



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE MIAMI FOUNDATION**

*The Miami Foundation grant will ensure uninsured, financially disadvantaged children in Miami-Dade County receive free comprehensive eye examinations and eyeglasses.*

**Miami, Fla. (June, 22, 2011) — The Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program, LLC, a division of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired** has received a grant from The Miami Foundation that will enable approximately 200 uninsured, financially disadvantaged children in Miami-Dade County to receive free comprehensive eye examinations and eyeglasses. “Miami Lighthouse is extremely happy to receive support from The Miami Foundation,” said CEO Virginia A. Jacko. “It is vital for every child in Miami-Dade to be able to see the board and keep up in class, because we know that poor vision often goes untreated and leads to academic and behavior problems.”

“This project is aligned with the priorities of the Miami Foundation,” said President and CEO of The Miami Foundation Javier Alberto Soto. “The charitable resources donors provide allow us to address emerging needs and invest in programs such as The Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program that can transform the lives of many students in Miami-Dade County giving them a chance to succeed in school.”

Each year over 100,000 school children are screened by Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), and more than 13,000 fail the vision screening in five grades mandated by the State (K, 1, 3, 6 and 10). Of these students, almost 8,000 are financially disadvantaged children with no health care resources. In 2010, over 6,500 of these underserved children received free eye care from the Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program, and 75 percent of the children examined required eyeglasses.

Since Miami Lighthouse acquired the Heiken Program in a merger that occurred in 2007, over 19,000 free comprehensive eye examinations have been performed and prescription eyeglasses provided when needed. The Miami Foundation joins other funders and individual donors in making this service possible.

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## ABOUT THE MIAMI FOUNDATION

[www.miamifoundation.org](http://www.miamifoundation.org)

Established in 1967, **The Miami Foundation** has helped hundreds of people create personal, permanent and powerful legacies by establishing custom, charitable Funds. With our expertise, Fundholders have fostered the arts, awarded scholarships, championed diversity, taught kids to read, provided food and shelter for the hungry and homeless, and more. More than \$150 million in grants and scholarships has been awarded in our rich 43 year history. Today, we carefully steward close to \$150 million in charitable assets.

### MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE MISSION STATEMENT:

*To provide vision rehabilitation  
and eye health services  
that promote independence,  
to educate professionals, and  
to conduct research in related fields.*

[www.miamilighthouse.org](http://www.miamilighthouse.org)

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