



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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Students and Donors Rev their Engines at Cars for Charity

More than 50 Miami Lighthouse students enjoyed our 2nd Annual Cars for Charity event as they interacted with an impressive fleet of exotic, high performance vehicles. Students were given rides in Lamborghinis, Aston Martins, Corvettes, BMW's, Ferraris and Porsches, thanks to a generous group of donors. The highly anticipated event was carefully designed for our blind and visually impaired students aiming to instill confidence through the power of touch and interaction with the captivating cars.

[WPLG Channel 10](#), [Miami New Times](#), [World Red Eye](#) featured the event along with [South Florida Digest](#). We thank Lead Philanthropic Sponsor Michael Weintraub and Lead Automotive Sponsor The Collection, as well as, Cary and Ed Ruggiero, Grove Bank & Trust, Baptist Health South Florida, Homestead Miami Speedway, Luisa and George Foyo, Martha and Frank Voytek, JP Morgan, Juan Fernandez-Barquin, Pete Fernandez, Caterina Sastri, Ryan DiMarzzio, Yolanda and German Valencia, Alexander Mendoza, Pepe Abrante Cosio,

Dr. Mike McDermott, Walter Lieber, John Vidalin, Dr. Ari and Patty Abril, Jonathan Horowitz, Erick Passo, Alexander de la Cruz, Dr. Barry and Judith Katzen, Jose Cueto, Olga Villaverde, SFM Services, among others, for their support. We are also grateful to Ben's Pizza for providing lunch. The funds raised at the event will be used to help support our Miami Lighthouse Academy's learning programs for children with vision impairments.



Video produced by South Florida Digest - Roaring Engines, Big Dreams: Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Made Supercars Come Alive

Annual get together of Miami Lighthouse and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Thursday evening, September 26th, Dr. Eduardo Alfonso, Professor and Chairman at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, and 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. As early as 1943, University of Miami Trustee Dr. Bascom Palmer and Miami Lighthouse discussed the establishment of an eye clinic to serve the local community. In 1947, Palmer was elected board president of Miami Lighthouse and announced that "he would do everything

possible" to start "a clinic to treat the blind and persons with eye ailments which might lead to blindness." In 1948, the Miami Lighthouse purchased land on N.W. 17th Street, between 9th and 10th Avenues, across the street from Jackson Memorial Hospital. Shortly thereafter, Palmer announced plans for an institute costing \$500,000 (about \$6.5 million in 2024 dollars) to be built on the site.

Dr. Palmer made it his life's work to raise funds and garner support for the eye hospital in cooperation with Miami Lighthouse. In 1960, the Miami Lighthouse contributed \$305,000 (about \$3.3 million in 2024 dollars) to construct an Eye Institute named in honor of Dr. Bascom Palmer. The current institute, opened in 1973, was built on the 17th Street site originally purchased by the Miami Lighthouse, under Palmer's leadership, in 1948. 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".



*Miami Lighthouse Chair of the Board Steven Solomon,
Honorary Director Dr. Thomas Johnson, CEO Virginia Jacko, Board Director Dr. Stephen Morris and
Chairman of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Dr. Eduardo Alfonso*

Miami Lighthouse attends 2024 Concordia Annual Summit in New York City

Miami Lighthouse was thrilled to attend the 2024 Concordia Summit in New York. Our Senior Vice President Cameron Sisser and superstar student Kaden Jamid were inspired and honored to be in the presence of attendees including George Logothetis, Chairman of Libra Group & Co-chair of Concordia's Leadership Council, Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón President Emeritus of Miami Dade College, Prince Harry Duke of Sussex, CEO of Uber Dara Khosrowshahi, Florida Congressman Mike Waltz, CNBC News Anchor Brian Sullivan and many others. To view photos from their visit [click here](#).



Cameron Sisser, Senior Vice President, University of Miami Student Kaden Jamid and George Logothetis, Chairman of Libra Group & Co- chair of Concordia's Leadership Council

Troop 2005 Girl Scouts visit Miami Lighthouse

A group of 5th graders from St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, members of Girl Scouts Troop 2005, recently volunteered at Miami Lighthouse. During their visit they watched an informative video, "What do you do when you see a blind person?", met with CEO Virginia Jacko, toured our Miami Lighthouse Academy and served lunch to participants in our adult program. The girls made many new friends and will soon be coming back to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering at Miami Lighthouse visit our website and find out how you can [get involved](#).



Girl Scouts Troop 2005 with Virginia Jacko, President & CEO

White Cane Day is on Tuesday October 15th at Miami Lighthouse

Put on your sneakers, help us raise funds and join us at Miami Lighthouse on Tuesday, October 15th, starting at 8:30am as we celebrate National White Cane Day! Over 150 blind and visually impaired program participants will raise awareness about White Cane Safety Laws. The walk, starting at Miami Lighthouse and continuing down SW 8th Street and back, will be escorted by City of Miami Fire, Police Departments, and Grand Marshals Miami- Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins, City of Miami Commissioner Miguel Angel Gabela and Billy the Marlin. Let's walk together for a great cause!

The celebration will continue with lunch sponsored by McDonald's. The featured entertainment is our Miami Lighthouse Music Program and there will be a raffle with prizes

and giveaways. Event sponsors include Uber, Captain Awesome Charities, Humana, Verizon Tracfone, Vispero, WLRN, 305 Hive, Tropical Financial Credit Union, Ambutech, McDonalds and others. Visit our website, MiamiLighthouse.org to sign up.



2023 White Cane Day

In the News:

- [WPLG Local 10, September 16, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse For the Blind gets a hand from Food For Thought \(Video\)"](#)
- [Spot On Florida, September 14, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse For the Blind gets a hand from Food For Thought"](#)
- [Florida Trend Magazine, September, 2024 – "Icon: Virginia Jacko"](#)
- [University of Miami News, September 3, 2024 – "Incoming class embraces the ethic of service through HOPE Day"](#)
- [Spot On Florida, September 3, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse Receives \\$70,000 grant from Honda USA Foundation"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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