



MEDIA ALERT

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE PROVIDING FREE ACCESS TO EYE HEALTH SERVICES FOR UNDERSERVED STUDENTS WITH SUPPORT OF JOHNSON & JOHNSON VISION AND LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION COLLABORATION

WHAT: Providing equitable access to eye health care through free vision examinations and glasses

WHEN: Tuesday, September 14, 2021

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

WHERE: Le Jardin Community Center (9/14/21, beginning at 9 a.m.)
104 Northwest 12th Street
Homestead, Florida 33030

DETAILS: The Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program will provide free examinations by licensed optometrists in fully equipped mobile optometric units to students facing inequitable access to care. These examinations are being funded by Sight for Kids, a co-founded program by Johnson & Johnson Vision and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).

This grant will support quality, comprehensive eye health services and treatment for students in low-income and underserved communities across Miami-Dade, Broward, St. Lucie and Palm Beach counties. Sight for Kids' goal is for Lions volunteers in collaboration with Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program to provide vision screenings to 20,000 children across South Florida in its first year. Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program will provide no-cost eye exams and glasses to students with parental consent who fail the vision screenings. The exams will be administered in full compliance with COVID-19 safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and the American Optometric Association.

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 1,000 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.

About Johnson & Johnson Vision

At Johnson & Johnson Vision*, a part of Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices Companies, we have a bold ambition to change the trajectory of eye health worldwide. Through our operating companies, we deliver innovation that enables our eye care professionals to create better outcomes for patients throughout their lives with products and technologies that address unmet needs, including refractive error, cataracts and dry eye. In communities with greatest need, we work in collaboration to expand access to quality eye care and we are committed to helping people see better, connect better and live better. Visit us at jivision.com, or follow @JNJVISION on Twitter, Johnson & Johnson Vision* on LinkedIn, and @JNJVision on Facebook.

**Johnson & Johnson Vision represents the products and services of Johnson & Johnson Surgical Vision, Inc., Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc., and affiliates of both.*

About Lions Clubs International Foundation

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International. Established in 1968, LCIF provides grant funding to support compassionate works of Lions, empowering their service and addressing the needs of their communities both locally and globally. Since its founding, LCIF has awarded more than 16,000 grants totaling more than U.S. \$1.1 billion. Connect with LCIF on Facebook or online at lionsclubs.org/LCIF.

About Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program

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.