 - 1:30 P.M.**

**MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND  
601 SW 8TH AVE, MIAMI FL 33130**

**SPONSORED BY**



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OUR AWARD-WINNING  
AND TALENTED  
MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE  
SUMMER CAMP  
MUSIC STUDENTS**



**RSVP  
BY FRIDAY, JULY 19<sup>th</sup> TO  
CAMERON SISSER AT 786-362-7515  
OR CSISSER@MIAMILIGHTHOUSE.ORG**

***IT'S POSSIBLE TO SEE WITHOUT SIGHT™***

*Legislative Luncheon Invitation*

**In the News:**



- [Miami's Community News, June 12, 2024 – "Miami-Dade County Receives Over \\$13.5 million to Improve Digital Equity in Rural Areas"](#)
- [El Nuevo Herald, June 8, 2024 – "Proyectarán la película 'En fin, el mar' para personas invidentes"](#)
- [Miami Community News, June 2, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse celebrates 32nd anniversary of kids' vision program"](#)

[Read more!](#)

*Contributed by Joan Spector*

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Vision Insights



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