



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Happy Halloween from Miami Lighthouse Academy



Miami Lighthouse Hosts Webinar on CVI

Miami Lighthouse recently hosted an international webinar titled "Advancing Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) Awareness and Innovation" presented by our CVI Collaborative partners. This panel brought together experts from Nova Southeastern University Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship, Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine (NSU MD), University of Miami Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, Nicklaus Children's Health System to tackle CVI challenges.

Questions regarding definitions, etiology, diagnosis, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of CVI were brought up by moderator François Sainfort, Professor - Healthcare Administration/Director - Complex Health Systems Program/Chair and panelists included Dr. John Ravenscroft, Chair of Childhood Visual Impairment at the University of Edinburgh Carlos E. Mendoza-Santiesteban, Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, University of Miami Bascom Palmer Eye Institute; Anuj Jayakar, Medical Director, Neurocritical Care Program Nicklaus Children's Hospital; Michael Berger, Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind. The Seminar is supported by a 2025 Delta Gamma Foundation 'Service for Sight' Grant.



Video Webinar on "Advancing Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)"

95th Anniversary Celebrated on White Cane Day

We celebrated our 95th Anniversary on October 15th, White Cane Day, a National Day of Observance established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964. The day is set aside to celebrate the many achievements of the blind and visually impaired, and their important symbol of independence, the white cane.

More than 200 blind and visually impaired program participants were escorted by the City of Miami Fire and Police Departments and were led by Grand Marshalls Miami-Dade Supervisor of Elections Alina Garcia, Tax Collector Dariel Fernandez, Miami-Dade County Public School Board Chair Mari Tere Rojas, Billy the Marlin and Miami Kids Magazine Sharky.

The highly successful event was emceed by Raymond Duenas, The Miami Herald Director of Community Affairs, and continued with lunch sponsored by The Montes Family owned McDonald's. Our nationally recognized Miami Lighthouse Music Program provided wonderful entertainment. Sponsors of the outstanding day included Uber, TD Bank, Gray Robinson, Vispero, Florida Blue Medicare, Lions District 35-N, Ambutech, 305 Hive, Miami Kids Magazine, WMBM Media Group, Seed of Light and others.



White Cane Day 2025

Miami Lighthouse Blind Soccer Program receives 2025 'Innovator of the Year' Award

Miami Lighthouse Blind Soccer Program has been selected for the 2025 'Innovator of the Year' Award by the Florida Association for Education and Rehabilitation recognizing our commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of individuals who are blind or visually impaired in Florida.

Miami Lighthouse Teacher of the Visually Impaired Michael Berger, TVI, CSW, represented Miami Lighthouse to receive the award. Miami Lighthouse students, ages 1 to 18, have been learning blind soccer on our new blind soccer mini pitch. In blind soccer, all participants wear blinders so the playing field has equal access, with players using ear foot coordination as the soccer ball rattles across the field. This makes the sport ideal for those with visual impairment and without, to play and thrive together.



Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Michael Berger with the Florida Association for Education and Rehabilitation 2025 'Innovator of the Year' Award

Affordable Housing for the Blind at Related Group's SoMi Parc

Miami Lighthouse is a registered Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) Referral Agency and we are grateful to place many of our deserving program participants in affordable housing. Real estate trade outlet, [Multi-Housing News](#), published a Q&A featuring Related Group and Miami Lighthouse on the Residences at SoMi Parc initiative.

The Q&A highlights how SoMi Parc is redefining inclusive housing in South Florida, emphasizing thoughtful design, accessibility, and collaboration to empower residents with vision impairments. Miami Lighthouse program participants and residents of SoMi Parc like Xavier Richards and Brigitte Fabien share their experiences of independence and community, while Related Group and Miami Lighthouse discuss how this partnership came together and what future phases will look like. You may read the article

here <https://www.multihousingnews.com/crafting-a-vision-for-inclusion-at-somi-parc-in-miami/>.



Related Group's Residences at SoMi Parc

In the News:

- [WMBB News 13, October 29, 2025 – "Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program provides free eye exams for students"](#)
- [7 NEWS WJHG, October 29, 2025 – "Bay County students receive free eye exams"](#)
- [NorthEscambia.com, October 23, 2025 – "Students At 28 Escambia County School Can Qualify For Free Eye Exams, Glasses"](#)
- [7 NEWS WSVN, October 15, 2025 – "Miami Lighthouse celebrates achievements of the blind, visually impaired during White Cane Day"](#)

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