

Celebrating Excellence



Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Annual Report 2014



CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Sash A. Spencer Educational Empowerment Center New 4th Floor Officially Opened on October 7th

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind & Visually Impaired hosted the official dedication of the Sash A. Spencer Educational Empowerment Center on Tuesday, October 7th. Barry E. Johnson, President & CEO of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, emceed the ceremonies at 601 SW 8th Avenue, as Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado, Commissioner Sally Heyman and major supporters cut the ribbon celebrating the new learning center for blind and visually impaired teenagers and adults. The event, sponsored by Walgreen Co., Northern Trust and Nostro Jones, P.A., also recognized the firm of OHL Arellano Construction for its pro-bono role as General Contractor.



Mr. Robert Lee Doyle, III, Director, Division of Blind Services at fourth floor dedication



*Sponsor, Nostro Jones, P.A.:
Louis Nostro and Jennifer Jones*



*Sponsor, Walgreen, Co.:
Roy Ripak and Georgia Lehoczky*



*Sponsor, Northern Trust: Mrs. William L. Morrison,
Board Directors Scott Richey and Kent Benedict,
Honorary Board Director Ed Joyce*

Front cover photo: October 7th ribbon cutting celebration

Dear Friends of Miami Lighthouse,

As the 38th Miami Lighthouse board chairman, I am honored to share with you our 2014 Annual Report. The accomplishments highlighted in this annual report are as much yours as they are of the Miami Lighthouse. Without the help of our donors and supporters we would not have been able to meet the growing demand for our services. There is truly no way to fully express what your support and investment mean to Miami Lighthouse.

What does Miami Lighthouse look like in 2014? The building has grown to nearly 50,000 square feet. Picture it – our facility is more than 50 times larger than when we opened our doors in the early 1930s in a 950-square-foot bungalow. This expanded space is critical to our ability to help what is unfortunately an ever-increasing number of blind and visually impaired individuals ranging from blind babies to seniors and low-income schoolchildren who without our Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program would not have access to comprehensive eye examinations and prescription glasses which we provide at no cost to their families. In the early days Miami Lighthouse served a few hundred clients each year. Today we serve nearly 12,000 annually, 24 times as many program participants as in 2004.

While we are known as a Center of Excellence in Vision Rehabilitation, we have exciting new job training and educational programs. Our expanded Job Readiness training program assists blind or visually impaired program graduates achieve mainstream employment. We are collaborating with Miami-Dade County Public Schools on two education initiatives:

- On two Saturdays a month 50 parents/caregivers of our students take part in workshops enabling them to advocate for and be more involved in the literacy of their visually impaired child.
- Four days a week, 53 adults are working hard on their studies to both learn English and attain their GED to position themselves for employment. This instruction takes place in our Sash A. Spencer Educational Empowerment Center on our new fourth floor.

Most recently, we were honored to have been the recipient of the 2015 Beacon Council Award in the education service category. In addition, Miami Lighthouse was recognized as an organization whose work is distinguished by leadership, innovation and achievement in community health at the Florida Blue Foundation’s 2015 Sapphire Awards luncheon. Such local and state-wide recognition confirms the quality of service we delivered in 2014.



Without people like you, blind people who want to work would not have access to job training, adults who need to be able to speak English and want a GED would not be receiving the help they need to qualify for employment, and parents of our visually impaired children would not be learning how to improve their child’s literacy and be an effective advocate. With your continuing support we are able to do this and so much more.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Casas', written over a light blue background.

Ramón F. Casas
Chairman, Board of Directors

Report to Stakeholders

It's Possible to See Without Sight™

Thanks to you, our stakeholders, 2014 was a year of empowerment for children, youth and adults who because of your generosity can lead more productive and independent lives.

- Our Sash A. Spencer Educational Empowerment Center – a project to enable more blind teenagers and adults to transition successfully from high school to higher education or mainstream employment – was dedicated on October 7, 2014. Currently 53 visually impaired adults are taking classes to both learn English and attain their GED in this new fourth-floor space, which has also been used to host meetings of Miami-Dade County Public Schools Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Community Based Organizations participating in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Million Dollar Literacy Challenge.
- Provided nearly 12,000 blind and visually impaired children and adults with vision rehabilitation services and/or comprehensive eye examinations and glasses at no cost to them.
- With the help of Florida Division of Blind Services funding for call center training, we were able to increase the number of clients who obtained mainstream employment this year. Fourteen clients in 2014 were placed by our Job Readiness team as a result of our employment collaborations with Florida Division of Blind Services, Switchboard Miami, Baptist Health, Perez Art Museum Miami, Micro Data, Hyatt Hotels, Marriott Worldwide Call Center, and others.
- During our 2014 summer camp, 31 transition teenagers had job experience such as working with nurses and patients at Jackson North Medical Center, as a teacher's aide during the Frost Science Museum summer camp, doing inventory accounting at Bennett Auto Supply and stocking shelves at our local Walgreens.
- With new funding from the Florida Department of Education, Division of Blind Services over 100 seniors attend our daily Senior Group Health and Activities Program which offers fitness, nutrition, tactile art, music and computing. This important program enables blind seniors to stay out of costly assisted living facilities and reduces medical costs.
- Submitted in 2014, an article about our nationally recognized, innovative, copyrighted distance learning Braille music curriculum, "A New Synthesis of Sound and Tactile Music Code Instruction: Implementation Issues of a Pilot Online Braille Music Curriculum," appeared in the March-April, 2015 Practice Report section of the peer reviewed *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*.

Collaborations

- Providing vision rehabilitation services in collaboration with the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and Second Sight for patients receiving the Argus II retinal implant.
- Welcomed at a pre-conference event the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind which held its fall training conference in Miami. More than 50 leaders of state agencies for the blind from across the nation, including Janet LaBreck, Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration at the U.S. Department of Education, Robert Lee Doyle III, Director, Florida Division of Blind Services and Aleisa McKinlay, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Florida Department of Education had the opportunity to tour Miami Lighthouse and learn about our vision rehabilitation programs.
- Hosted our seventh annual Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Reception for more than 40 faculty, residents and fellows from Bascom Palmer. Guests toured our facility and learned about the variety of vision rehabilitation programs we offer for blind and visually impaired babies, children, adults and seniors. The keynote speaker, Dr. Harry W. Flynn, Jr., Professor of Ophthalmology at BPEI, presented a history of BPEI and its longstanding relationship with Miami Lighthouse dating back to Dr. Bascom Palmer's chairmanship of the Miami Lighthouse Board from 1947 to 1952.

Report to Stakeholders

Recognition

Miami Lighthouse, our programs, and our clients have received local, state, and national recognition.

- Miami Lighthouse has been reaccredited for a five-year period by the National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services (NAC). Miami Lighthouse has been continuously accredited by NAC since 1978. This accreditation demonstrates our agency's leadership in the field of vision rehabilitation and dedication to improving the quality of life for people with vision loss.
- Better Chance Music Program alumnae Natalia Sulca graduated with honors in the spring of 2014 from Berklee College of Music in Boston. Another Miami Lighthouse music program student is now attending Berklee. They were able to gain admission to Berklee due in large part to the excellent instruction and individual mentoring provided by the instructors in our music program.
- Miami Lighthouse was selected as a 2014 Miami Marlins Charity Partner from nearly 200 local charities competing for this distinction, and funding from the Marlins Foundation was used to underwrite comprehensive eye exams and glasses for inner-city schoolchildren through our Heiken Children's Vision Program.
- Recognized as a Community Champion by Molina Healthcare of Florida.
- Board Director Donna Abood was chosen as the 2014 Businesswoman of the Year in the Outstanding Corporate Leader category, and CEO Virginia Jacko was chosen as Businesswoman of the Year in the Public Servant/Non-Profit Professional category at the 2014 AXA Advisors Businesswoman of the Year Awards.

Financial Health

Through effective work in seeking public funding and expanding philanthropic support, Miami Lighthouse enhanced its financial health and its sustainability in serving its more than 24 times as many program participants as in 2004.



Miami Marlins President David Samson with Miami Lighthouse Senior Group Health and Activities clients at touch tour of Marlins Stadium

Celebrating Excellence

2014 Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	2014	2013
Cash and cash equivalents (includes \$569,511 for future services)	\$2,242,147	\$2,279,464
Cash designated for construction	875,000	2,405,552
Accounts and interest receivable	411,730	402,859
Prepaid expenses and other assets	96,624	102,232
Contributions receivable, net	773,783	424,303
Beneficial interest in irrevocable trusts	278,043	277,202
Investment securities	12,037,261	12,557,987
Property and equipment, net	4,112,466	2,248,295
TOTAL ASSETS	\$20,827,054	\$20,697,894
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$315,038	\$448,900
Deferred Revenues - Direct Services	569,511	591,370
TOTAL LIABILITIES	884,549	1,040,270
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	17,142,233	14,527,320
Temporarily restricted	1,673,983	4,004,014
Permanently restricted	1,126,290	1,126,290
TOTAL NET ASSETS	19,942,506	19,657,624
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$20,827,055	\$20,697,894

2014 Statement of Financial Activities

REVENUES, GAINS AND SUPPORT	2014	2013
Bequests and Legacies	\$ 249,524	\$ 573,130
Contributions, net	2,941,877	2,685,866
Government grants and contracts	2,850,836	2,692,841
Change in beneficial interest in irrevocable trusts	841	27,698
Investment Income	281,476	251,720
Other	388,238	435,292
TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS AND SUPPORT	\$6,712,792	\$6,666,547
EXPENSES		
Vision Rehabilitation	\$ 849,397	\$667,176
Alternative Rehabilitation Services	722,770	655,414
Transition and Vocational Services	1,206,881	1,202,338
Children's Program	878,339	930,558
Heiken Children's Vision & Low Vision	1,936,400	1,839,865
General and Administrative	507,094	471,319
Fundraising	476,236	469,054
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,577,117	6,235,724
Change in Assets before Non-recurring Items	135,675	430,823
Investment Gains & Losses	149,207	846,006
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	284,882	1,276,829
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	19,657,624	18,380,795
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$19,942,506	\$19,657,624

2014 Financial Report

Thanks to our donors, Miami Lighthouse served 11,851 program participants. This is 24 times more than the number served in 2004, ten years ago.

During 2014 net assets increased by \$285,000. The increase is mainly due to contributions received for our capital campaign to expand our facility, bequests and investment returns. There is no guarantee that future investment earnings will keep pace or that contributions from bequests will remain at the same level.

Our ability to continue to increase services year after year and touch the lives of so many individuals would not be possible without the generosity of donors and the wise management of our assets by our board leadership.

Thanks to the strength of our financial position, Miami Lighthouse is investing in the expansion of our facility so we can have the capacity to meet the growing demand for our services. Miami Lighthouse will look for ways to secure new funding to support the increase in operating costs that come with our commitment to growth.

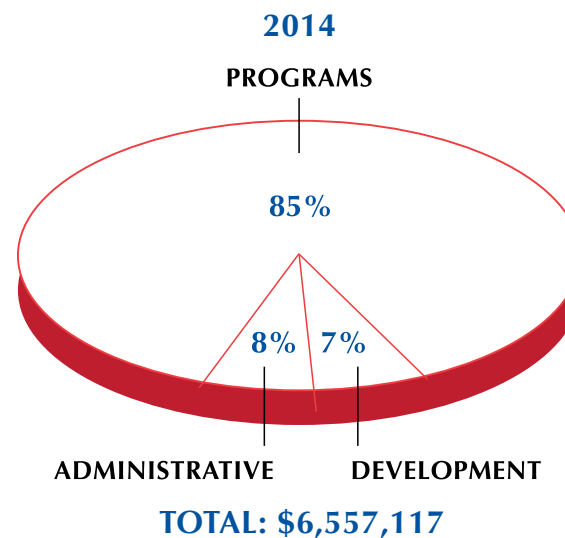
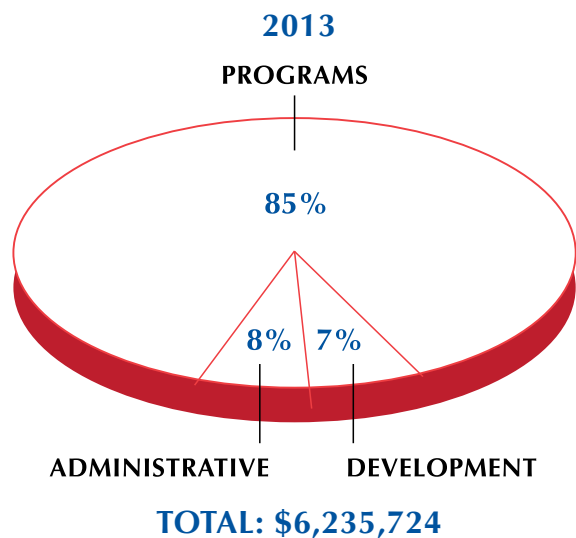
In 2014 we used 85% of every dollar received on programs that help people affected by vision loss.

Full financial statements, audited by Verdeja & De Armas, LLP, are available on our website at:

<http://www.miamilighthouse.org/Docs/2014AuditReport.pdf>

Richard Fernandez
Chief Financial Officer

Functional Expense Allocation



Celebrating Excellence



PROGRAM PARTICIPA

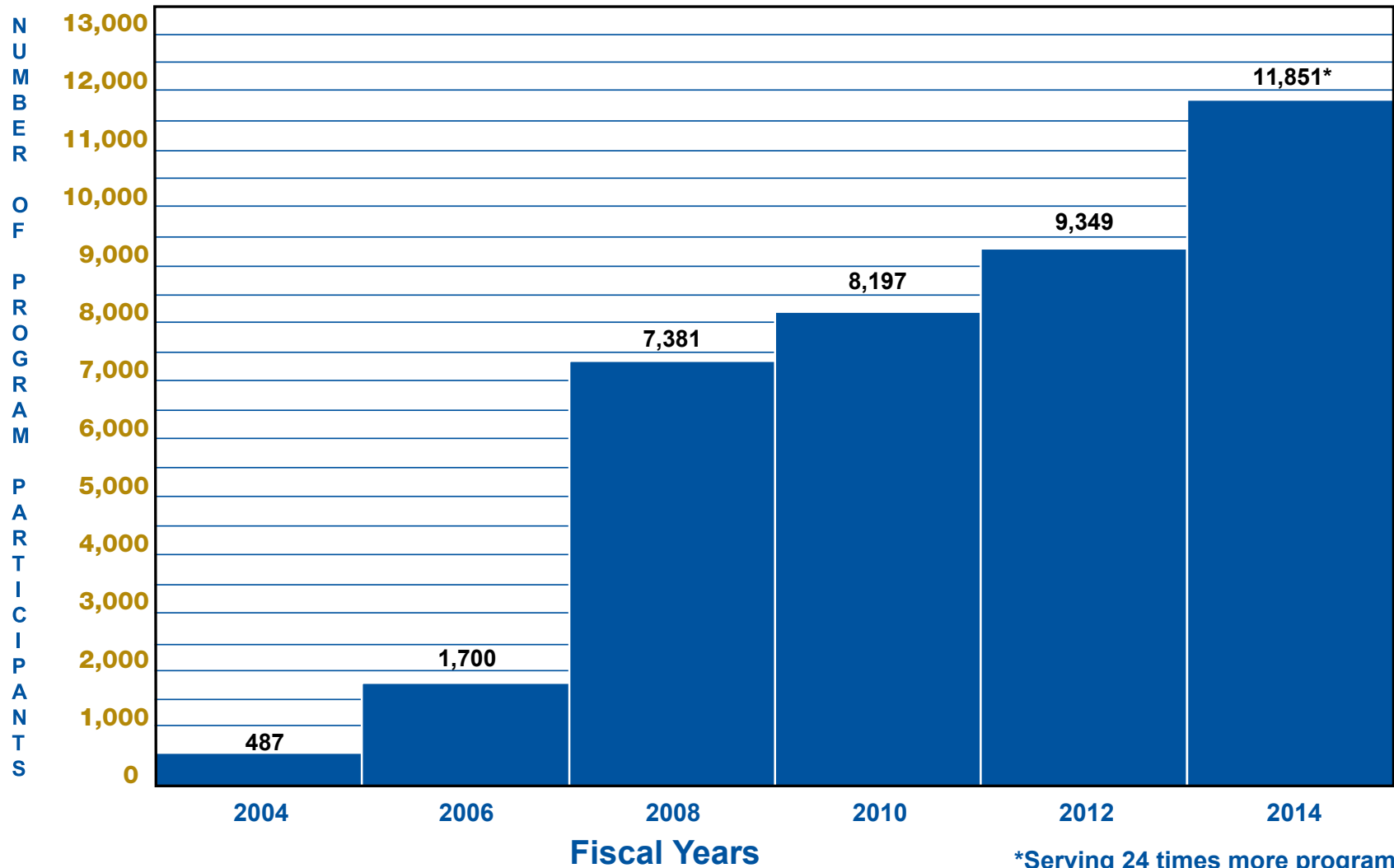




ENTS PHOTO GALLERY



Growth in Number of Program Participants Served 2004-2014



***Serving 24 times more program participants than in 2004.**

Serving 24 times as many program participants over the past ten years not only results from the merger of the Heiken Children's Vision Program with Miami Lighthouse in 2007, but also from the increasing number of people who need our rehabilitation services. To meet the phenomenal growth in our early intervention program for children and vision rehabilitation programs for adults with age-related eye disease, we need to continue to emphasize funding for our programs.

Meeting the Vision Care Needs of Schoolchildren Statewide

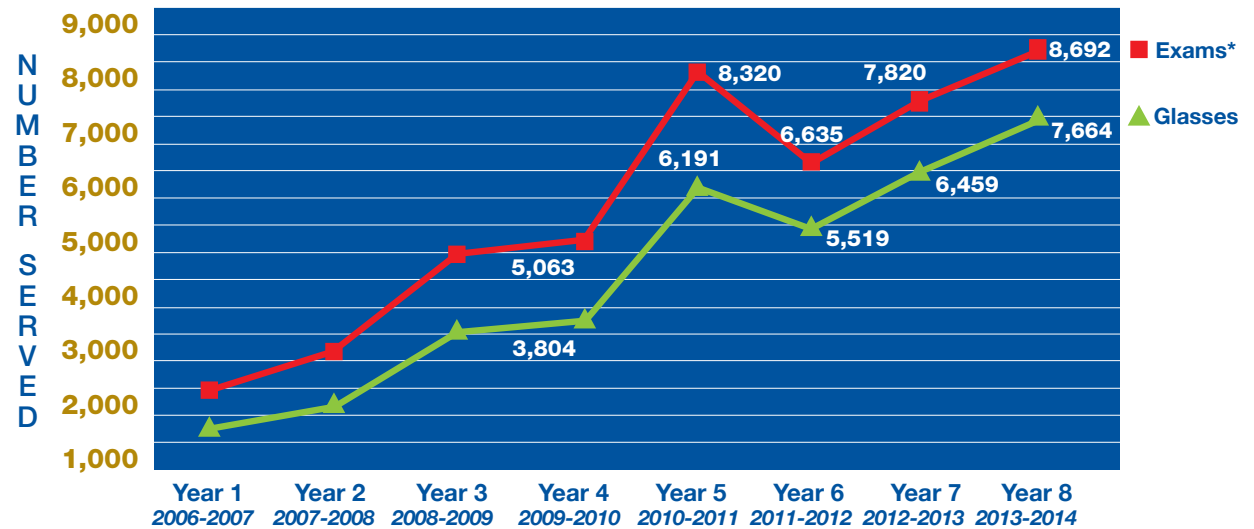
Since inception in 1992 our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, now a division of Miami Lighthouse, has provided access to excellent vision care for more than 85,000 financially disadvantaged and uninsured schoolchildren throughout the State of Florida. During 2014 our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program was able to provide financially disadvantaged schoolchildren statewide 8,692 comprehensive eye examinations with dilation and 7,664 pairs of prescription eyeglasses; 442 children were referred for follow up for underlying medical conditions diagnosed during their dilated eye examination.

This incredibly successful program has been cited in *Optometry: Journal of the American Optometric Association* as a national model which other states should adopt and has received numerous awards for helping children from underserved communities.

FLORIDA HEIKEN CHILDREN'S VISION PROGRAM

Addressing Unmet Eye Care Needs of Florida's Public Schoolchildren

2006 - 2014 (through June 30, 2014)



* Of the 8,692 students who received a dilated eye exam, 442 were referred for follow up: 160 to an optometrist and 282 to an ophthalmologist.

http://miamilighthouse.org/Florida_Heiken_Program.asp



The Children's Summer Program, Better Chance Music Program, Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program and Early Intervention Program are funded in part by The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County.

Children receive eye exams on our mobile eye care units or through our network of community optometrists, and free eye glasses are prescribed if required

Celebrating Excellence

Miami Lighthouse Challenge Announced at “See the Light” Luncheon

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, foundations, companies, and other organizations, Miami Lighthouse is positioned to expand our efforts during 2015 to empower people of all ages affected by vision loss.

In 2011, our Board Planning and Program Development Committee approved our Facilities Master Plan, the first three phases of which have been completed, and we are now starting to implement phase four: expansion to our Center of Excellence to house our Low Vision Center for seniors, instructional classrooms for our early intervention programs, our proposed pre-kindergarten for blind children and two levels of covered parking.



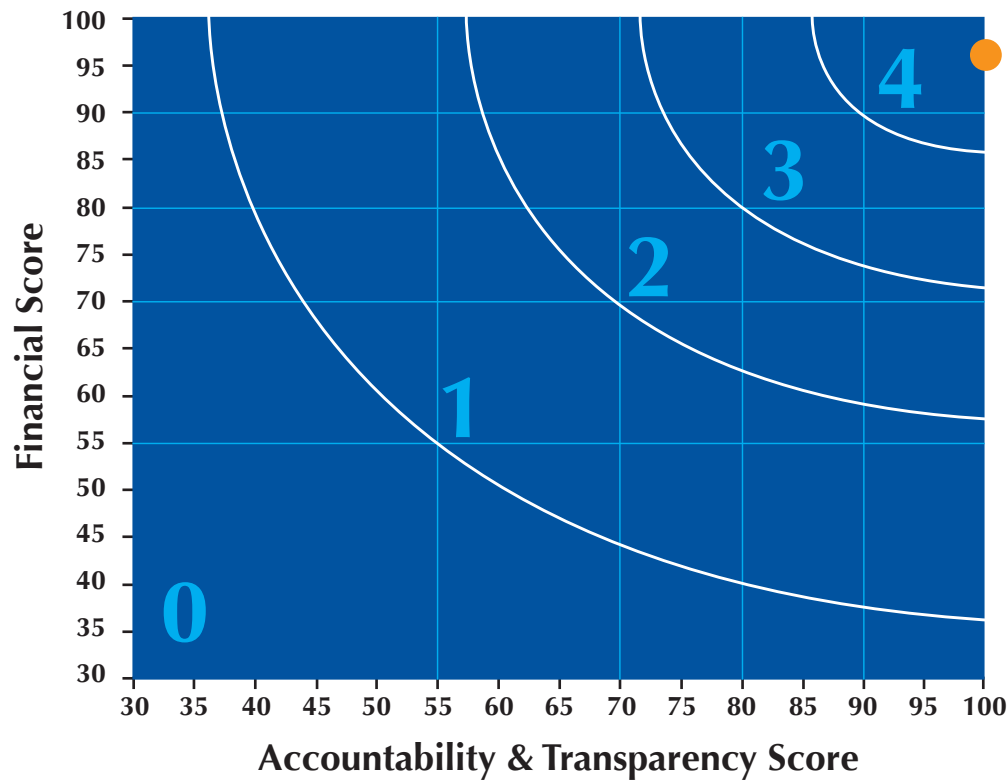
Miami Lighthouse programs help visually impaired babies, young children and seniors

At our 2014 See the Light Luncheon, a generous donor announced her “Expansion of the Center of Excellence in Vision Rehabilitation Grant Challenge.” Under the terms of the Challenge, the donor will match gifts dollar for dollar up to a total of \$5 million supporting facility expansion of our Center of Excellence in Vision Rehabilitation, estimated to cost \$10 million in construction plus \$1 million for program expansion. When completed, the expansion will enable Miami Lighthouse to increase – and provide access to – critically needed services for the growing number of blind babies, young children and seniors with age-related eye disease as a means of empowering them to lead independent and productive lives.



2015 CHARITY NAVIGATOR SCORE

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired is rated nationally among the top 2% of the 8,000 charities rated by Charity Navigator. In other words, we are among the elite 160 charities that have received a 4-star rating from the nation's premier independent nonprofit evaluator Charity Navigator for seven years in a row reflecting our sound fiscal management, responsible use of donor dollars and financial strength.



	SCORE (out of 100)	RATING FYE 12/2013
OVERALL	96.99	★ ★ ★ ★
• Financial	95.75	★ ★ ★ ★
• Accountability & Transparency	100	★ ★ ★ ★



Source: Miami Lighthouse listing on Charity Navigator website
www.charitynavigator.org

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Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.
601 SW 8th Avenue • Miami, Florida 33130 • 305.856.2288
www.miamilighthouse.org

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2015 Annual Board Meeting: Incoming Chair Ray Casas (who also served as Chair 1999-2000), outgoing Chair Agustin Arellano, Jr. and Chair-Elect Louis Nostro who will assume the Chair in 2017

