



Annual Report to Stakeholders

November, 2018

It's Possible to See Without Sight™

Thanks to you, our stakeholders, annually more than 17,000 babies, children, youth and adults are empowered through your generosity to lead productive and independent lives.

- Miami Lighthouse continues to demonstrate it is worthy of our donors' philanthropic investments having received our eleventh consecutive 4-star rating, the highest rating possible, from Charity Navigator, the national nonprofit evaluator, based upon our sound fiscal management and responsible use of donor dollars. Of the 9,000 organizations evaluated annually by Charity Navigator, we are now among the top 35 nonprofits in the entire nation.
- GuideStar USA, the information service specializing in reporting on more than 2.5 million U.S. nonprofits, awarded Miami Lighthouse its 2018 Gold Seal of Transparency. This recognition highlights the goals, strategies, capabilities, achievements, and progress indicators that are central to the transformational impact our Miami Lighthouse consistently strives to achieve in the world of the visually impaired.
- This fall we welcomed 57 new early learners in our Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ which is offered with donor support and through collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition and Miami-Dade County Public Schools. We have evidence that our innovative learning program comprised of 50% visually impaired children and 50% with no visual impairment is becoming a national model. First-year results of a four-year longitudinal study being conducted by University of Miami research faculty show that our Learning Center for Children™ demonstrated high levels of fidelity to our early childhood inclusion model and scored above the national average for high quality instructional practices.
- Our blind and visually impaired musicians and chorus premiered a new musical score to "The Great Train Robbery," the iconic silent film, at our 2018 Music Under the Stars event. The score was written by Miami Lighthouse instructor Oman Pedreira. The musicians and chorus wore headsets to receive audio cues from our Music Program Manager John Nichols allowing them to transition seamlessly through the music and sound effects of the 12-minute Western adventure film. Our Miami Lighthouse musicians were honored to subsequently present this classic silent movie and perform the innovative score at the Adrienne Arsht Center Annual Arts Launch in September.
- Our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program provided more than 10,500 financially disadvantaged schoolchildren a comprehensive eye examination with 7,800 prescription glasses at no cost during the 2017-2018 school year.
- With partial funding from the Florida Department of Education Division of Blind Services and Miami-Dade County, nearly 150 seniors attend our daily Social Group Health and Activities Program which offers fitness, nutrition, tactile art, music and computing classes and activities. This important program enables blind seniors to stay out of costly assisted living facilities and reduces medical costs.
- Through effective work in seeking public funding and expanding philanthropic support, Miami Lighthouse enhanced its financial health and its sustainability while serving a more than 35-fold increase in clients since 2004—now serving more than 17,000 program participants annually.

Collaborations

- More than 60 faculty, residents and fellows from Bascom Palmer attended our annual Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Reception. Guests toured our facility and learned about the variety of vision rehabilitation programs we offer and about the many assistive devices and services available in our Low Vision Center.
- As part of our Center of Excellence in Vision Rehabilitation initiatives, Miami Lighthouse continues to address the shortage of professionals in the low vision rehabilitation field by supervising interns. During 2018 our certified low vision and occupational therapist provided practicum internships for 19 occupational therapist students from Barry University, Florida International University, and Keiser University.
- To empower healthcare professionals with the knowledge they require to meet the needs and the growing number of patients who are impacted by low vision, we held our sixth continuing education seminar for Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Nurses in collaboration with the Florida International University Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences Occupational Therapy. The seminar was attended by more than 40 registrants who received continuing education credits for their participation.

Recognitions

- At their annual conference, The Able Trust, a leader in providing opportunities for successful employment for Floridians with disabilities, awarded our High School High Tech (HSHT) Sites its statewide "HSHT Quality Recognition Award." Sites earn the "HSHT Quality Recognition" award once specific goals and standards set by The Able Trust have been achieved.
- The Able Trust named CEO Jacko the winner of the prestigious "Dr. George L. Spelios Leadership Award" which recognizes outstanding leadership and advocacy efforts of an executive director or president of a Florida non-profit disability organization.
- Miami Lighthouse was named "Best of Miami" Charity by *Miami New Times*.
- Lions International Chair, Dr. Naresh Aggarwal, presented CEO Jacko with the highly selective 2018 President's Leadership Award at the Lions Clubs International 100th Anniversary Board of Directors Meeting in Miami.

Opportunities

Thanks to the support of individuals, foundations, companies, and government entities, Miami Lighthouse continues to offer education and vision rehabilitation for people of all ages and eye healthcare for children based upon best practices in the profession and is known as a Center of Excellence in vision rehabilitation.

- At our 2018 See the Light Luncheon, The Wildflower Foundation announced a generous \$1 million one-for-one matching challenge to our donors. This new four-year incentive challenge of \$250,000 per year from The Wildflower Foundation will support blind and visually impaired participants in our Music and Tactile Art Programs. Please call CEO Virginia Jacko at 305-856-4176 for details.

While we are proud of our consistent 4-star rating from the national nonprofit evaluator Charity Navigator, I am most proud of our professional team that every day transforms the lives of the blind and visually impaired in our community. Our highly credentialed 85 professionals along with our support team are committed to serving our mission; yearly over 17,000 persons benefit from our programs. We count on your ongoing support to ensure continuation of our tradition of excellence in service for the blind and visually impaired. Thank you for your help in sustaining our incredibly important effort.

