



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Inter Miami CF Academy Coaches Provide Miami Lighthouse Teenagers Soccer Clinic

Inter Miami CF and Florida Blue partnered to provide Miami Lighthouse for the Blind teenagers a touch tour and soccer clinic. The specially designed clinic taught the history, basic skills, and rules of soccer. Our blind and visually impaired students tested their skills with a fun soccer match using soccer balls with rattlers inside which enabled them to locate the ball by sound.

Inter Miami CF human resources department also spent time with our teenagers, describing the numerous career possibilities within a professional sports team, giving our teenagers valuable lessons related to job readiness. We thank Florida Blue in collaboration with Inter Miami CF and the Inter Miami CF Foundation for organizing the clinic and promoting healthy living.



Team members from Inter Miami CF, Florida Blue and Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Pre-Employment Transition Program Students

Fascinating Interview with Former Governor of New York State

Cameron Sisser, Miami Lighthouse's Senior Vice President for External Relations, hosted our [*Visions Insights*](#) podcast featuring David Paterson, the first legally blind person to be sworn in as governor of a U.S. state and the first African American governor of New York.

The fascinating discussion covered Governor Paterson's remarkable career experiences that included his time as Governor of New York, a stint as a talk-show host, work as an adjunct professor at NYU, and serving as a faculty member at Touro College. *Vision Insights* can be heard on all major podcast outlets, including [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Audible](#) and [Amazon Music](#), as well as, the Miami Lighthouse website <https://www.miamilighthouse.org/Podcast.asp>.

Listen to our Podcast



Vision Insights

Rotary International President Visits Miami Lighthouse

Miami Lighthouse was proud to welcome Rotary International President Jennifer Jones, the first woman to hold that most prestigious office in Rotary's 118-year history. This was one of the only planned visits President Jones will make in the United States this year. It was an honor to host this highly recognized worldwide leader and other Rotarians as they toured our campus. In the late 1920s, blind activist Dolly Gamble enlisted the Miami Rotary clubs to help the blind achieve independence and from their efforts, the Florida Association of Workers for the Blind was born, which would later be renamed Miami Lighthouse for the Blind.



Top Left to Right: *Rotarian and Board Director Frank Voytek, Rotarian Maria Kesti, Rotarian Peter Verbeeck, Rotarian and Board Director Robin Shelley.*
Bottom left to right: *Rotary District 6990 Governor Michael Kesti, Rotarian Dr. Nick Krayacich, Rotary International President Jennifer Jones, Rotarian and Miami Lighthouse President & CEO Virginia Jacko, Rotarian Susan Shelley with students from our Miami Lighthouse Academy.*

An Unforgettable Event for 10 of our Visually Impaired Students

It happened over the holidays as 10 of our Miami Lighthouse visually impaired students experienced a shopping spree they will never forget. Miami Heat star and team captain Udonis Haslem is no stranger to giving back to the community. During the holiday season Haslem took dozens of students to Walmart, including 10 students from Miami Lighthouse, and handed each one a \$200 gift card to buy whatever their heart desired. After their exciting Walmart visit, the students traveled to the FunDimension Amusement Center for lunch and hours of games. Many thanks to The Udonis Haslem Foundation for organizing this special event which was featured on [WPLG Local 10](#) and [WSVN 7News](#).



Udonis Haslem with students during the holiday shopping spree.

In the News:

- [Miami's Community News, January 24, 2023 – "2023 South Dade Schools ArtsFest takes place February 5th at Pinecrest Gardens"](#)
- [7 NEWS WSVN, December 23, 2022 – "NBA star Udonis Haslem hosts holiday shopping spree for children at Hollywood Walmart"](#)
- [Local 10, December 23, 2022 – "Udonis Haslem takes South Florida students on holiday shopping spree"](#)

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Contributed by Joan Spector

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Vision Insights



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