



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 69
March 2020

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Did you know?

A Cause for Whiskey & Cigars

"LIGHT THE WAY" Challenge is on!

The Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ is a one of a kind operation that offers something truly special, the first fully inclusive childhood program in the country for children with and without visual impairments. Since first opening its doors in 2016, the center has enjoyed such tremendous success that we have run out of classrooms to meet the increasing demand. Additional space is vital for us to meet our current needs and expand access to our services for our growing enrollment.

The "Light The Way" campaign is a one for one match challenge to raise \$9 Million in support of the Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ expansion. In 2019, we raised \$1.5 Million toward the Spencer \$4.5 Million match, but we still need to raise a total of \$3 Million before our August 2021 ribbon cutting. Naming opportunities are available.

Help us "Light The Way" by visiting our website and making your contribution today by clicking here!



Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ Rendering

McCrea Family Luncheon says "Thank you" to volunteers

Valentine's Day was an appropriate day to celebrate our volunteers at the Annual McCrea Family Luncheon. A longstanding tradition at Miami Lighthouse, the event is made possible by the McCrea Family whose legacy of volunteerism with us began in our early days when Helen Sloan McCrea devoted herself to the important mission of serving the blind.

A big thank you went to our Volunteers of The Year: Pollo Tropical, Miami Lighthouse client Hugo Meneses, and our Board of Directors. A special heartfelt thanks also went to David B. McCrea for his continued sponsorship of this signature event.



Pollo Tropical Corporate Volunteers



Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors

"Mentoring" really matters at Miami Lighthouse

February 15th was the date of the fascinating "Mentoring Matters, Love to Work" event held in the Gallery at Miami Lighthouse. Guest speakers included Board Member and retired school principal, Stacey Jones, and Leonie Timothee, HR Development for Intercontinental Hotels. The program focused on facilitating the interaction between mentors and mentees' common goals and expectations, while promoting the mentee's development in employability skills.

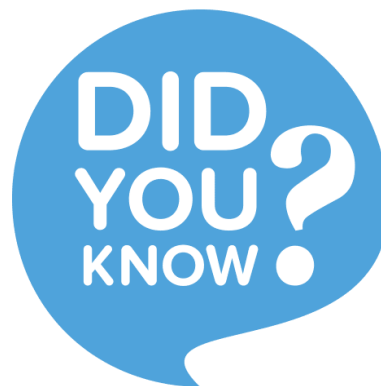
President and CEO Virginia Jacko opened the event by sharing her inspirational story of resilience and success. When persuaded by her daughter to come to Miami after receiving her degenerative eye disease diagnosis, she attended the same rehabilitation program that mentee's now attend. As a fellow client, Virginia received the important training with technology and rehabilitation that helped her to become the first blind CEO of the Miami Lighthouse. Her story left the mentors and mentees truly inspired. The presentation ended with participants asked to introduce each other and share their occupations or what types of jobs they are considering.



Stacey W. Jones, Board Director and retired School Principal



Leonie Timothee, HR Development for Intercontinental Hotels

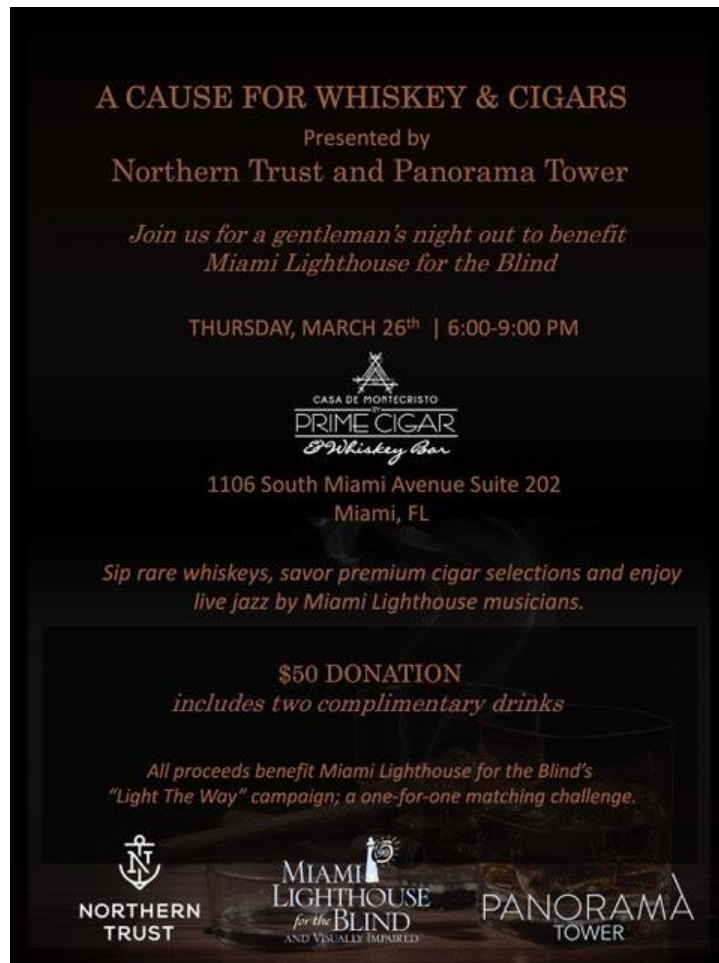


Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired has been serving the State of Florida since 1930. In the decades since it was founded, it has grown from a small but purposeful group of champions for the blind operating out of a tiny bungalow, to its current incarnation: a team of vision rehabilitation professionals, teachers, advocates, therapists, medical experts, and administrators. Miami Lighthouse transforms the lives of 90,000 people a year, from babies to seniors and their families.

The history of Miami Lighthouse, from its simple beginnings to today, is a tale of determination and resilience, featuring heroes and heroines whose vision -- in all senses of the word - has resulted in the remarkable international Center of Excellence in vision rehabilitation that is today's Miami Lighthouse.

A Cause for Whiskey & Cigars

Join Northern Trust and Panorama Tower on Thursday, March 26th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. to benefit Miami Lighthouse for the Blind's "Light the Way" campaign. The event is taking place at Prime Cigar & Whiskey Bar (1106 South Miami Avenue, Suite 202 Miami, FL). Sip rare whiskeys, savor premium cigar selections and enjoy a live jazz performance by our Miami Lighthouse musicians. A \$50 donation will include two complimentary drinks.



Invitation

In the News:

[Miami Herald, February 19, 2020 - "State must restore funds for kids' eye care"](#)

[305 Hive, February 19, 2020 - "Retinitis Pigmentosa Awareness Month Article"](#)

[The Wall Street Journal, February 13, 2020 - "Advances in Health Care, Technology Open New Job Prospects for the Disabled"](#)

[INYPB Newspaper, February 5, 2020 - "Visionaries Take Miami Lighthouse for the Blind To A New Level"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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If you are shopping at Amazon, shop instead at smile.amazon.com and choose Miami Lighthouse as the charity to receive a donation every time you make a purchase.

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Shop on eBay and give at checkout!

If you're shopping on eBay, make **Miami Lighthouse** your "Favorite Non-profit" and choose to give a donation at checkout.

Selling on eBay? You can also support us by designating Miami Lighthouse to receive 10-100% of your final sale price.

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