Charity pays for glasses for underprivileged kids

By Bea L. Hines
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The Heiken Children’s Vision Program provides free comprehensive eye examination and glasses when prescribed to low-income school children who fail their vision screening and have no insurance or other resources for eye care. The program was started in 1992, and since then, 75,000 children have received exams with 83 percent needing and receiving free eyeglasses.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, the Heiken Program, a division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, will present its sixth annual event to help the children who need this care. The community is asked to support the event billed as "Music Under the Stars: Bon Appetit Miami", which will feature an evening of music, food from some of Miami’s finest restaurants and a silent auction. The auction will offer getaway trips, jewelry and exclusive art.

The event will be at Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, 601 SW Eighth Ave. The program will include musical performances by guest artists, and students and instructors from the Miami Lighthouse Better Chance Music Production Program. David Bernard of CBS 4 Miami will serve as master of ceremonies.

The honorees are: state Rep. Jose Felix Diaz, R-Miami; Ava Goldman, administrative director for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and Robert M. Levy, Government Relations Consultant. They will be recognized for their support of the Heiken Program.

Tickets are $80 each or $150 for a pair. For tickets and for more information call Cameron E. Sisser, director of external affairs at Miami Lighthouse, at 786-362-7515.

Booker T. alumni give out scholarships

On May 4, at the Marriott Biscayne Bay Hotel, the Booker T. Washington Alumni Association presented its annual Orange and Black Living Legends and Scholarship gala. The event honored nine individuals who were named 2013 Living Legends, while presenting scholarships to 16 graduating seniors of the school. It was a wonderful and beautiful event. As a graduate of Booker T. and a member of the Alumni Association, I am so proud of the work the organization, led by Roberta Thompson Daniels, does for the school and for its students.

My friend Dr. Herman Dorsett, class of 1958, and I were happy to have been selected to present the Legends to the audience. So, congratulations to Living Legends 2013: Daniel Akins, education; Wilhelmina Carter, culture; Georgena D. Ford, health care; Etta Harbin, community service; Yvonne Harris, public service; Paulette Martin, philanthropy; Archie McKay, law enforcement; N. Patrick Range, entrepreneurial, and Anthony Thompson, sports.

And congratulations to the 2013 scholarship recipients. They are: Kyryzrus Turquia, GPA, 5.35, the B. T. W. Alumni Association’s scholarship of $2,000; Richie Spiller, GPA 3.77, the David F. Davis Memorial Scholarship of $1,500; Valery Gue, GPA 4.49, The Miami Times Scholarship of $1,500; Jamesha Hall, GPA 3.84, the Laura Jones Scholarship of $1,500; Brandi Johnson, GPA 3.13, the Patricia Warren Memorial Scholarship of $1,500; Catherine Champagne, GPA, 4.38,
the Charles Lamar Mobley Memorial Scholarship of $1,500; Michael Johnson, GP, 2.67, the Hazel Lucas Grant and Clarice R. Littles Memorial Scholarship of $1,500, and Moses Dany, GPA, 3.12, the B.T.W Class of 1960 scholarship of $1,500.

Also, Mita Polynice, GPA, 3.80, the B.T.W. Class of 1961 scholarship of $1,500; Raquel Roundtree, GPA, 3.86, the B.T.W. Class of 1962 scholarship of $1,500; Taquavia Guilliett, GPA, 3.27, the B.T.W. Class of 1963 scholarship of $1,500; Chevon Williams, GPA, 4.55, the B.T.W. Class of 1965 scholarship of $1,500; Melissa Wilson, GPA, 3.42, the Washingtonians Class of 6T5, Inc. scholarship of $1,500; Jasmin Thompson, GPA, 4.24, the B.T.W. Class of 1966 scholarship of $1,500; Annallyssia Baca, GPA, 3.05, scholarship of $1,500 from assorted donations from B.T.W. Classes and Friends, and Elvis Mendes, GPA, 4.34, also a scholarship of $1,500 from assorted donations from B.T.W. Classes and Friends.

Again, congratulations and a great, big "Thank you" to Daniels, Eunice Davis, chairwoman of the event; Cora White, co-chair; Rodney Baltimore, awards presenter; and Laura Jones, scholarship committee chairwoman for all you do for our community and for our children.

Jazz singer to perform at church

Here's something you might want to attend today: Renowned jazz singer Alice Day, will present her annual tribute concert at 4 p.m. at Metropolitan AME Church, 1778 NW 68 9th St. The concert is free, but donations are requested and will benefit the church.

Also, registration for the Revelation Summer Camp are now being accepted. The camp is June 17 through July 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost is $50 for the week per child and includes lunch, snacks, field trips, recreation, and performing arts. The camp is open to children ages 4 through 17. For more information email Joyce Reid at tonyjoycet@aol.com.

Music helps kids learn science

Orchestra Miami will present "Oceanophony" at 4:15 p.m. on May 26, at the Miami Science Museum, 3280 S. Miami Ave. The musical piece is by award-winning composer Bruce Adolphe, and is presented in a way children will learn about the undersea life, coral reefs, biodiversity and more through the music and poems.

Performed by eight musicians from Orchestra Miami and conducted by Artistic Director Elaine Rinaldi, with visual images by Michael Greenberg, this combination of music and science will take children (and adults, too) into a world of undersea wonders where they will discover the answers to such questions as, "What happens when you poke a pufferfish?", "Do seahorses mate for life?", "What exactly is a cleaning station?", and "Is Marine Snow cold?"

The show is free with museum admission.

Celebrate the arts in Homestead

Homestead Center for the Arts invites on Monday will host an afternoon and evening of celebrating the arts and culture of Homestead with artists, orchids and wood turners. The event will begin at 3 p.m. with art exhibits, a silent auction, a writers corner, and wine social until 5 p.m., followed by the annual meeting, awards and recognition from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m.

Sounds like lots of fun. Tickets may be purchased by calling Barbara Millenburch at 305-253-6620, or by emailing her at, info@homesteadcenterforthearts.com.
Business and professional women give out awards

On May 11, The South Florida Club of the Business and Professional Women had its 36th Annual Founders Day Awards Luncheon at the Miami Shores Country club and honored seven individual for service in their professions.

Congratulations to: Helen Faye Reed, honored for her role as a mentor in education. A retired Miami-Dade school teacher, she continues to volunteer and educate local youth with FCAT and HIV education; Derrick Baker, program director of WEDR 99 Jamz, arts and entertainment; LaTrese McPhee Williams, law; Dr. Edith Davis, medicine, a local physician with 32 years specializing in family and pediatric medicine; the Rev. Andrew L. Floyd, religion, pastor of First Baptist Church of Brownsville; Maj. Raleigh Flowers Jr., law enforcement, a 17-year veteran of the Hialeah Police Department and commander of Professional Compliance Bureau; Shirlyon McWhorter Jones, former County Court judge and director of Equal Opportunity Programs and Diversity at Florida International University.

And also to the club’s 2013 scholarship recipients: Clarice Kendrick, Miami Jackson Senior High and Fredricka Rankin, Miami Central Senior High.

‘Ministering to the Elderly’

The 18th annual Ministering to the Elderly Conference at Miami Jewish Health Systems will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday (May 20) at 5200 NE Second Ave. The theme is, "Meaningful Moments — Holding On While Letting Go," which examines the challenges facing aging caregivers including Baby Boomers.

The conference is sponsored by Miami Jewish Health Systems, the Jewish Chaplaincy Program of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Services of South Florida. It is a forum for caring health professionals, community and spiritual leaders, as well as others who are concerned with enriching the lives of the elderly.

The event will feature Rabbi Richard S. Address as the speaker. He is founder and director of the Sacred Aging Project. He and other presenters will have six breakout sessions on such topics as "The Pursuit of Self Actualization and Serenity for the Sandwich Generation," "But is That my Mother Anymore: Creating a New Vocabulary for Dementia and Alzheimer’s," "Ritual: A Key to Successful Spiritual Aging", "Practical How-to Guide for Creating Rituals to Aid Life Transitions", "Just for me: Using a Group-based Model to Enrich and Embrace Transitions in the Second Part of Life," and "The Eleven Principles of Transformation: Empowerment Through Loss."

Registration is $35 per person and included CE credits, lunch and pre-and post event receptions. Nurses, social workers, mental health counselors, guardians as well as marriage and family therapists will be eligible for continuing education credits. Call 786-866-8611 for more information. To register visit: MiamiJewishHealthSystems.org/event-calendar.