



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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In This Issue

[Our "Low Vision Solutions Center" Takes Center Stage](#)

[Educational Empowerment Center Dedication](#)

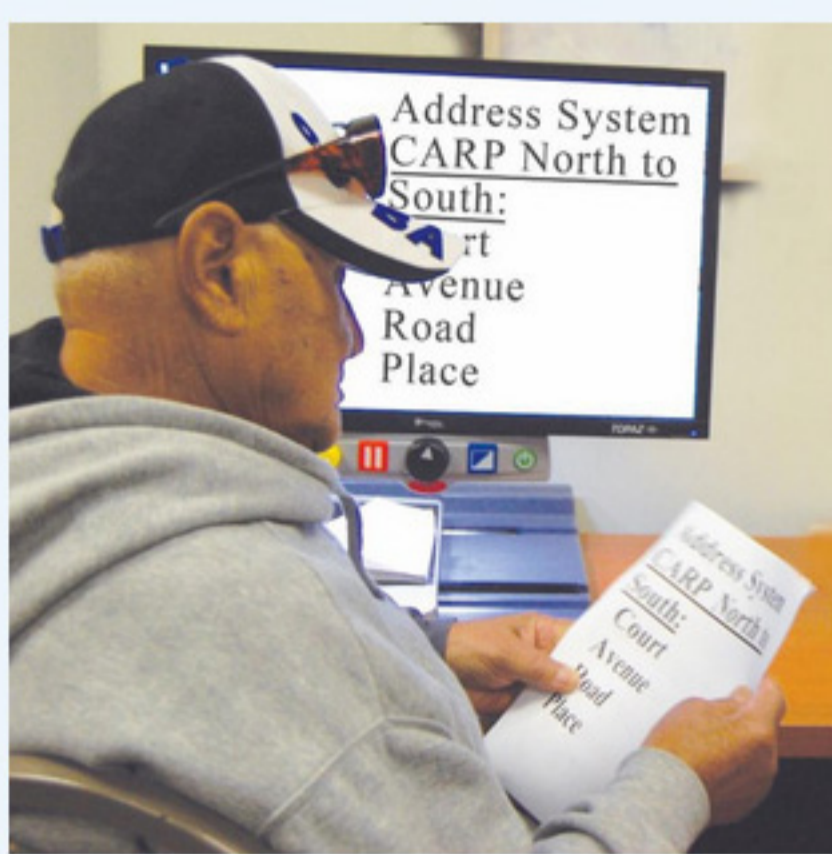
[Come Walk With Us on "White Cane Day"!](#)

[Profile of the Month](#)

Our "Low Vision Solutions Center" Takes Center Stage

Ask John Garcia, Manager of Miami Lighthouse's Low Vision Solutions Center, what excites him the most about working in our Center, and he'll tell you it's the instant gratification he sees on a client's face when he or she realizes they can once again see well enough to read.

Low vision can have physical, psychological and economic effects on those suffering from the condition, making the services provided, both in the Center and in home, an important pathway to independence. "Our clients tell us that the difference they feel when they come here to Miami Lighthouse has everything to do with our staff. Each of us has a real commitment-call it a passion-for helping someone make the best possible use of their remaining eyesight," says Garcia.



Client using a CCTV

Mark Your Calendar!

The Miami Foundation
Give Miami 11.20.14 day

Contributions made on **Thursday November 20, 2014** will receive a percentage match by The Miami Foundation.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Stop by the Low Vision Center any day and you are sure to see a crowd around the new portable Closed Circuit Television that is the latest technology available for those with vision disabilities. The CCTV desk unit in the Center is constantly in use. A whole world of magnifying and auditory devices to assist with special tasks is on display. Garcia also points out the variety of "talking watches" available in both Spanish and English. "Even if you have low vision, you have to keep your appointments on time," he says with a smile.

Dedication of Educational Empowerment Center Set for Oct. 7th

The official dedication of the Sash A. Spencer Educational Empowerment Center on our new 4th floor is set for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7th. Generously sponsored by Walgreen Co., Northern Trust and Nostro Jones P.A., the event will also highlight the pro bono role of OHL- Arellano Construction as the General Contractor on this important project.

Already in use are the Center's three exciting new rooms: the Jan and Daniel Lewis Braille Homeroom, the Carmella Witt Technology Laboratory funded by the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation and the 3,000-square-foot Marta Weeks Wulf Transition Suite.

"The entire 4th floor is designed to help our teenagers and adults achieve gainful employment," says Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia A. Jacko. "The new space will also be home to two important programs supported by Miami-Dade County Public Schools: Million Dollar Community Literacy Challenge, empowering adults to earn their GED despite visual problems, and Family Empowerment Initiative, empowering parents of visually impaired children to be engaged in the literacy of their children."

Come Walk With Us on "White Cane Day"!



Put on your sneakers and join us as we celebrate National White Cane Day on Wednesday, October 15th. Starting at 8:30am, Grand Marshals Lion George E. Letakis, District Governor 35-N, Lion Juan J. Tejera, Immediate Past District Governor 35-N, and Billy The Marlin will lead an estimated 200 people on the "Walk" from the Miami Lighthouse, down SW 8th Street and back, where the celebration will continue with food and music featuring musicians from Miami Lighthouse Better Chance Music Production Program™. NBC's Chief Meteorologist John Morales will emcee and presentations will be made by OrCam Technologies and event sponsor Molina Healthcare of Florida.

Profile Of The Month

Meet John Garcia, LDO, Manager, Low Vision Solutions Center



The LDO after John Garcia's name stands for Licensed Dispensing Optician, and he's been doing just that at the Miami Lighthouse for the past four years. Actually, he's been involved in the twenty-five years. His passion is spreading the word about the whole array of sight-oriented products available to make life more livable, and independence more possible, for clients of all ages.

"I often visit doctors' offices to tell them about the newest technology in our Solutions Center," says John. "Our job is not to correct our client's vision. It's to help them work with their remaining vision, so they can once again do something as simple as their favorite cross word puzzle or play a game of Jumble."

Contributed by Joan Spector



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