



LIGHT LINE[™]

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Little Havana McDonald's Unveils New Painting by Miami Lighthouse Artist

We just unveiled a new artwork at the Montes Family McDonald's, *HAPPY McFRIES*, a mixed media artwork, created by a group of artist participants in our Senior Group Activities (SGA) program. The painting is now in its permanent home at the Little Havana McDonalds, our neighbors, at 1400 SW 8th Street in Miami. We are honored that this artwork will be preserved in a glass box display in the restaurant for all to see. *HAPPY McFRIES* is a large 36 x 36 tactile mixed media painting made by blind and visually impaired seniors, reinforcing Miami Lighthouse's mission that 'it's possible to see art without sight.' The Montes family has been a strong supporter of Miami Lighthouse for years, and we are immensely grateful for their continued partnership.



HAPPY McFRIES art unveiling at the Montes Family McDonald's located at 1400 SW 8th Street in Little Havana

Fieldtrip fun with Miami Dolphins Rookies!

Miami Lighthouse school children, accompanied by Miami Lighthouse Board Director Ali Mandsourwala, parents, volunteers and staff spent a wonderful day with the Miami Dolphins Rookie class filled with exciting, sensory-rich activities. Our students loved training with the players, wearing football gear, and getting hands-on participation with the players. Our thanks go to the Dolphins Passing Game Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach Darrell Bevell and his brother Adam Bevell, for making this memorable experience happen.



Miami Dolphins Rookie class on the Baptist Health Training Complex field with our Miami Lighthouse families

A very special visit from the President of Miami Dade College

Miami Lighthouse welcomed Miami Dade College President Madeline Pumariega and Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Maryam Laguna Borrego for a very special campus tour. We look forward to many meaningful conversations and future collaborations between Miami Lighthouse and Miami Dade College.



Senior Vice President Cameron Sisser, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Maryam Laguna Borrego, President and CEO Virginia Jacko and Miami Dade College President Madeline Pumariega

Miami Lighthouse Summer Camp Students Experience Court Visit

Our Pre-Employment Transition Services students participated in a fascinating experience with Chief Judge Laurel Isicoff of the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Florida. Organized by Miami Lighthouse Board Chair Steven Solomon, the students observed several hearings held in the courtroom and via Zoom. Judge Isicoff explained key aspects of bankruptcy proceedings and U.S laws. She also engaged in a Q&A with students and answered all their questions.

On this occasion, Judge Isicoff also welcomed two special guests for the students: Assistant U.S. Deputy Attorney Daniel Matzkin, who has been blind since birth, and Deputy U.S. Marshal Marc Palomino, accompanied by his K-9 partner Mimi from the U.S. Marshals Explosive Detection Service. Students gained valuable insight into the speakers' careers paths and the professional journeys that led them to their present positions. We thank Judge Isicoff and her staff for providing our students with this meaningful summer experience.



Pre-Employment Transition Services students visited the chambers of Chief Judge Laurel Isicoff of the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Florida

You are invited to the Miami Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon

Join us for our annual Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon on Tuesday, July 22nd at 12PM. Connect with local elected officials, Miami Lighthouse Board Directors, and community change-makers as we come together to champion children's eye health, education for blind students, and social group activities for seniors.

Enjoy a complimentary lunch, generously underwritten by Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, and a patriotic performance by our talented Summer Camp Music Students. Guests will also enjoy an exclusive Miami Lighthouse campus tour—including a high-energy showcase of Blind Soccer in action during our youth summer programs.

This is your chance to experience the impact of our venerable mission firsthand and discover how you can help create a brighter future for those we serve. Space is limited- RSVP today to Cameron Sisser at csisser@miamilighthouse.org.

The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster with a dark red background. At the top left is a white logo of a lighthouse with a large number '6' inside its beam. To the right of the logo, the text 'YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF THE LIGHTHOUSE' is written in white, with 'YOUNG' and 'OF THE' in smaller font. Below this, 'INVITE YOU TO' is written in large, white, dotted capital letters. Underneath is 'MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON' in large, white, solid capital letters. A line of smaller white text follows: 'IN APPRECIATION TO ELECTED OFFICIALS SUPPORT OF OUR MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE ACADEMY, FLORIDA HEIKEN CHILDREN'S VISION PROGRAM AND SENIOR GROUP HEALTH AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAM'. The date and time 'TUESDAY, JULY 22nd 12:00 - 1:30 P.M.' are in white. Below this is the address 'MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND 601 SW 8TH AVE, MIAMI FL 33130'. To the right, 'FEATURING OUR AWARD-WINNING AND TALENTED MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE SUMMER CAMP MUSIC STUDENTS' is written in white. A sponsor logo for 'WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN COLE + BIERMAN' is shown, flanked by two large white stars with blue outlines. The bottom section has a blue background with white stars and a white wavy line. It contains the text 'RSVP BY FRIDAY, JULY 18th TO CAMERON SISSER AT 786-362-7515 OR CSISSER@MIAMILIGHTHOUSE.ORG' and the slogan 'IT'S POSSIBLE TO SEE WITHOUT SIGHT™' at the very bottom.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF THE LIGHTHOUSE

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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 22nd
12:00 - 1:30 P.M.**

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

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In the News:

- [Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, June 13, 2025 – "Blind Soccer — Miami Lighthouse"](#)
- [Ability Magazine, June 2025 – "Blind Soccer — Miami Lighthouse"](#)
- [Miami Herald, May 29, 2025 – "Vibrant new artwork at animal shelter reminds us that retired guide dogs can be adopted"](#)
- [Exceptional Parenting Magazine, May, 2025 – "Empowering Independence: Essential Tools for Orientation and Mobility"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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