



Issue 131
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LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

In This Issue

- **"See the Light" Luncheon**
- **Thank you for Give Miami Day**
- **The Miami Herald Celebrates our White Cane Day Walk**

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"See the Light" Luncheon

On November 13th, we celebrated our annual *See the Light* luncheon at The Historic Biltmore Hotel to a crowd of over 325 donors and supporters. Led by Emcees Marissa and Julia Bagg, NBC-6 Journalists, the event was highlighted by heartwarming musical performances of "Three Little Birds" sung by JJ and "Yankee Doodle Dandee" by our adorable Miami Lighthouse Academy Second and Third Grade Class. Rabbi Marcos Askenazi gave a powerful keynote speech entitled "Perception: How Raising a Blind Child Helped Me See the World". Our visionary leader Virginia Jacko told the audience that the blind can do anything a sighted person does, they just do it a little differently and the call to action continued with a moving testimonial by Andrea Lopez, the mother of a Miami Lighthouse Academy early learner. All the performances and speeches can be listed to using the links below.

The event raised \$350,000 which was matched dollar for dollar by the 95th Anniversary Fund or The Wildflower Foundation Matching Challenge for art and music. Sponsors for this year's luncheon included Northern Trust, TD Bank, Avante Insurance Group, The H. Angela Whitman Foundation, Waymo, Norma Jean Abraham and Senator Rene Garcia. To view photos from our event on Facebook [click here](#).



Evelio Torres, President and CEO of Early Learning Coalition; David Lawrence Jr., Founder and Board Chair of The Children's Movement of Florida; Mari Tere Rojas, Miami-Dade County School Board Chair; Virginia Jacko, President and CEO of Miami Lighthouse; Dr. Eduardo Alfonso, Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute; Senator Rene Garcia, Miami-Dade County Commissioner



Words from our Visionary Leader Virginia Jacko



Miami Lighthouse Academy Parent Rabbi Marcos Askenazi Keynote Address: "Perception: How Raising a Blind Child Helped Me See the World"



Miami Lighthouse Academy Student, JJ,



Miami Lighthouse Academy Students performing

Thank you for Give Miami Day

Thank you to all our generous donors for participating on Give Miami Day. Thanks to you, our donor community, including our matching challenges we raised nearly \$250,000 from 118 donors. With over 1,400 nonprofit organizations to choose from, we thank you for making a donation to Miami Lighthouse for the Blind. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

If you missed making a donation on Give Miami Day you can give on Giving Tuesday, December 2nd, by visiting our [donate now](#) page.



Give Miami Day 2025

The Miami Herald Celebrates our White Cane Day Walk



Miami Lighthouse celebrated its 95th anniversary on White Cane Day with a walk down Calle Ocho in Little Havana. The goal: to raise awareness about the importance of White Cane Safety Laws. [Click here](#) to read The Miami Herald feature article.

In the News:

- [Islander Media Group, November 15, 2025 – "Lions Club initiative helps fund programs"](#)

- [UMTV, November 12, 2025 – "UMTV Story on Miami Lighthouse Music Program"](#)
- [The Miami's Community News, November 3, 2025 – "Miami Lighthouse celebrates 95 years on White Cane Day"](#)
- [WMBB News 13, October 29, 2025 – "Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program provides free eye exams for students"](#)
- [7 NEWS WJHG, October 29, 2025 – "Bay County students receive free eye exams"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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