

Volunteering at the 6th Annual Miami Lighthouse Walk, Waggle, and Stroll Dog Walk: Transition Program Update

On Sunday March 3, 2013 the Miami Lighthouse held their 6th Annual “Walk, Waggle, and Stroll Dog Walk” at the Shops of Midtown in Miami, Florida. This year seven visually impaired teenagers volunteered at the event to help fundraise for the Miami Lighthouse Transition Program.

The students had prepared for the Dog Walk throughout the month of February through a series of interactive home management, personal management, job readiness, communications, and assistive technology lessons. The teens first found a recipe for organic dog biscuits online and Davonte Pollard, 16, shopped for the ingredients for the treats at his local Publix with the help of a personal shopper that the grocery store provided and with supervision from Emily Nostro, Transition Program Coordinator. The teens then spent a whole day baking the dog biscuits with Instructor Richard Nieves, CVRT. The students sold the dog biscuits on the day of the dog walk for \$1.00 each.

The teens used iPads and the LookTel Money Identification App to ensure that they were providing the right change to their customers. They had received instruction on how to use the iPads and money identification apps from Krista Hodess, TVI.

The teens were also responsible for assembling 300 goodie bags. The goodie bags that contained coupons for local businesses, dog treat recipes, and donated doggie bowls were distributed at the Dog Walk. The teens also received coaching on how to provide optimal customer service from Job Readiness instructors at the Miami Lighthouse.

Overall, the day was a great success. The teens raised \$135.00 for the Miami Lighthouse Transition Program. The teens and their families celebrated after the event with a lunch at Hurricane Wings and Grill at the Shops of Midtown. It was a wonderful experience for all of the teenagers who had the opportunity to show off the training they received at the Miami Lighthouse and give back to their community by fundraising for the agency.

The following students volunteered at the Dog Walk: Davonte Pollard, junior at Braddock High School; Alondra Roldan, sophomore at Braddock High School; Myeasha Lyles, junior at Hialeah Miami Lakes High School; JP Paniagua, 8th grader at Palmetto Middle School; Eric Ortiz, 8th grader at WR Thomas Middle School; Angel Wallace, 8th grader at Hialeah Miami Lakes Middle School; and Shawn Kouri, sophomore at Hialeah High School.