



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Miami Lighthouse Celebrates 90th Anniversary at the Historic Biltmore Hotel

A celebratory evening beginning with fireworks and a champagne toast, followed by an elegant five-course dinner with wine provided by El Carajo and cocktails by Bacardí was enjoyed by 350 generous supporters on Saturday, January 25th. The Presenting Sponsor was Northern Trust and the Platinum Signature Sponsor was FP&L. Co-chairs of the celebration were Scott and Karla Richey and Walter and Terri Shikany. The silent auction committee was chaired by Lourdes Collett. Instructors and students from the Miami Lighthouse's nationally-recognized Music Program performed throughout the evening.

The event, commemorating Miami Lighthouse's 90th year, highlighted the organization's founders Dolly Gamble, the Miami Lions and Rotary Clubs, and Shutts and Bowen, the law firm that drew up Miami Lighthouse's Articles of Incorporation. Elite "Lighthouse Keepers" and "90th Anniversary Jubilarians" donors were also recognized. A new matching challenge "Light the Way" to raise capital funds for expansion of the Miami

Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ was announced. For more information on our "Light the Way" Challenge, [click here!](#)

Corporate sponsors included Florida Blue, Comcast, Walgreens, Perry Ellis International, Miami Herald, Miami Kids Magazine, and Royal Caribbean Cruises. Laurie Jennings served as Mistress of Ceremonies, and the keynote speaker was Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho.



*Chair George Foyo_ David Lawrence Jr._ Chairman_ The Children's Movement of Florida_
President and CEO Virginia Jacko_ and Miami
Board Chair George Foyo; David Lawrence Jr., Chairman, The Children's Movement of Florida;
President and CEO Virginia Jacko, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent
Alberto Carvalho*



*90th Anniversary Celebration Host Committee:
Ana Maria de la Fe, Silent Auction Chair Lourdes Collett, Linda Corey, Gala Co-Chair Karla Richey, Olga Nielson, Honorary Board Director Pam Garrison, Board Director Sheila Freed, Gala Co-Chair Terri Shikany and Board Director Angela Whitman*



Immediate Past Chairman Louis Nostro, Shareholder at Gunster, and John Fumagalli, President of Northern Trust Florida, Presenting Sponsor



*Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho_ 90th Anniversary Celebration
Emcee Laurie Jennings with Trish and Dan Bell
Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, 90th Anniversary
Celebration Emcee Laurie Jennings with Trish and Dan Bell*

For more photos of from our 90th Anniversary Celebration, please visit our [Facebook page](#).

A look back at our beginnings as we celebrate our 90th Anniversary

Miami Lighthouse has always been about collaboration. Starting with the late 1920's, when Helen Keller worked together with the remarkable young blind activist Dolly Gamble to found the Florida Association of Workers for the Blind, which was renamed over time, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. Both the Miami Lions Club and the Miami Rotary Club were instrumental as Founding Collaborators. The first Board of Directors meeting was presided over by Dolly Gamble in 1930, and now 90 years later, we are celebrating our milestone collaborations and our donors that have been crucial supporters. For example, as early as 1943, the University of Miami Trustee Dr. Bascom Palmer and Miami Lighthouse discussed the establishment of an eye clinic to serve the local community. Dr. Palmer made it his life's work to raise funds in collaboration with Miami Lighthouse, resulting in the dedication of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in 1962. To view our Miami Lighthouse 90 Years Salute Video, [click here!](#)



Miami Lighthouse 90 Years Salute Video

To fulfill our education mission, Miami Lighthouse partners with Florida International University on "Living With Low Vision" workshops for occupational therapists, physical therapists and nurses. To date, more than 100 occupational therapy students have completed their practicum experience and students from other universities throughout the U.S. have completed their Orientation and Mobility practicum training at Miami Lighthouse. Locally, Miami-Dade County Public Schools collaborates on a wide number of innovative programs headlined by our internationally recognized Lighthouse Learning Center for Children, and our nationally cited, highly regarded, Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program. Today we are Florida's largest and oldest nonprofit serving the needs and transforming the lives of nearly 90,000 blind and visually impaired people annually, from babies to seniors and their families.

In the News:

[Yahoo Finance, January 13, 2020- "How Presidential Candidate Andrew Yang Would Address Disability Rights"](#)

[Miami Today, December 31, 2019- "Jorge M. Perez foundation grants fund 10 Miami causes"](#)

[Social Miami, December 23, 2019- "The Edit by Brett Graff/ Virginia Honored"](#)

[Narcity, December 23, 2019- "Miami Heat Is Bringing Early Christmas Cheer to Fans In Florida This Year"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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