

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND TO DEDICATE SASH A. SPENCER EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER New 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Wing Will Officially Open on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

**MIAMI—October 2, 2014**— Miami Lighthouse for the Blind & Visually Impaired will host the official dedication of the Sash A. Spencer Educational Empowerment Center on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. Barry E. Johnson, President & CEO of Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, will emcee the ceremonies at 601 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, as Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado and other dignitaries cut the ribbon that marks the arrival of 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, will also recognize the firm of OHL Arellano Construction for its pro-bono role as General Contractor. Media is invited to attend the ceremony.

The Sash A. Spencer Educational Empowerment Center will house three distinct rooms:

- The 3,000-square-foot Marta Weeks Wulf Education Suite will be home to a trio of rooms that can merge into one multipurpose facility. The rooms will be used for math classes in Nemeth Braille and will be equipped with a sound system allowing for music performances.
- Funded by the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation, the Carmella Witt Technology Laboratory will provide access to digital information that levels the playing field for blind and visually impaired students.
- The Jan & Daniel Lewis Braille Homeroom will be a student gathering venue for practicing reading and writing Braille.

"The entire 4<sup>th</sup> floor, with partial program support from the Florida Division of Blind Services, is designed to help our teenagers and adults achieve gainful employment," says Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia A. Jacko. The new Center 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 child."

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# SASH A. SPENCER EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER DEDICATION

Honoring

Mrs. Sash A. Spencer Marta Weeks Wulf Penny and Roe Stamps Jan and Daniel Lewis Miami-Dade County and City of Miami Mayors and Commissioners

Project Contributors OHL Arellano Construction and Their Subcontractors and MGE Architects

### Tuesday, October 7, 2014

#### 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

601 SW 8th Avenue

Sponsored by Walgreen Corporate, Northern Trust and Nostro Jones, P.A.

Hors d'oeuvres by Thierry's Catering and Event Design with a celebratory toast provided by Ruffino Prosecco Valet Parking

> RSVP to Cameron Sisser by September 30th 786-362-7515 csisser@miamilighthouse.org