

## Mission Statement

To provide vision rehabilitation, eye health services and education that promote independence, to collaborate with and train professionals, and to conduct research in related fields.

## An Annual Lighthouse Tradition • 2015 White Cane Day

White Cane Day is the day of the year when clients give back to Miami Lighthouse and enable us to help others who need vision rehabilitation. Grateful clients solicit donations from family, friends, neighbors and coworkers. Hugo Meneses, Lola Zuniga and Herb Klein were recognized as the top fundraisers at this year's White Cane Day event. With client support, in-kind donations and sponsorships by Florida Blue, the Marlins Foundation and Lions for the Blind, this year's event raised \$13,000.

An estimated 200 people of all ages participated in our White Cane Day walk on October 15th. Escorted by City of Miami Police and Fire Departments, they walked from Miami Lighthouse, down 8th Street and back, where the celebration continued with food and music featuring Miami Lighthouse Music Program musicians, guest speakers and special presentations. The keynote speaker was Penny Shaffer, Market President South Florida, Florida Blue. NBC 6's Chief Meteorologist John Morales was the emcee. Grand Marshals were Senator Anitere Flores, representing the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation; Commissioner Sally A. Heyman, representing the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners; Ramón Casas, Chair, Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors; Juan Carlos Diaz, District Administrator, District 12 Florida Division of Blind Services; Lion Ildefonso Ortega, District Governor 35-N; and Billy the Marlin.



Miami Lighthouse has received eight consecutive 4-star ratings, the highest rating possible, from the national evaluator, Charity Navigator, placing us among the top 2% of non-profits in the U.S. based on our efficient use of donor dollars.



## 2016: We're looking forward to an innovative and transformative year!

Miami Lighthouse is proud to find itself at the forefront of the challenge to provide computer accessibility for the visually impaired. “One of the most important things we do at Miami Lighthouse is to give blind and visually impaired people the tools to be independent and help them navigate their world,” said President and CEO Virginia Jacko. To that important end, two members of our fast-growing division of Computer Technology Services, Manager Bill Rivera and Senior Instructor Roberto Perez, recently completed work on an in-depth accessibility audit of Argentina Airlines’ English- and Spanish-language websites. Their job: to ensure the sites meet U.S. government accessibility standards as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Rivera and Perez, who are both blind, tested the websites for validation using the latest versions of assistive technology software including JAWS for Windows screen readers and Magic and ZoomText screen enlargement software packages. A Braille display was also used for Braille testing, as was a Windows 8.1 Pro computer and a Macintosh with the latest version of Mac OS X and Safari using screen-reading technology.

The Argentina Airlines contract marks an important new role for Miami Lighthouse. It represents the potential for our organization to receive many more such contracts from corporations seeking necessary website accessibility in the coming years. Our work will help ensure that the blind and visually impaired have equal access to websites from which they seek services, and it may lead to the creation of jobs for our clients in this rapidly expanding field of website accessibility.

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### Welcome New Board Members

At its December 3rd meeting, our Board of Directors unanimously approved appointment of George Foyo and Jan Morrison as Board Directors.

**George Foyo** is Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Baptist Health South Florida, the region’s largest not-for-profit healthcare provider with a network of seven hospitals and more than 30 outpatient and urgent-care facilities spanning three counties. We look forward to his leadership as we strive to stay abreast of reforms in health care.

**Jan Morrison** has been a long-time supporter of Miami Lighthouse and promoter of our mission. Most recently, she arranged for CEO Jacko to be the fall semester convocation speaker at Palmer Trinity School where CEO Jacko presented a motivational speech with lessons from her book *The Blind Visionary*. Jan will take a leadership role in planning our 85th Diamond Anniversary Celebration on January 28th, 2017 at the Biltmore. Jan’s husband Bill served as Miami Lighthouse Board Chair from 1992 to 1995.

*Miami Lighthouse bylaws state that “the corporation shall be governed by a Board of Directors of not less than 10 but not more than 36 persons.” Our board currently has 27 members, and our honorary board consists of 23. The honorary board is comprised primarily of former board members who have a continuing interest in helping Miami Lighthouse. All board members are volunteers who give generously of their time, talent and treasure. It is because of their dedication and support that we are known as a Center of Excellence in Vision Rehabilitation.*



## Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends of Miami Lighthouse,

My decision to accept another term as Chairman of your Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors is based on my pride and pleasure at the continuing growth and importance of this remarkable organization's role in our Miami-Dade community. As we enter our 85th year of service to the blind and visually impaired, we look forward to once again enhancing the services we offer with the imminent arrival of our new Lighthouse Learning Center for Children that will offer inclusive pre-kindergarten services for three- and four-year-olds.

Thanks to the highly qualified professional team at Miami Lighthouse, today's blind babies and youngsters of all ages with visual impairments come into a world with many more opportunities than older generations could ever have hoped for. We have leveled the playing field for these young clients by working closely with important organizations such as the Florida Department of Education Division of Blind Services, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and The Children's Trust.

In a world that reveres computers, we are understandably proud of our successful entrance into the world of website accessibility via our fast-growing Computer Technology Services. Most importantly, we continue to play a significant role in helping our growing number of clients of every age to achieve independence via Braille and technology instruction, mobility training, and much, much more.

The tradition of excellence in service that Miami Lighthouse enjoys so proudly could not have been attained without the continued support of you, our generous and caring donors. During fiscal year 2015, we served over 14,000 clients; nearly thirty times more than when I completed my first term as your chairman in 2000!

2016 promises to bring additional program growth and successful service to Miami Lighthouse clients as we celebrate our 85th year of helping the blind and visually impaired in our community. Thank you for your continued support in this incredibly important effort.

It simply could not happen without you.

Sincerely,



Ramón F. Casas  
*Chairman, Board of Directors*



## Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors

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# Helping Clients from Babies to Seniors be Independent

## Arrival of Lighthouse Learning Center for Children Will Underline Importance of Early Learning for Three- and Four-Year-Olds

Babies and children are among the most rapidly growing populations experiencing vision loss in our community. Miami Lighthouse's unique ability to provide early learning for these youngsters has already proven to be essential in helping them achieve independent and productive lives.



*Our youngest clients Amanda, Alex and Danny (left to right) will benefit from our new Lighthouse Learning Center for children.*

One of the exciting results of our recent “Center of Excellence in Vision Rehabilitation Grant Challenge” is about to become reality! Consistent with our “Strategic Vision for Expansion of Programs in our Center of Excellence Initiative 2013-2016,” in the fall of 2016, our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children will collaborate with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to pilot an innovative pre-kindergarten program designed to enable blind and visually impaired youngsters—working alongside their sighted siblings and peers—to transition more easily to the public school environment. Classes for the pre-kindergarten program will be piloted in existing instructional space this fall. Construction of our Learning Center for Children expansion is scheduled to begin this spring, with the official opening projected for fall semester of 2017. Upon completion, the new space will house our pre-kindergarten classrooms and other instructional areas for children from birth through age four. We express our gratitude to the architectural firm Wolfberg Alvarez & Partners for their pro bono preliminary planning of this facility expansion.



*Miami Lighthouse mid-1940s*



*Miami Lighthouse Center of Excellence Expansion*

## One-Year-Old Boy Attends Blind Babies Program on a Regular Basis

For most of his very young life, Brandon has made regular visits to an ophthalmologist who makes and fits artificial eyes. That's because this cheerful, curious little boy was born without eyes, the result of a rare condition called anophthalmia that develops during pregnancy. He will require lots of extra care and will need special schooling. For that reason, he is already participating in the Miami Lighthouse's Blind Babies Program to get help in developing his fine motor and navigational skills as well as learning to interact with other children and getting comfortable in noisy environments. Brandon's mother, Shamiska, calls the program "awesome," and says she already sees great progress.

Recently, Miami Lighthouse Manager of Children's Programs Isabel Chica contacted the *Miami Herald's* annual Holiday Wish Book program about Brandon, noting how much he would benefit from toys that make sounds and have other sensory or tactile features. She also mentioned that the young family could greatly use help with basic supplies and especially a crib that could convert to a bed as the baby grows. Thanks to Chica's efforts and generous donations made through Wish Book, Brandon and his family enjoyed a very merry Christmas.



Photo by Marcelo Salup

Shamiska and Brandon

## Guidepost for Success: Miami Lighthouse's High School High Tech Program

As head of Miami Lighthouse's High School High Tech Program, Chief Program Officer Carol Brady-Simmons recently attended an Able Trust seminar on subjects affecting young people with visual disabilities who are attempting to enter the workforce. The transition from youth to adulthood is challenging for almost every young person. This is particularly true for young people with disabilities; yet, it is in those critical transition-age years that a young person's future can be determined. The five important guideposts that the seminar addressed and that Brady-Simmons says are encompassed in our Miami Lighthouse program include: School Preparation, Youth Development and Leadership, Career Preparation, Connecting Activities and Family Involvement.

Forty-two Miami Lighthouse teenage "transitioners" are currently enrolled in our High School High Tech Program to help ready them for work after graduation. The students are exposed to a variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) jobs. This important program, funded by The Able Trust, allows our visually impaired teenagers to shadow many different jobs through field trips where they can participate and observe. They also learn important interviewing skills and how to write a good resume.

*The Able Trust, also known as the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, is a 501(c)(3) public-private partnership foundation established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. Its mission is to be a key leader in providing Floridians with disabilities opportunities for successful employment. More information about The Able Trust can be found at [www.abletrust.org](http://www.abletrust.org)*



*(Guidepost for Success article continued)*

**Florida Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM)** is part of a national event highlighting career paths and participating businesses to students and job seekers with disabilities through hands-on career exploration, on-site job shadowing and other career exploration experiences leading to increased knowledge for participants. Florida's DEAM program is organized by The Able Trust and statewide partners, who provide support to local community liaisons who coordinate the matchmaking experience between businesses and participants.

As part of this year's DEAM activities, last fall 16 participants in the Miami Lighthouse High School High Tech program went to WVUM 90.5 radio station to participate in a job shadowing experience. Students learned about radio, recording equipment and various interviewing tactics radio personnel use to interview guests. They practiced interviewing each other using what they learned from guest interviews that were played for them.

Having observed the disk jockeys as they went on the air to greet their listeners and deliver news and updates, students were given the opportunity to go on the air and deliver their own messages to the radio station's listeners.



*Miami Lighthouse High School High Tech student Andrea goes live on the air greeting WVUM listeners.*

Our students were thrilled to have the opportunity to go live on the radio and have their voice broadcast to thousands of listeners. They introduced themselves to the listeners, spoke about what it was like to have a disability and voiced that persons with disabilities were no different or less capable than any other individual.

## **Kudos for Our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program**

More students than ever receive the gift of clear vision because of the phenomenal growth of our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program. The Program provides free comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses, if required, to low-income schoolchildren throughout the State of Florida. Children served have either failed the state-mandated vision screening or have been referred by school health counselors and have no other source for eye care.



Our Heiken Program continues to receive kudos from grateful parents and teachers. A teacher of the visually impaired in Hendry County wrote: "I recently had the pleasure of meeting your your staff as they spent a week in Hendry evaluating students. Both the doctor and the assistant were extremely helpful and thorough. So many students from Hendry will now benefit from the gift of good vision. I was in awe that such a wonderful resource exists for the students in Florida. Please thank them for their efforts..."

In the school year of its merger with Miami Lighthouse (2006-2007), our Heiken Program provided 2,500 free comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses for those who needed them. In school year 2014-2015, the number served increased to 8,900 schoolchildren, with 7,431 of these children receiving prescription glasses.

## Listen to the Music • Exciting Advances in Our Music Program

### Miami Lighthouse's Better Chance Music Program is Growing by Leaps and Bounds

Recently Ronald McDonald House Charities presented a check in support of our unique program. This grant will be used for music production software upgrades and the purchase of additional instruments needed due to program growth. The inclusive music program—with its on-site, state-of-the-art sound studio—prepares students for higher education and employment in the mainstream music industry.



*Jose and Milly Montes, McDonald's franchise owners, CEO Virginia Jacko and Soraya Rivera-Moya, Executive Director, Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida, check presentation at our See the Light Luncheon on November 12, 2015.*

Our Music Program musicians, both blind and sighted, appear at many Miami Lighthouse events throughout the year to entertain guests and event attendees with their very professional performances. Music Program instructors and program graduates performed at the ADA Silver Anniversary Summit at the Arsht Center in September, our teenage musicians presented a 45-minute concert at HistoryMiami Museum's Family Fun Day in November and, most recently, performed Christmas carols to a very large and appreciative holiday audience at Bayside Marketplace in December.



*Miami Lighthouse student musicians caroling at Bayside Marketplace*

A peer-reviewed article about our nationally recognized, copyrighted distance learning Braille music curriculum "A New Synthesis of Sound and Tactile Music Code Instruction: Implementation Issues of a Pilot Online Braille Music Curriculum," recently appeared in the Practice Report section of the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*.



*The Children's Summer Program, Better Chance Music Program, Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program and Early Intervention Program are funded in part by The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County.*



## Miami Lighthouse: Leading the Way in Adult Education and Job Training

For students with vision disabilities, a high school education can seem like an impossible dream. “Thanks to a grant from Miami-Dade County Public Schools, we are able to lead the way to a better life for our clients,” said CEO Virginia Jacko. Our Adult Basic Education Program is designed for clients ranging in age from 18 to 80. Currently, 72 visually impaired adults are taking classes in our new fourth-floor Sash A. Spencer Educational Empowerment Center to both learn English and attain their GED.



GED Client Clinton

An example of the wide-reaching effect of this innovative education program is our client, Clinton. Clinton is a 78-year-old married man with three children who began losing the central portion of his eyesight in 1993. Now retired, he spends four days a week attending classes in reading, writing, computer technology and individual tutoring at Miami Lighthouse working toward his GED, something he will tell you he never thought possible when he had to drop out of school in the 7th grade. “I have a way to go for my GED, but every day our teacher, Miss Charles, helps me to make progress,” he says. “It really means a lot to me.”

On the job training end of the spectrum can be found recent client Chieftain, formerly a professor at St. Thomas University and now visually disabled. The 62-year-old native of Trinidad and Tobago came to Miami Lighthouse to participate in our Assistive Technology course, an important component of our Job Readiness Program. With his recent retraining and rehabilitation, he is now pursuing certification in e-learning courses. He plans to get back into the classroom, albeit a virtual one, where he can maximize his newly acquired knowledge. In a parting note to his Job Coach Pauline Winick, Chieftain wrote, “Words can’t say how thankful I am. Your assistance in resume development was vital. God bless you always.”

### Job Readiness Program Client Testimonial

*“This program has exceeded my expectations by far and will have a direct effect on my moving forward. The Job Readiness Team was terrific, the brain trust in this program was remarkable, the client-to-client participation was super engaging and insightful. Many thanks to everyone for the information you shared. I really enjoyed this class and learned a lot. The first couple of classes I started to wonder, “Why did you want to put yourself through such a demanding program?” In hindsight, I would not have done a single thing otherwise, and I owe it all to this great Job Readiness Team and clients. Compliments! From my initial class interactions and the warm welcome introductions to the final class assignment, I could not ask for a more supportive, cohesive and interesting group to work with. I really appreciate everyone’s time. There has been a lot to digest in this program... It was great participating in this Job Readiness Program. It was my pleasure to have worked with each and every one of you, and I think we did a great job working together.”*

*Chieftain, Job Readiness Client*



## Events

### See The Light Luncheon Marks Start of 85th Diamond Anniversary Celebration

As a prelude to our Diamond Anniversary activities, 85 years of excellence in programs and services for the blind and visually impaired were celebrated in November at our 10th Annual See The Light Luncheon at the Riviera Country Club in Coral Gables. President and CEO Virginia Jacko announced that the Braman Family Foundation has pledged \$1 million towards our \$5 million “Challenge” to create a new Center of Excellence for Visually Impaired Children. The exciting new facility will offer five learning laboratories for newborns to one-year-olds, one- to two-year-olds, two- to three-year-olds, and two pre-kindergartens for three- and four-year-old visually impaired students and their sighted siblings and peers. We are grateful to the Anthony R. Abraham Foundation for the inaugural gift and to the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust for the capstone gift to meet the \$5 million dollar capital challenge. The need for program support is ongoing, and we count on your continuing support.



*Jorge Munilla, CEO Virginia Jacko, Jacquelyn Munilla, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade County Public Defender Carlos Martinez and Miami Lighthouse Board Director George Foyo*

Mark A. Trowbridge, President and CEO of Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, emceed the event. The keynote presentation was provided by Comcast Vice President Thomas J. Wlodkowski who told the audience about his company’s collaboration with Miami Lighthouse in piloting the Spanish version of its new Comcast “Talking Guide.” The innovative new system allows a visually impaired person, using either English or Spanish, to access TV program selections through audio output.

Comcast also recently made a Digital Literacy Grant to Miami Lighthouse which will help us incorporate comprehensive training on the latest assistive technology software in the rehabilitation of participants in the Miami Lighthouse job readiness and computer training programs. Specifically, these funds will substantially enhance their training and result in our clients’ ability to succeed in school and increase their employment potential in the competitive job market.



*CEO Virginia Jacko with Comcast leadership team: Cynthia Arco, Mindy Kramer, Thomas Wlodkowski, Filemon Lopez, Nina Sherman and Derek Cooper*

## Events

*(See the Light Luncheon article continued)*

The software that will be purchased through this grant will enable an estimated 450 program participants to accomplish tasks such as reading and writing, using spreadsheets, accessing a wide range of digital information and content in many languages and will help users navigate websites that have accessibility issues such as graphics without text.

This grant from the Comcast Foundation is in recognition of Comcast's commitment to the communities where its customers and employees live and work. Since its founding in 1999, the Comcast Foundation has distributed more than \$163 million in cash support of programs implemented locally in Comcast communities.

### Young Professionals of the Lighthouse Host Miami Lighthouse Chicken Championship

The Young Professionals of the Lighthouse hosted the Miami Lighthouse Champion Chicken Wing-Eating Contest in September at Batch Gastropub. Guests enjoyed networking with local young professionals and a competitive wing-eating contest among seven hungry participants while spectators cheered them on. Congratulations to the winners, Joe San and Will Beckham, who took home two one-year Citibike memberships, a Toshiba Camileo S30 Camcorder and gift certificates to Miami area restaurants. All proceeds from the event benefit the Miami Lighthouse Music Program.



*Board Directors Pablo Gonzalez and Kent Benedict with Jakeline Gálvez (center)*



*Contest winners Joe San and Will Beckham*



## In Memoriam

Former Board Director and Honorary Director **H. Jack Ross** passed away on October 30, 2015. At our December 3rd Board of Directors meeting, his wife Audrey placed a memorial butterfly on the Tree of Life in our garden. We are grateful for donations Miami Lighthouse has received in Jack's memory and for others who pay tribute to their family and friends through memorial contributions to our Miami Lighthouse.

**William A. Lane** passed away on November 3, 2015. Upon his retirement he served as President of the Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation which has a long history of generous support of Miami Lighthouse programs.

## Awards and Recognitions

### Florida Blue Foundation Selects Miami Lighthouse to Bring Low Vision Services to Seniors



Florida Blue Foundation awarded Miami Lighthouse a highly competitive three-year grant for the purpose of implementing a project to bring low vision assessments to underserved populations and train healthcare professionals to better serve seniors affected by age-related eye disease. Miami Lighthouse will be working in concert with Florida International University and the Alliance for Aging on this innovative project that is expected to greatly improve the quality of life and level of independence for low-income seniors. Ongoing grants from The Peacock Foundation and The James Deering Charitable Trust to fund low vision services for seniors helped leverage this Florida Blue Foundation grant to bring direct service to senior centers.

During the project we will: give “Living with Low Vision” presentations to 720 seniors; provide low vision assessments and assistive devices for 180 seniors which will help maximize their remaining functional vision; offer low vision Occupational Therapy for 60 seniors which will improve their quality of life; host continuing education workshops for 100 healthcare professionals which will enhance their ability to work more effectively with low vision seniors; and provide low vision practicums for nine Level II occupational therapy students thereby increasing their knowledge about working with low vision populations. We are grateful to the Florida Blue Foundation for helping us further one of our 2013-2016 Strategic Initiative goals: meeting the needs of visually impaired adults, especially seniors.

Florida Blue Foundation enables healthy communities by making grants, building coalitions and rewarding best practices. More than three million people in Florida have received direct health services as a result of grants made to nonprofit organizations since the Foundation’s founding in 2001. Florida Blue Foundation is a trade name of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Foundation, Inc., an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

### Lions Foundation Check Presentation

At the December club meeting, The Lions Club of Miami Foundation made a generous gift to Miami Lighthouse in support of our Center of Excellence expansion project to create a learning center for blind children. At our annual holiday party on December 23rd, representatives of the Lions Club of Miami were presented a ceramic lighthouse in recognition of this gift. We deeply appreciate the Lion Club’s long-standing support of Miami Lighthouse programs and express our thanks to Lion and Mrs. Henry D. Castro for their personal generosity.



*Lions Luis Olarte, Harry Magee,  
Alan Campbell, Greg Werra, Virginia Jacko,  
Henry Castro, Hector Ferrer, Reinaldo Valdes*

Congratulations to [Raquel Van Der Biest](#), Miami Lighthouse’s Occupational and Low Vision Therapist, who was recently appointed to a two-year term on the Florida International University Occupational Therapy Advisory Committee. As a committee member, Ms. Van Der Biest will help determine educational priorities and give advice and have input on FIU’s new curriculum for the Professional Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, thus furthering our mission “to collaborate with and train professionals.”

## Community Outreach, Collaborations and Publications

In October, Miami Lighthouse participated in a City of Miami Beach and Baptist Health South Florida free community health fair in which 250 seniors from the Miami Beach community participated. Miami Lighthouse Vision Solutions Center Manager John Garcia, Licensed Dispensing Optician, represented Miami Lighthouse. He demonstrated to those in attendance various low vision assistive devices: magnifiers, blood pressure meters with extra-large display, large button telephones, portable electronic magnification devices and large print and talking devices—all of which help seniors suffering from age related eye disease more easily perform everyday tasks. Participation in community outreach activities is partially underwritten by The James Deering Charitable Trust and The Peacock Foundation and will be expanded thanks to our recent Florida Blue Foundation grant. To learn more about assistive devices that help low vision seniors maintain their independence, call our Vision Solutions Center at 786-362-7489.



*Vision Solutions Center Manager John Garcia at senior health fair*

In September, CEO Virginia Jacko was invited to speak at the **ADA Silver Anniversary Summit** at the Arsht Center. The topic of her presentation was “Effective Communication in the Digital Age.”

An article entitled “Bringing Function into Focus: Implementing the principles of universal design for the low vision population” appeared in the November 2015 issue of *ADVANCE for Occupational Therapy Practitioners*. Through a collaboration between the Occupational Therapy Department at Florida International University (FIU) and the Miami Lighthouse, occupational therapy students interested in low vision complete their three-month fieldwork experience at Miami Lighthouse. The article is based on Jessica Garcia’s three-month fieldwork at Miami Lighthouse under the supervision of Raquel Van Der Biest. The article focuses on implementing the seven principles of universal design in combination with the “person-environment-occupational performance model” and instruction on independent living skills for blind and visually impaired clients at Miami Lighthouse. The article was authored by Jessica Garcia, MS, OTR/L, a graduate of FIU; Raquel Van der Biest, CLVT, OTR/L, certified low vision occupational therapist, Miami Lighthouse; Alma Abdel-Moty, DrOT, MS, OTR/L, clinical associate professor and fieldwork coordinator, Department of Occupational Therapy at FIU; and Carol Brady-Simmons, COMS, Chief Program Officer, Miami Lighthouse.

## Holiday Thanks!

We extend special thanks to everyone who contributed toys or made a donation for our holiday toy drive. Your gifts put smiles on our children’s faces at our holiday party for parents and children in December:

Ms. Donna Abood  
Mr. and Mrs. Kent M. Benedict  
Ms. Erika Berger  
Donna R. Blaustein, Esq.  
and Arnold S. Blaustein, M.D.  
The Honorable Sue Cobb  
and the Honorable Charles Cobb  
Mr. and Mrs. Owen S. Freed  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter R. Harrison  
Ms. Anne E. Helliwell

The Honorable Sally A. Heyman  
The Student Occupational Therapy  
Association at Keiser University  
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Mrs. Sash A. Spencer  
Ms. Jenna Sulemon  
Ms. H. Angela Whitman



*Calhenry with his present at our holiday party*

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### **Miami Lighthouse Donor Bill Of Rights**

Miami Lighthouse respects the rights of its donors, and under no circumstances will donor contact information be shared with or sold to another entity. To read our Donor Bill of Rights, please visit our website:

<http://www.miamilighthouse.com/Docs/ADonorBillOfRights20100812.pdf>

**Join the Helen Keller Legacy Society by including Miami Lighthouse in your estate plans.  
Contact Virginia Jacko, President and CEO, at 305.856.4176**

*Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired is in the top 2% of U.S. charities having received eight consecutive 4-star ratings, the highest rating possible, from Charity Navigator in recognition of our ability to efficiently manage and grow our finances.*

*Lighthouses serving the blind throughout the United States are autonomous, have no affiliation with each other and do not share funding.*



## EASY WAYS TO DONATE!

We would like to thank friends of Miami Lighthouse who support our mission when making online purchases through AmazonSmile and eBay giving works. You, too, can do this. If you are shopping at Amazon, simply shop through the AmazonSmile website and choose Miami Lighthouse as the charity to receive a donation every time you make a purchase. If you are shopping on eBay, make Miami Lighthouse your "Favorite Non-Profit" and choose to give a donation at checkout.



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Please assure delivery by February 22, 2016

## SAVE THE DATE!

"Yappy Hour" for humans and dogs

March 22, 2016, 6-8 p.m. at Apeiro Restaurant

85th Diamond Anniversary Celebration

January 28, 2017 at the Biltmore



### LIVING WITH LOW VISION

**WHAT IS LOW VISION?**  
Low vision is a visual loss not correctable by standard eyeglasses, contact lenses, medicine or surgery.

**MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE CAN HELP. . .**  
An optometrist specializing in low vision and a licensed occupational therapist can help by providing low vision assessments and recommending assistive devices such as low vision aids and equipment.

To schedule an appointment  
or if you need assistive devices call our  
Vision Solutions Center at 786-362-7479.  
601 SW 8th Avenue • Miami, FL 33130  
www.miamilighthouse.org

## Thanks to Everyone Who Gave through the Miami Foundation's Give Miami Day in November

Because of our national recognition for our judicious use of donor dollars, our Miami Lighthouse placed 7th in the amount of money raised out of over 600 charities that participated in Give Miami Day. Each gift between \$25 and \$10,000 received a 4% match funded by The Miami Foundation and other participating sponsors. Miami Lighthouse was awarded an additional \$1,000 incentive prize in the Lunch Time Special Prize category. A total of \$114,247 was raised during the 24-hour challenge event. We are extremely grateful to our Miami community of supporters who provide the crucial revenue we need to serve the growing number of persons with vision loss.



## Miami Lighthouse

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305.856.2288 Fax. 305.285.6967

HOURS: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am-4:30 pm

## Miami Lighthouse Lantern Newsletter

Publisher: Virginia A. Jacko

Editor: Sharon H. Caughill

Contributing Editor: Joan Spector

For the print impaired, the Lantern is available in an alternative format.  
For more information, call 786.362.7514 or visit our website at  
[www.miamilighthouse.org](http://www.miamilighthouse.org)

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