



LIGHT LINE[™]

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Young Professionals of the Lighthouse (YPOL) host "Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon"

Our annual Miami Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon was held on Tuesday, July 22nd in appreciation of our elected officials' support of our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, Miami Lighthouse Academy and our Senior Group Activities Program. The special event provided attendees with the opportunity to meet and network with local elected officials, Miami Lighthouse Board Directors, and other community leaders.

Appreciation was given to the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation and Florida Legislature for continuing funding of our programs. Guests enjoyed a special musical performance of "Yankee Doodle Dandy" by our Bright Beacons Program and patriotic songs by our talented Miami

Lighthouse Summer Music Program student ensemble. We thank Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman for sponsoring the luncheon.



Florida State Legislature check presentation to Miami Lighthouse at the annual Lighthouse Legislative Luncheon.

Miami Marlins "team up" with Miami Lighthouse for the Beep Ball Classic and Sensory Tour

On July 8th, with the Beep Ball Classic, the Miami Marlins brought the game of baseball to teenage program participants enrolled in our Pre-Employment Transition Service Program. The Beep Ball Classic is a game of adaptive baseball relying on auditory cues so the visually impaired and blind players can locate the ball. Mr. Marlin, Jeff Conine, and his son, Griffin Conine, now a Marlins player, both participated in the fun game.

Our teenagers also got to go on a guided tour around the ballpark that included walking the field, exploring equipment in the team's dugout with Miami Marlins Manager Clayton McCullough, and a sensory tour of LoanDepot Park. This unique experience brought a new level of intrigue and excitement to our teens, allowing them to learn about sporting events from a different perspective. Our thanks to the Miami Marlins Foundation, Miami Marlins players, staff and Grounds Crew Manager Javier Carrilo-Milan, for this memorable day. To read more about the unforgettable sensory tour experience [click here](#).



CBS-4 media: Miami Lighthouse for the Blind teams up with the Miami Marlins for a rousing game of "beep ball".

Students visit the United States Coast Guard

Students from our Pre-Employment Transition program had an exciting field trip to the U.S. Coast Guard base in Miami. The visit began with a Q&A session where students learned about the Coast Guard's daily operations, including their critical roles in maritime safety and rescue missions. Then, students went on a guided tour of the base, boarding one of the Coast Guard's airplanes used for Search and Rescue missions. Inside the aircraft, students were able to sit in the pilot's seat and explore the tools and technologies used during emergency operations. This field trip offered a brief, yet inspiring glimpse into a rescue aviator's perspective. We thank Captain Robert Grant (Ret.), and Coast Guard staff who helped make this memorable, hands-on learning experience possible for our students.



Pre-Employment Transition Services students at the U.S. Coast Guard base in Miami.

Libra Group founder George Logotheitis visits Miami Lighthouse

George Logotheitis, founder of the Libra Group, along with Juliana Saenz, Chief of Staff, and Esther Abinador, Senior Associate, recently toured our Miami Lighthouse facility. This visit reinforced a fruitful collaboration, with Mr. Logotheitis addressing our Pre-Employment Transition Program students about their summer mentorship program at Elandis, a Coral Gables real estate partner company of the Libra Group. Additionally, two Miami Lighthouse students were invited to attend the 2025 Annual Concordia Summit in New York along with staff. We extend our gratitude to Dr. Eduardo J. Padron, former Miami-Dade College President and longtime Miami Lighthouse partner, for connecting us with the Libra Group and Mr. Logotheitis.



Esther Abinader, Libra Senior Associate; Cameron Sisser, Senior Vice President; Virginia Jacko, President and CEO; George Logothetis, Founder of Libra Group; Julianna Saenz, Libra Chief of Staff; Carol Brady-Simmons, Chief Programs Officer.

Students experience Special Fire Safety Demonstration

Twenty-five students attending Miami Lighthouse's Pre-Employment Transition Services Program experienced a unique tour of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Station 2 Firehouse. The students not only had the opportunity to explore the building and the equipment, but they also interviewed the fire rescue team about their careers and experienced fire extinguisher training.

"Reinforcing pre-fire preparations, planning and practicing an escape plan in the event of an actual emergency, installing smoke alarms, and involving the Fire Department to help plan an escape route, are all very important safety lessons and even more so for our visually impaired population," noted Miami Lighthouse President and CEO Virginia Jacko. We thank Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Chief Raied Jadallah for organizing the special field trip and Firehouse Station 2 firefighters for hosting our teenagers.



*Video: Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) Station Tour
for Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired.*

Summer Work Experience at Restaurant Brands International (RBI)

Our students had an exciting job shadowing experience at Restaurant Brands International (RBI), where they explored a variety of career paths and gained firsthand insight into the professional world. The visit included an introduction to careers in marketing and social media, where students learned how brands connect with customers and build their online presence. One of the highlights of the day was participating in a Burger King taste test, allowing students to sample products and better understand how customer feedback plays a role in product development.

They also toured the company's test kitchen, where they saw how new food items are created, tested, and prepared before reaching the market. The experience offered students an engaging and interactive look at the behind-the-scenes operations of RBI, helping them connect their interests to real-world career opportunities. We thank Miami Lighthouse Board Director Jill Granat for organizing the incredible experience.



Pre-ETS students got a behind the scenes look at Restaurant Brands International, exploring careers in marketing, social media, and culinary innovation.

In the News:

- [Miami Today, July 10, 2025 – "Miami Lighthouse: It's possible to see without sight"](#)
- [CBS News, July 8, 2025 – "Miami Lighthouse for the Blind teams up with the Miami Marlins for a rousing game of 'beep ball'"](#)
- [WPLG Local 10, July 8, 2025 – "Jeff and Griffin Conine join visually impaired youth for Beep Ball Classic at loanDepot park"](#)
- [Coral Spring Talks, June 27, 2025 – "Free Eye Exams and Glasses for Coral Springs Youth Courtesy of Miami Lighthouse"](#)

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