



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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It's time to celebrate "Music Under the Stars 2026"

Are you ready to be serenaded by our award-winning musicians while enjoying delectable culinary treats? If so, you won't want to miss our 19th Annual *Music Under the Stars: Bon Appetit Miami* on Wednesday, **May 13th**, from **6-9 PM**. This looked-forward-to evening helps support our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program.

This year's event honors **MDCPS Board Chair, Mari Tere Rojas** as well as special recognition to Miami-Dade Optometric Physicians Association. Plan on enjoying an exceptional evening of music featuring internationally acclaimed jazz guitarist Leo Quintero, award-winning Latin singer-songwriter Alfonso Villalobos, renowned jazz artist Jeff Zavač, and several other outstanding musicians.

★ CELEBRATING 34 YEARS ★

Providing over 238,000 comprehensive eye exams
and 170,000 prescription eyeglasses at no cost to
financially disadvantaged school children since 1992

Music Under The Stars Bon Appétit Miami

Wednesday, May 13, 2026
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

benefiting our
Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program
A Division of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Mary M. and Sash A. Spencer Campus
601 SW 8th Avenue • Miami, FL 33130
1 ticket, \$95.00 • 2 tickets, \$175.00



★
For more information, please contact Heidy Fariñas
hfarinas@miamilighthouse.org or 786.362.7510

Experience an exceptional silent auction featuring a one-of-a-kind 2026 Ferrari 296 GTS experience, exclusive fine wine lots generously donated by The Shelborne, and many more curated items, along with a special raffle sponsored by the H. Angela Whitman Foundation. Our generous sponsors include ABB Optical Group, Publix Super Markets Charities, Gray Robinson, The George and Luisa Foyo Foundation, Rotary Club of Miami, H. Angela Whitman Foundation, Grove Bank & Trust, Walgreens, Bizitss, Monster Sound Productions, Susan Conroy Design, Perry Ellis International, *Miami Kids Magazine*, Affiliated Healthcare Centers, Inc., Bank United, Choice Waste, SFM Services, Inc., Biz Solutions, and more.

Buy your Tickets Today!

★ Our Generous Sponsors



Our Generous Restaurant and Beverage Sponsors ★



We Express Appreciation to Our Grant and Contract Annual Supporters



"Blind Soccer" is so exciting! Here comes the FIFA World Cup 2026 Miami Host Committee

Miami Lighthouse's innovative Blind Soccer Program was launched in 2025 with funding from a Children's Innovation Grant designed to create the first and only blind soccer curriculum for early learners. Today we are proud to have taught over 100 children and young adults the skills of this unique paralympic sport where players utilize a ball that rattles and is located by sound.

At a recent grant activation event, special presentations were made by community leaders and were followed by a Miami Lighthouse Academy student "march" singing "This Little Light of Mine". Led by our USABA-credentialed blind soccer coaches, Lighthouse Academy students then demonstrated their blind soccer skills, all using "ear-foot coordination".

We thank The Children's Trust, the FIFA World Cup 2026 Miami Host Committee, Jennifer Roche, Alina Hudak, and Rodney Baretto as well as special guest speakers for supporting our venerable mission. Together we prove it's possible to see without sight™.

To support our Miami Lighthouse Blind Soccer program, [click here](#).



One Game, One Future - FIFA World Cup 2026 Miami Host Committee and Miami Lighthouse Blind Soccer.

NBA Foundation awards a \$150,000 grant to Miami Lighthouse!

Talk about an exciting evening! During pre-game at a recent Miami Heat vs. Atlanta Hawks basketball game, Miami Lighthouse President & CEO Virginia Jacko received an NBA Foundation + Miami Heat Grant Award of \$150,000. We thank these wonderful donors for supporting our visually impaired community. This grant marks a meaningful partnership by funding career readiness training for our Pre-Employment Transition Services program. This important program provides employment skills education to young people ages 14-22 who are visually impaired.

Together we prove It's Possible to See Without Sight™.



Thank you to the NBA Foundation and the Miami Heat for supporting and uplifting our visually impaired community.

To read the NBA's grant announcement, [click here](#).

Contributed by Joan Spector

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