



LIGHT LINE[™]

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Cars for Charity

More than 70 of our blind students heard the roar of Ferraris, the power of McLarens and realized the excitement of riding in Lamborghinis, Rolls Royces and Porsches on Saturday, September 13th. The lucky group embarked on an extraordinary adventure as they interacted with an impressive fleet of nearly 20 high-performance vehicles.

Participating in the exciting event were our Saturday Programs including Bright Beacons, early elementary school aged children, Pre-Employment Transition Services students aged 14-22 and Miami Lighthouse Music Program Students.

Car enthusiasts and sponsors that donated their time to give our students an unforgettable experience included: Lead Philanthropic Sponsor Michael Weintraub and Lead Automotive Sponsor The Collection, as well as, Waymo, Grove Bank & Trust, Baptist Health South Florida, Homestead Miami Speedway, Miami International Autodrome, Gray Robinson, Cary and Ed Ruggiero, Luisa and George Foyo, Martha and

Frank Voytek, The Fernandez Cabrera Group, JP Morgan, Juan Fernandez-Barquin, Jose Cueto, Caterina Sastri, Ryan DiMarzzio, Yolanda and German Valencia, Alexander Mendoza, Pepe Abrante Cosio, Dr. Mike McDermott, Dr. Ari and Patty Abril, Ali Mandsourwala, Jonathan Horowitz, Erick Passo, Olga Villaverde, SFM Services, Ben's Pizza and others. The remarkable event reinforced what Miami Lighthouse teaches on a daily basis. . ."It's possible to see without sight™".

To view the World Redeye media coverage, [click here](#).



Cars for Charity Drivers and Sponsors

Annual Get Together of the Miami Lighthouse and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Thursday evening, September 25th, Steven Solomon, Chair of the Board of Miami Lighthouse welcomed Bascom Palmer faculty, fellows, and residents to our annual Miami Lighthouse collaborative dinner, which reinforces the longstanding, strong relationship between the two institutions. Dr. Palmer made it his life's work to raise funds and garner support for the eye hospital in cooperation with Miami Lighthouse. A strong collaboration between Miami Lighthouse and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute continues to this day, with both institutions working together to transform lives through vision-related services and research. CEO Virginia Jacko emphasized the importance of

referrals to Miami Lighthouse and that a doctor should never tell a patient "There is nothing more that we can do for you."



Steven Gedde, M.D., Byron Lam, M.D., Henar Albertos-Arranz, O.D., Ph.D., Board Director Stephen Morris, O.D., President and CEO Virginia Jacko, Michael Berger, TVI, Tamara Juvier, M.D., Ph.D.,

Chair of the Board Steven Solomon

Miami-Dade Optometric Physicians Association Dinner Meeting

Members of the Miami Dade Optometric Physicians Association (MDOPA) held their September dinner meeting at Miami Lighthouse. Attendees toured our Low Vision Solutions Center and welcomed our new Manager of Community Engagement, John Garcia. Dr. Carlos Mendoza-Santiesteban, University of Miami Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Principal Investigator "Cortical Visual Impairment Diagnostic Indicators and Educational Best Practices for Affected Children," highlighted the importance of raising awareness and diagnosing Cortical Visual Impairment. He also discussed the collaborative grant between Miami Lighthouse and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. The evening's music was provided by Miami Lighthouse professors Tony Cobo and Victor Castillo, both Latin Grammy Award finalists. The event was sponsored by Tarsus Pharmaceuticals.



Manager of Community Engagement John Garcia, President and CEO Virginia Jacko, MDOPA President Samantha Fernandez, O.D., Board Director Dr. Stephen Morris, O.D., and Leslie Scher, O.D.

Padel for the Blind

The Young Professionals of Miami Lighthouse (YPOL) hosted "Light up the Court" Padel for the Blind on Sunday, September 14th at Wynwood Padel Club. Guests enjoyed beverages and light bites sponsored by El Carajo and the "Light up the Court" Padel Tournament. Thank you to our generous sponsors, Playbypoint, JP Morgan Private Bank, Equinox, and Wynwood Padel Club. All proceeds supported Miami Lighthouse's Blind Soccer Initiative.



YPOL President Pablo Luchau with event sponsors Wynwood Padel Club and Equinox

We are proud to announce...

Rotary International recently honored our President and CEO, Virginia Jacko, and Senior Vice President, Cameron Sisser, with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow Award in recognition of their outstanding commitment to the Rotary Foundation's mission of advancing humanitarian and educational programs worldwide. The presentation was made by Rotary Club of Miami members, Miami Lighthouse Board Chair-Elect Scott Richey, and Director Robert Shelley at the Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors Meeting on September 18th.



Rotary Club of Miami members, Miami Lighthouse Board Chair-Elect Scott Richey and Director Robert Shelley present Paul Harris Fellow Awards to President and CEO Virginia Jacko and Senior Vice President Cameron Sisser

Join us on White Cane Day

Celebrate National White Cane Day on Wednesday, October 15th, starting at 8:30am at Miami Lighthouse. Put on your sneakers, help us raise funds and join Miami Lighthouse as we mark 95 years of providing services to the blind and visually impaired.

Over 150 blind and visually impaired program participants will raise awareness about White Cane Safety Laws and be escorted by City of Miami Fire, Police Departments, and Grand Marshals Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections Alina Garcia, Tax Collector Dariel Fernandez, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins, Billy the Marlin and Miami Kids Magazine Sharky walking from Miami Lighthouse, down SW 8th Street and back. Emceed by Raymond Dueñas, The Miami Herald Director of Community Affairs, the celebration will continue with lunch sponsored by McDonald's.

The entertainment is our Latin Grammy finalist award-winning Miami Lighthouse Music Program and there will be a raffle with prizes and giveaways. Sponsors include

Uber, GrayRobinson, Vispero, Ambutech, 305 Hive, Florida Blue Medicare, Lions District 35-N, Miami Kids Magazine, WMBM Media Group and others.



White Cane Day 2024

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

In the News:

- [SmartBrief, September 24, 2025 – "Beyond sight: A clearer path to inclusive learning"](#)
- [The Miami Times, September 16, 2025 – "One hundred and forty years of Miami-Dade County Public Schools: Championing the unseen"](#)
- [worldredeye, September 13, 2025 – "The Collection McLaren Presents: Cars for Charity with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind"](#)
- [South Florida Hospital News, September 9, 2025 – "Drivers Showcase High-Performance Cars for Charity Providing Blind Students Unique Experience"](#)
- [Miami's Community News, September 4, 2025 – "Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Hosts Voter Registration and ID Services Event in Collaboration with Miami-Dade Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector's Office"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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