

**MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE RESPONDING TO PANDEMIC BY DISTRIBUTING
FREE DIAPERS TO FAMILIES OF BLIND BABIES ON APRIL 23**

WHAT: Distribution of diapers to parents of blind babies

WHEN: Thursday, April 23, 2020 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

WHERE: Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
601 Southwest 8th Avenue
Miami Florida 33130

DETAILS: Representative Nicholas X. Duran and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins will join staff from Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and will distribute bundles of diapers to the families of newborns through 5 year olds who participate in the agency's Blind Babies program. The diapers were provided to Miami Lighthouse by Farm Share to alleviate conditions during the current coronavirus epidemic.

Participating parents will drive their cars into the Miami Lighthouse parking garage before receiving their allocations of diapers.

"Many of the participants in the Blind Babies program are lower income families who are facing major financial challenges during the current period of social distancing and high unemployment," said Miami Lighthouse President and CEO Virginia Jacko. "Our goal is to make a difference during this time of tremendous need."

Miami Lighthouse is committed to supporting children and families. Due to the vulnerability of children with disabilities served at our campus, we have transitioned to virtual home learning support. Virtual programming allows parents and staff to observe social separation guidelines associated with the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Miami Lighthouse offers early intervention and parent education through a home visitation program to blind or visually impaired children from birth to age 5. The Blind Babies program supports families, empowers parents, and strengthens blind children's readiness to learn.

The Blind Babies Program also offers weekly playgroups at the state-of-the-art Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ where family-centered programs support the social, emotional, physical, cognitive and linguistic needs of blind or visually impaired children. Families come together weekly resulting in a strong emotional support network for parents and caregivers. Saturday parent braille courses and support groups are available on a variety of topics, including understanding each child's eye condition and preparing for every child's Individualized Education Plan meeting.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Media are encouraged to cover the distribution of diapers. However, Miami Lighthouse asks that media refrain from announcing this event in advance. Supplies of diapers are limited and we want to avoid turning away those who do not participate in the Blind Babies program.