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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2014

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MARLINS PARTNER WITH MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE TO PROVIDE VISION SCREENINGS AND GLASSES TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Booker T. Washington High School students to receive free exams and glasses provided by Heiken Children's Vision Program, thanks to Marlins Foundation charitable gift.

MIAMI – The Miami Marlins will join professional staff members of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired to provide free vision screenings to approximately 950 students at **Booker T. Washington High School on Wednesday, November 12 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.** Any student whose screening exhibits vision problems will receive a comprehensive eye examination in one of Miami Lighthouse's Heiken Children's Vision Program mobile optometric units at the school site. Free prescription glasses will be provided when required.

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired is a two-time Charity Partner of the Marlins Foundation. The nonprofit organization has received over \$50,000 in charitable donations from the Marlins Foundation to underwrite the cost of providing vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses to underserved schoolchildren who receive eye care through Miami Lighthouse's subsidiary, the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program.

"If a pair of eyeglasses will make a difference for a student to reach his or her academic goals, the inability to pay shouldn't stand in the way," said Marlins Vice President Alfredo Mesa, who also serves as Executive Director of the Marlins Foundation. "Every front office professional of the Miami Marlins is committed to Corporate Social Responsibility, and this eye screening is a signature example."

Last year, more than 10,000 underserved students received comprehensive eye examinations through the Heiken Children's Vision Program, with 86 percent requiring and receiving prescription glasses through the Miami Lighthouse's network of collaborating optometrists. Also last year, in collaboration with the Marlins Foundation, vision screenings were provided to 900 students at Citrus Grove Middle School with 350 students outfitted with glasses greatly enhancing their ability to learn. According to research, vision problems in children and teenagers may contribute to poor school performance, behavior issues and delinquency. Seventy-four percent of parents surveyed indicate their child's performance had significantly improved in school because of proper prescription eye glasses.

The Marlins Foundation is currently requesting proposals for the 2015 *Charity Partner Empowerment Fund*. For information on how to apply, please visit Marlins.com/EmpowermentFund.

Media is invited to attend.

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A Miami Marlins Corporate Social Responsibility Project

About Marlins Foundation

The Marlins Foundation supports the Charity Partners of the Miami Marlins through philanthropy and service. The Foundation is committed to improving the lives of our youth through education, the arts and baseball, with a focus on children with special needs. The funds raised by the Foundation provide unique experiences for kids in our schools, parks and on the water. The Foundation community partnerships and outreach efforts demonstrate the Marlins' leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility and civic engagement.

For additional information please visit www.marlinsfoundation.com.

About Marlins Ayudan

Marlins Ayudan (Spanish for “help”) is the signature outreach initiative of the Miami Marlins. The purpose of Marlins Ayudan is to provide a sustainable corps of volunteers willing and ready to effectuate positive change in the South Florida community. It is the fabric of the Club’s corporate culture and engages every front office employee with schools and charities throughout South Florida. The goal of Marlins Ayudan is to leave a lasting legacy through impactful service activities that tackle the community’s most pressing needs. The three-tier Ayudan methodology consists of organizational service days, team events and individual volunteer opportunities. Since its inception in 2010, Marlins Ayudan has contributed over 24,000 hours of service and established partnerships and traditions of giving that inspire employees to pursue their passions and contribute their time and talents year-round.

About Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Established in 1931, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired is the oldest and largest private agency in Florida to serve people of all ages who are blind and visually impaired. It has earned five consecutive 4-star ratings, the highest rating possible, from Charity Navigator placing the organization among the top 4% of non-profits for fiscal responsibility in the U.S. Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired serves 10,000 program participants annually; 14-fold increase since 2006. In all Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired teachings, it enforces that - it's possible to see without sight™.

Heiken Children's Vision Program is a subsidiary of Miami Lighthouse



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