



A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 128

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It's Back to School with our newly opened 3rd Grade!

It's back to school at Miami Lighthouse Academy, where children with visual impairment come together to learn and thrive in an inclusive environment. We are proud of the addition of 3rd grade classes in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The 3rd grade expansion aims to equip visually impaired students with the skills, confidence, and accessible learning environment needed to succeed. Our 3rd grade expansion was made possible with support from the Miami-Dade Impact Collaborative, The Hutson-Wiley and Echevarria Foundation, and the Dennis & Smith Foundation. Miami Lighthouse Academy is fully accredited offering free VPK for children who are sighted, inclusive preschool for students with visual impairments, as well as kindergarten through 3rd grade for students who are visually impaired.

We thank The Children's Trust for their continued support of our educational programs, as well as, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe for their support of our VPK programming, and grateful to Superintendent Jose Dotres and his leadership team for our partnership through the M-DCPS School Board. Learn more about our Academy, inclusive classrooms, sensory-based learning, and highly credentialed teachers, on our website here- MiamiLighthouseAcademy.org.



Students ready to go Back to School

Children need comprehensive eye exams as part of back to school

Without comprehensive eye exams, children are at risk of falling behind academically, experiencing social challenges, and facing eye health risks. For many children, a pair of glasses isn't just about seeing clearly - it's about unlocking their full potential in school and life. Yet, far too many children still lack access to essential eye healthcare.

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind subsidiary, the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, encounters these challenges every day. Addressing children's eye health is the sole mission of our Heiken Program. Since inception, through a network of licensed optometrists we have provided over 225,000 comprehensive dilated eye exams and glasses when prescribed to underserved children across the state at no cost, thanks to funding from the Florida Department of Health, The Children's Trust, and others. These comprehensive exams go beyond basic screenings— they detect serious conditions that could lead to permanent blindness if left untreated.

Early detection, prevention, and intervention can change lives– and every child deserves the chance to see their future clearly. For more information about our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program visit www.FloridaHeiken.org.



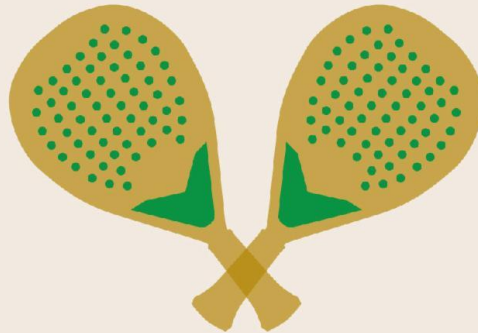
Student receives no cost prescription glasses from our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program

Padel for the Blind

"Light up the Court and Padel for the Blind" with our Young Professionals of the Lighthouse on Sunday, September 14th from 5-8 pm at Wynwood Padel Club located at 1932 NW Miami Court Miami FL 33136. Thank you to our generous sponsors, Playbypoint, JP Morgan Private Bank, Equinox, Wynwood Padel Club and El Carajo. Entry fee for players is \$75 which includes bevarges, light bites and Light up the Court Padel Tournament. All proceeds support Miami Lighthouse for the Blind programs. To purchase tickets [click here](#).



LIGHT UP THE COURT
PADEL FOR THE BLIND



Sunday, September 14th
from 5-8 pm
at Wynwood Padel Club
1932 NW Miami Court • Miami, FL 33136

Entry fee for players and spectators:
\$75

All proceeds go to support Miami Lighthouse programs

Thank you to our generous sponsors



J.P.Morgan
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PADEL CLUB



Padel for the Blind Invite

Breakfast with The Children's Trust

Miami Lighthouse was proud to participate in breakfast with The Children's Trust hosted by Miami Community Newspapers and Baptist Health South Florida featuring guest speakers James Haj, President and CEO, and Natalia Zea, Chief Public Policy and Engagement Officer of The Children's Trust.



**Miami's Community Newspapers Breakfast
at CasaCuba in South Miami**

Speaker:

**James Haj, President and CEO
The Children's Trust**

Tuesday, August 12, 2025



Cameron Sisser, Senior Vice President; Natalia Zea, Chief Public Policy and Engagement Officer TCT; James Haj, President and CEO TCT; and Virginia Jacko, President and CEO

In the News:

- **Exceptional Parenting Magazine, August 2025 – "Back to School for Children with Visual Impairments"**
- **Islander News, August 1, 2025 – "Discovering a surprise from scratch"**
- **MLB, July 28, 2025 – "More Than A Game: Marlins Create Unforgettable Experience for Miami Lighthouse"**
- **Miami Today, July 10, 2025 – "Miami Lighthouse: It's possible to see without sight"**
- **CBS News, July 8, 2025 – "Miami Lighthouse for the Blind teams up with the Miami Marlins for a rousing game of 'beep ball'"**

[Read more!](#)

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are separate corporations and unaffiliated entities*

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Vision Insights



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Miami Lighthouse accepts Crypto Currency donations.

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