



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 23 February 2016

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February is Low Vision Awareness Month

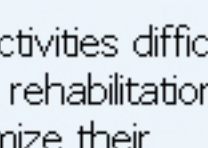
Miami Lighthouse is joining the National Eye Health Education Program in educating people with low vision and their family, friends and caregivers, about the benefits of vision rehabilitation during the month of February.



Do you have low vision?

If seeing is difficult—even with glasses, contacts, medicine, or surgery—talk with your eye care provider about vision rehabilitation.

www.nei.nih.gov/lowvision



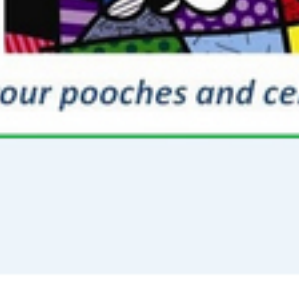
Low vision can make everyday activities difficult, if not impossible. That's why vision rehabilitation to help people with vision loss maximize their remaining vision and maintain their independence offered here at Miami Lighthouse is so important. A visit to our on-site Vision Solutions Center for a low vision assessment by our consulting optometrist can be a tremendous help. You'll also find out about amazing products, such as talking watches and electronic magnifiers that are available in our Center.

For an appointment or more information call 786-362-7489.

SAVE THE DATE!



March 22, 2016
6:30PM-9:00PM
Apeiro Kitchen & Bar



Bring your pooches and celebrate!

Students Learn About How People Cope with Vision Loss & Decide to Give Back

Jessica Alessio, Orientation and Mobility Specialist and Visual Rehabilitation Therapist at the Miami Lighthouse, went to Coral Way Elementary School to teach students about how people cope with vision loss. Jessica shared her knowledge on travel and daily living skills with the children, informing them about Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and what types of programs we offer for people of all ages and abilities. She taught them travel skills including how to use a cane, how to guide someone who is visually impaired and how to use protective techniques to protect their bodies from obstacles. She also taught them daily living skills such as identifying colors with a special device called the *colorino* and how to know when to stop pouring a liquid into a glass using the liquid level indicator.



The children were very receptive to all the information and even started a treasure chest to donate art supplies for the Social Group Activities program, aimed at the older blind community at the Lighthouse.



On January 25th, the children came back to the Lighthouse to share their donated art supplies and get a grand tour around the facility!

Let's Talk About Website Accessibility

Here at Miami Lighthouse, we're proud to be at the forefront of the challenge to provide computer accessibility for the visually impaired. Our recent successful entry into this new world has brought increased attention to our Department of Computer Technology Services. Most recently, Manager Bill Rivera and Senior Instructor Roberto Perez, who are both blind, completed work on an in-depth accessibility audit of Argentina Airlines' English and Spanish language websites. Currently, they are working on a contract to assure that the Miami International Jazz Festival's website portal meets accessibility standards mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

CEO Virginia Jacko has frequently noted that one of the most important things Miami Lighthouse does is to give blind and visually impaired people the tools to be independent and help them navigate their world. She is excited at the prospect that companies and municipalities seeking to assure that their websites are ADA compliant will lead to the creation of jobs for our clients in this rapidly expanding field.

Light Line™ Editor Wins Alliance for Aging "Positive Living Award"



Each year, the Alliance for Aging applauds older adults who are giving back to our community at their Annual Positive Living Awards Ceremony. This year, one of our very own was recognized for her volunteer efforts. Joan Spector, contributor to this Light Line™ blog, was honored in the Corporate/Legal/Public Service category for her volunteer efforts and public service to the community. Her blog has been transformative for Miami Lighthouse, providing the organization with an online community presence. In order to write for Light Line™ each month, Joan interviews Miami Lighthouse clients and employees and attends many of our events. We thank her for all her efforts.

Did You Know?

Did you know that Miami Lighthouse started in 1931 in a 900 sq. ft. bungalow on the corner of SW 6th Street and SW 8th Avenue and is still our location after all these years?

The driving force behind its establishment was Dolly Gamble, who was blind. She was supported in her efforts by Helen Keller. Initially named the Florida Association of Workers for the Blind, Inc., it served the blind community as a sheltered workshop, with chair caning, basketry and similar activities -- the accepted rehabilitation practice in that era. Today, Miami Lighthouse occupies a state-of-the-art 50,000 square foot facility, where people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired, receive the most up-to-date vision rehabilitation, low vision services, Braille and technology instruction, and much, much more. This year, Miami Lighthouse will break ground on a new facility, the Lighthouse Learning Center for Visually Impaired Children, which will serve as a pre-kindergarten to blind 3- and 4-year-olds -- an early intervention center for children -- and provide a venue for learning laboratories and recreation.



Mid-1940s, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired



Rendering of 2017, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Contributed by Joan Spector

Join Us On February 8th at the McDonald's in Little Havana

Join RONALD MCDONALD and MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND for a *Únase a RONALD MCDONALD y MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND para un*



on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, from 5 - 7 PM

Lunes, el 8 de Febrero de 5 - 7 PM

at the MCDONALD'S OF LITTLE HAVANA

en el McDonald's de La Pequeña Habana

1400 SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33135.

Come out and help the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind raise funds!

¡Ven para una gran noche y ayuda al Miami Lighthouse a recaudar fondos!

There will be RAFFLES AND PRIZES, and 10% OF THE SALES

will go right back to the Miami Lighthouse's needs

Habrà rifas y premios, y 10% de las ventas se donaran al Lighthouse.

amazonSmile Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to Miami Lighthouse!

If you're shopping at Amazon, simply shop through the AmazonSmile website and choose Miami Lighthouse as the charity to receive a donation every time you make purchase.

[Get Started](#)



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.

[Get Started](#)



MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE for the BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

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www.miamilighthouse.org

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