



MEDIA ALERT

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE PROMOTES HEALTH EQUITY BY PROVIDING VISION EXAMS AT NO COST TO NEEDY STUDENTS AT MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FEBRUARY 1-5

WHAT: Free vision examinations and glasses for low-income students

WHEN: Monday, February 1, 2021 – Friday, February 5, 2021

WHO: Provided by Miami Lighthouse for the Blind
Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program

WHERE: Horace O' Bryant School (February 1 from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
1105 Leon Street
Key West, Florida 33040

Key West High School (February 2 from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)
2100 Flagler Avenue
Key West, Florida 33040

Sugarloaf School (February 3 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
255 Crane Boulevard
Summerland Key, Florida 33050

Marathon Middle/High School (February 4 from 7:45 a.m. – 10 a.m.)
350 Sombrero Beach Road
Marathon, Florida 33050

Stanley Switlik School (February 4 from 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
3400 Overseas Highway
Marathon, Florida 33050

Key Largo School (February 5 from 8 a.m. – 2:50 p.m.)
104801 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, Florida 33037

DETAILS: In collaboration with the Monroe County School District, free eye examinations will be given to financially disadvantaged students by licensed optometrists in a fully equipped mobile optometric unit operated by the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program.

The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is administered by Miami Lighthouse for the Blind & Visually Impaired in collaboration with a network of more than 1,100 optometrists throughout the state. Five Heiken Program mobile eye-care units take primary eye care directly

to Florida's school children. Each year, more than 1,000 schools from Tallahassee to Key West refer underserved children, so that the Heiken Program can provide free dilated eye examinations and prescription glasses to needy children whose families cannot afford these services.

Of 10,349 low-income school children receiving comprehensive eye exams during the 2019-2020 school year, 320 were referred for medical intervention for retinal tears, glaucoma and other eye abnormalities. Approximately 77 percent of all children examined require and receive prescription eyeglasses, confirming the importance of a follow-up eye exam after a student fails the state-mandated vision screening.

The mission of the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program is to make sure that all financially disadvantaged school children have access to comprehensive eye examinations, including dilation and glasses if required, to give them the best chance at academic success. These free services are offered statewide, either on-site at schools, via five mobile eye clinics or by the Heiken program's network of more than 1,100 participating optometrists. Funding is provided by the State of Florida Department of Health, The Miami-Dade Children's Trust and generous private donors.

For more information about the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program and Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, contact Cameron Sisser at csisser@miamilighthouse.org or 786-362-7515.