



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 27 June 2016

## In This Issue

- [Music Under The Stars... A fabulous evening!](#)
- [Status report on the Lighthouse Learning Center](#)
- [Summertime is STAR Program time at Miami Lighthouse!](#)
- [Meet Rob Saunders, new Manager of The Better Chance Music Program](#)
- [Congratulations to our President & CEO Virginia Jacko!](#)

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## SAVE THE DATE!

### 85th Diamond Anniversary Celebration

Saturday,  
January 28, 2017  
at the  
Historic  
Biltmore Hotel

## Music Under The Stars... A fabulous evening!

The rains came, and the stars were nowhere to be seen, but the music was marvelous and the evening a major success with over 100 guests getting their first glimpse of the fascinating Koubek Center. The historic building created a very special aura for this year's annual affair with its wonderful music by Charles "Mr. Casual" DeChart of Hall and Oates and the super talented Better Chance Music Program musicians. Emceed by radio icon Jade Alexander of 102.7 The Beach, the evening honored the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation as well as the optometric community's continuing leadership of our Heiken Program with special recognition of our two Board Directors Dr. Alan P. Levitt and Dr. Stephen A. Morris.

The event raised over \$55,000 which will enable our Heiken Children's Vision Program to provide over 550 free comprehensive eye examinations and glasses when prescribed for low income-school children who have no resources for eye care.

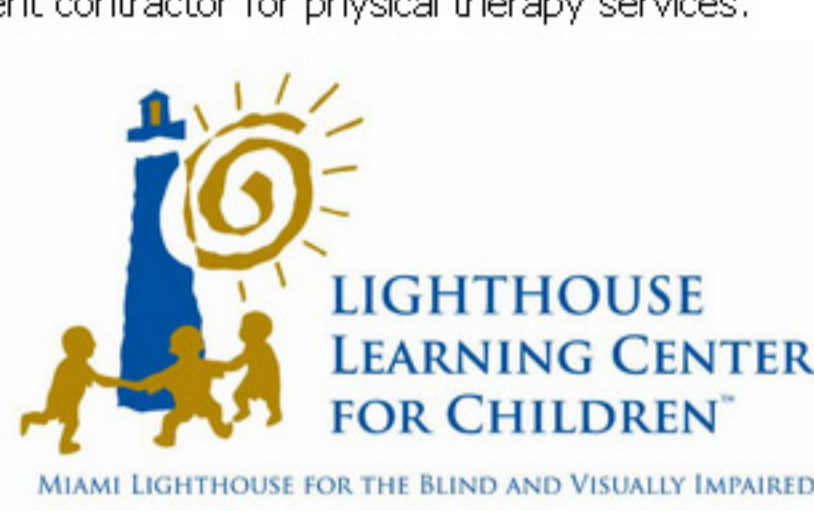


Jose Diaz of Robert M. Levy and Associates accepts tribute painting in memory of Bob Levy. Left to Right: Emcee Jade Alexander, U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, CEO Virginia Jacko, Florida State Senator Anitere Flores, Jose Diaz and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman

We express our gratitude to the event sponsors including ABB Optical Group, Ophelia & Juan Roca, Publix Super Markets Charities, Baptist Health South Florida, JM Private Insurance, Signet Armorlite, Genesis Consulting, Gray Robinson, Aetna, and Essilor Laboratories of America among others.

## Status report on the Lighthouse Learning Center

Construction is slated to begin on August 3rd, but here at the Lighthouse staffing of our exciting new Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ is already well underway. Interviews have been concluded and contracts executed for many of the most important roles including the Director of the Center, a pediatric social worker, a teacher of the visually impaired, a Pre-K exceptional student education teacher, a Pre-K program coordinator, a speech and language consulting therapist and an independent contractor for physical therapy services.



*Lighthouse Learning Center for Children logo*

Recruiting of pre-kindergarten students for the fall 2016 pilot program that is scheduled to open on August 22nd is also underway. The program will utilize the innovative High Scope Early Childhood Curriculum for Preschool Infants and Toddlers developed by the High Scope Educational Research Foundation of Ypsilanti, Michigan.

## Summertime is STAR Program time at Miami Lighthouse!

June 20th will mark the beginning of the 2016 summer camp program for visually impaired children from 5 to 13, and their sighted siblings. STAR Program (Summer Training and Recreational Program) is an inclusive program that will offer youngsters a wide variety of activities from yoga, swimming and archery to field trips throughout the county. More than 50 students have already registered for the six-week program that ends on July 29th.

The Miami Lighthouse summer will kick off June 10th to June 17th with a STEM Science Camp week for kids ages 5 to 13 that are enrolled in our year-round Braille and Technology program, sponsored in part by Division of Blind Services.



*One of our students learning Braille.*

Miami Lighthouse will also offer a supplemental summer program, scheduled for August 1-5, that is geared towards visually impaired youngsters and focuses on braille and computer technology. For more information about our summer programs, contact Isabel Chica at (786) 362-7482.

## Meet Rob Saunders, new Manager of the Better Chance Music Program

Rob experienced a whirlwind introduction to his new role at the Miami Lighthouse when three days after his arrival he found himself overseeing our Better Chance musicians performing at the Music Under The Stars event on May 4th. A talented musician himself, he is currently working towards his doctorate in Music Education at the University of Miami.



*Miami Lighthouse Manager of the Better Chance Music Program*

A New Englander by birth and a new resident of Miami, Rob currently holds a BS in Music Education from Duquesne University and a MA in Music Education from Eastman School of Music. He and his wife are the proud parents of two rescue dogs. Both are very active in animal rescue work.

With summer quickly approaching, Rob is busy gearing up for our Youth Enrichment music summer program, with the goal of developing academic success and critical life skills using comprehensive music instruction as an effective catalyst to bring youth together as a team to create, perform and produce one-of-a-kind compositions as well as music lessons for individuals, small groups and large ensembles, and classes in music production utilizing Pro Tools.

*Contributed by Joan Spector*

## Congratulations to our President & CEO Virginia Jacko on being recognized as one of South Florida Business Journal's Women of Influence!

The South Florida Business Journal has named their Class of 2016 Women of Influence, and our very own president and CEO Virginia Jacko is one of them. The honorees are all influential businesswomen who not only excel in their respective fields, but also contribute to their local communities. Congratulations to all!



*Honorees at the South Florida Business Journal's Influential Business Women Luncheon on May 20, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale*

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for the BLIND  
AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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