



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Miami Lighthouse opens Florida's first CVI Collaborative Center

Miami Lighthouse has announced the initiation of the first collaboration between educators, medical professionals, researchers and service providers in the State of Florida, responding exclusively to Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI), the #1 cause of pediatric visual impairment in the developed world.

The collaboration was unveiled at Miami Lighthouse's "See The Light Luncheon" on October 20th at The Biltmore Hotel in front of an audience of benefactors, stakeholders, elected officials and education professionals. The luncheon also featured the announcement of a \$1 million dollar challenge grant from a generous anonymous donor, to encourage matching donor support for the CVI Collaborative Center.

CVI is a brain-based visual impairment caused by damage to the posterior visual system, including the visual cortex. In this way, CVI does not impact how the eyes see, but how the brain interprets what the eyes see.

A powerful example of the importance of CVI intervention was heard at the luncheon in an emotional parent testimonial from Caterina the mother of 4 year old Lorenzo who was diagnosed as functionally blind with CVI at the age of three months.

“I was frantic to help my child when a new ophthalmologist told me about the Miami Lighthouse and I enrolled him in the pre-school program at the age of 2. Through a specialized CVI assessment it was found that with the right support he is able to access his curriculum visually. Ladies and gentlemen, Lorenzo is now reading text at grade level with the appropriate adaptations, support and technology in place, thanks to the Miami Lighthouse to the Blind.”



Lorenzo learning at Miami Lighthouse Academy

Lorenzo is now a second grader in our Miami Lighthouse Academy and is reading print text at grade level. “It is truly like a miracle when we can transform an early learner from being a Braille reader to a print reader at grade level,” commented President & CEO Virginia Jacko.

For more information on the CVI program, call us at 786-362-7483.

"White Cane Day" celebration is a major success

This year's "White Cane Day Walk & Ceremony" was a winner with more than 100 blind and visually impaired Miami residents in attendance for the annual walk on the streets of Miami. Emceed by El Zol 106.7's on-air talent, Jammin Johnny Caride elected officials and community leaders joined in on the special festivities. "White Cane Day" is a national observance, established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964. The day celebrates the many achievements of the blind and visually impaired and their important symbol of independence, the white cane.

Escorted by City of Miami Police and Fire Departments, the walk was led by Grand Marshals including Miami-Dade County Commissioners Eileen Higgins and Sally Heyman, City of Miami Commissioner Joe Carollo, Miami-Dade County Public School Board Member Lucia Baez-Geller, representatives from the Florida Division of Blind Services Miami District Office, Lions for the Blind, and Billy The Marlin.

Event sponsors include presenting sponsors Florida Blue, High Standard Home Care and Uber, along with McDonald's, Starbucks, OrCam, Vispero, Ambutech, Lions for the Blind, TracFone and others.



White Cane Day 2021

Miami-Dade Beacon Council Newsletter features Miami Lighthouse program participant

The Miami-Dade Beacon Council Newsletter this month invited its readers to "Meet Jonnathan". The young man, a native of Venezuela, lost his vision from a brain tumor. The physical, emotional and financial toll was devastating, but he was determined to thrive in his new country.

Referred to the Miami Lighthouse by his doctor, he had no idea how he would ever use a computer, a mobile device, or find employment. Miami Lighthouse stepped in and helped him with tools such as braille, screen-reading software, and so much more.

The result? Jonathan was recently hired as a Service Advocate for Florida Blue where he works from his home office, thanks to everything he learned at the Miami Lighthouse is will be able to succeed in his new job role.



Did you know?

You may have heard about charitable remainder trusts, which allow you to fund a lifetime trust for your personal benefit (retaining an annual payment of 5% or more), with the trust assets passing to charity following your death. You receive a current income tax deduction measured by the amount projected to pass to charity even though the trust assets are not distributed to the charity until after you pass away. With the proposed tax law changes, charities (such as the Miami Lighthouse) are asking stakeholders to include our charity in your estate planning. Please remember you can double your investment through our [Matching Challenges!](#)



In the News:

[Miami Today, October 28, 2021 – "Lighthouse unveils a pediatric visual impairment program"](#)

[La Opinion, October 26, 2021 – "Mes de la Herencia Hispana: el hispano que busca que personas con discapacidad visual tengan acceso a Internet"](#)

[The Wall Street Journal, October 26, 2021 – "Mastercard Introduces Accessible Card Design for Blind Users"](#)

[CBS4 Miami, October 15, 2021 – "White Cane Day Celebrates Achievements Of Visually Impaired"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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