



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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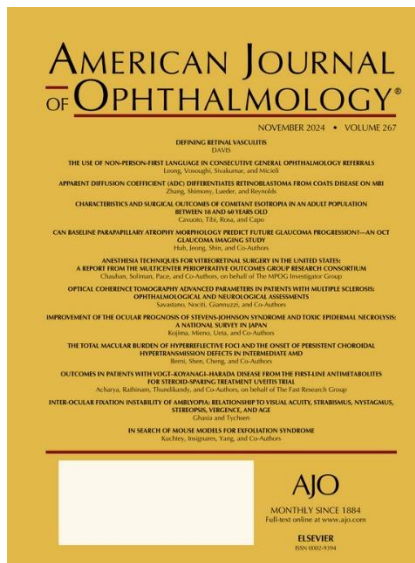
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With a Combined Vision



Miami Lighthouse for the Blind was instrumental in founding the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, which sits on land originally owned and donated by Miami Lighthouse including significant funding to build what would become the top-ranked ophthalmology center in the United States. Today, both institutions collaborate on a mission of education, research and treatment.

To read the full article in the December *American Journal of Ophthalmology*: **Bascom Headen Palmer, Jr, MD (1889-1954)** [click here](#).

American Journal of Ophthalmology Cover



60th Anniversary of White Cane Day was held on October 15th

Miami Lighthouse celebrated the 60th Anniversary of White Cane Day on Tuesday, October 15th. Raising awareness about White Cane Safety Laws is the reason President Lyndon B. Johnson established the important legislation in 1964. The day is set aside to celebrate the many achievements of the blind and visually impaired and their important symbol of independence, the white cane.



White Cane Day 2024

Over 150 blind and visually impaired program participants were escorted by members of the City of Miami Fire and Police Departments and led by Grand Marshals Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins, City of Miami Commissioner Miguel Angel Gabela, Miami Senior High Color Guard, and Billy the Marlin, as they walked from the Miami Lighthouse down SW 8th Street and back.



Board Chair Steven Solomon, Former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman, CEO Virginia Jacko, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Former State Representative David Richardson, School Board Chair Mari Tere Rojas, Brenda Lampon representing Mayor Daniella Levine Cava

The celebration began with breakfast sponsored by Bagel Bar East and lunch sponsored by The Montes Family McDonald's. Event Sponsors included Uber, Captain Awesome Charities, Humana, CarePlus, Tropical Financial Credit Union, 305 hive, Miami Kids Magazine, Vispero, Ambutech, and others. The event was emceed by Gisella Aboumrad, Award Winning Actress and Writer.

Inter Miami CF Hosts Fútbol Clinic for Miami Lighthouse students

Miami Lighthouse students participated in an Inter Miami CF Fútbol Clinic in early October at Chase Stadium and the Florida Blue Training Center. Inter Miami CF and Florida Blue partnered to provide Miami Lighthouse Pre-Employment Transition Program teenagers with a fascinating touch tour and fútbol clinic. The specially designed clinic taught the students history, basic skills and rules of soccer, using beeping soccer balls that enabled them to locate the soccer balls by sound. Inter Miami CF HR Department also

spoke to Miami Lighthouse's Pre-Employment Transition Program teens about the different job opportunities within the organization.

The clinic was arranged by Florida Blue in collaboration with Inter Miami CF. "The competitive and physical nature of soccer brings to life our Miami Lighthouse for the Blind slogan that *It's Possible To See Without Sight™*", said CEO Virginia Jacko. To read more [click here](#).



Members of Florida Blue and Inter Miami CF with our Pre-Employment Transition Students at Chase Stadium

Northern Trust hosts Donor Reception

We express our gratitude to Northern Trust Coral Gables office and our Board Director Scott Richey, Senior Managing Director for providing a very special evening event to say "Thank you" to some of our major donors prior to our annual "See the Light Luncheon" to be held at The Biltmore on November 14th.



Board Director's Dr. Stephen Morris, Rob Shelley, Deborah Montilla, Jean Putnam, CEO Virginia Jacko, Scott Richey, Sheila Freed and Board Chair Steven Solomon

Blue Water Shipping Presents Check

Thank you Blue Water Foundation for your generous donation! These funds will enable us to ensure sustainability and growth for our blind and visually impaired program participants, such as, our Pre-Employment Transition Program assisting young people ages 14-22 to develop skills to enter the workforce or post-secondary education. Our Students learn important life skills, like home and personal management, assistive technology, job readiness, orientation and mobility, social skills and community integration. We thank the more than 1,500 colleagues from over 80 locations in 30+ countries that came together to celebrate Blue Water Shipping's birthday and to raise funds for many non-profits. On behalf of all our program participants we thank Blue Water Foundation for their generosity.



Blue Water Shipping employees Marisabel Porcell, Paula Pereira da Silva and Christian Finnern present check to CEO Virginia Jacko and Senior Vice President of External Relations Cameron Sisser

Major gift to enhance Miami Lighthouse fight against Cortical Visual Impairment

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind has received a \$2 million gift to study and treat a serious condition affecting the sight of more than 180,000 children in the United States. The grant will help researchers

focus on cerebral visual impairment, often called cortical visual impairment (CVI), a disorder caused by damage to the parts of the brain that process vision.

The Miami Lighthouse CVI Collaborative, founded in 2020, includes the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Nova Southeastern University's Colleges of Business and Medicine, and Miami-Dade Public Schools Office of Exceptional Learners.



Aimee, a student with CVI, started at the Miami Lighthouse Academy in the toddler class. In Pre-K, at age 4, Aimee is learning the letters in the alphabet and building her pre-literacy skills

In the News:

- [WPLG Local 10, October 9, 2024 – "Symbol of independence for the blind: 'White Cane Day' to take place Oct. 15"](#)
- [Miami's Community News, October 8, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse Celebrates 60th Anniversary Of White Cane Safety Laws"](#)
- [Inter Miami CF, October 8, 2024 – "Inter Miami CF Partners With Florida Blue, Hosts Fútbol Clinic for Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Pre-Employment Transition Program Students"](#)
- [South Florida Insider, October 4, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse Celebrates the 60th Anniversary of White Cane Safety Laws"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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