



MEDIA ADVISORY

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED TO CELEBRATE “TOPPING OFF” OF NEW LIGHTHOUSE LEARNING CENTER FOR CHILDREN™

MIAMI –An American flag ceremoniously flown over the United States Capitol will soon fly atop the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired’s new addition to its growing campus—the 72,000-square-foot Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ during a Topping Off ceremony to be held on Friday, April 7 at 11:00 a.m. The American flag was presented to Miami Lighthouse by Senator Marco Rubio in recognition of the agency’s 85 years of service to the blind and visually impaired.

The Topping Off ceremony will pay homage to a long-held construction tradition marking the installation of the highest piece of structural steel on the Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ building. Construction of the Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ will be finished in time for the first day of school on Monday, August 21st, 2017.

Munilla Construction Management, LLC is hosting the Topping Off celebration. The new facility was made possible by public and private support in response to a challenge grant from a local philanthropist. Those intimately involved in the project, including county and city government officials, and representatives of Munilla Construction Management and the architectural firm of Wolfberg Alvarez Partners, will participate in the topping off, along with financial supporters of the project and Miami Lighthouse Board Directors. A check will be presented by Lion Alan Campbell, President of the Miami Lions Club, on behalf of the Miami Lions Club and Lions Clubs International Foundation who jointly contributed to fund the playground for the new facility.

In addition to housing innovative intervention programs for youngsters from birth to five years old, the Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ will provide the community with a first-of-its-kind inclusive pre-kindergarten program for both blind and sighted three- and four-year-old students. The pre-k was launched this fall in existing space for 15 children and will have the potential to expand to one-hundred children in five classrooms. Miami Lighthouse has introduced this unique initiative in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Early Learning Coalition to facilitate transition of blind and visually impaired students into local public schools.

CEO Virginia Jacko said, “We are thrilled to celebrate the topping off of the new addition to our growing campus. This expansion will provide classroom space for our youngest students in which they will learn about the world around them in an engaging inclusive environment.”

###

Established in 1931 by Dolly Gamble with the aid of Helen Keller and support from the Miami Lions and Miami Rotary Clubs, Miami Lighthouse is the oldest and largest private agency in Florida assisting persons of all ages who are blind and visually impaired. Today, the agency serves more than 13,000 program participants each year. For more information about Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, visit miamilighthouse.org, or call 786-362-7500.