



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 12 March 2015

In This Issue

[Miami Lighthouse Among Top 2% of Nonprofits](#)

[McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Lunch](#)

[Walk, Waggle & Stroll Dog Walk](#)

[Comcast brings Voice Guided Television to the Miami Lighthouse](#)

[Low Vision Seminar](#)

[Mayor Philip Levine visits Miami Lighthouse](#)

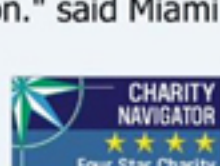
[Beep Baseball at Miami Marlins Park](#)

Miami Lighthouse Among Top 2% of Nonprofits in the Nation

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired has entered the top two percent of U.S. charities, receiving its seventh consecutive 4-star rating, the highest rating possible, from Charity Navigator in recognition of our ability to efficiently manage and grow our finances.

The notification letter from Charity Navigator, the widely respected independent evaluator of not-for-profits states: "Only 2% of the charities rated by Charity Navigator have received at least 7 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust."

"It is important to our donors and grantors that their investment is used for client services to the fullest extent, and that we are in the top two percent of American charities for fiscal responsibility. Only eight cents of every dollar goes to administration." said Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia A. Jacko.



McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Lunch Enjoys a Delicious Surprise!

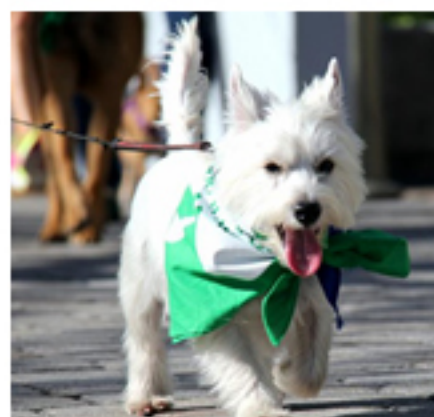
Honorary Board Director David B. McCrea, whose family began its legacy of volunteerism in the early days of the Miami Lighthouse, surprised and delighted the Miami Lighthouse Board and approximately 100 guests on February 13th with the announcement that he personally will continue to underwrite the important annual event in perpetuity. Each year on Valentine's Day, the McCrea family has honored the spirit of volunteerism by generously underwriting the luncheon so that those who dedicated themselves to providing crucial services to the blind may receive their due praise.

The Valentine luncheon this year recognized 2015 Volunteers of the Year Rene J. Gonzalez-Llorens, Esq., who serves as Miami Lighthouse Legal Counsel, and Paula Jacobs, a devoted Senior Group Health and Activities Program volunteer (SGA). Our Better Chance Music Production Program™ musicians serenaded the honorees and guests with SGA client Dan Johnson bringing down the house with his vocal rendition of "Lady" by Lionel Richie.



Lauren Fernandez, Esq., Sheila Cesarano, Esq., Antonia Martinez, Jr., Esq., Shutts & Bowen; The Honorable Migna Gonzalez-Llorens; Honoree Rene Gonzalez-Llorens, Esq., Shutts & Bowen; Nelba Gonzalez, Senior Group Health and Activities Coordinator, Miami Lighthouse; David McCrea, Esq. and Francois Henriquez II, Esq., Shutts & Bowen

Walk, Waggle & Stroll! It's Dog Walk Time on Sunday, March 15th



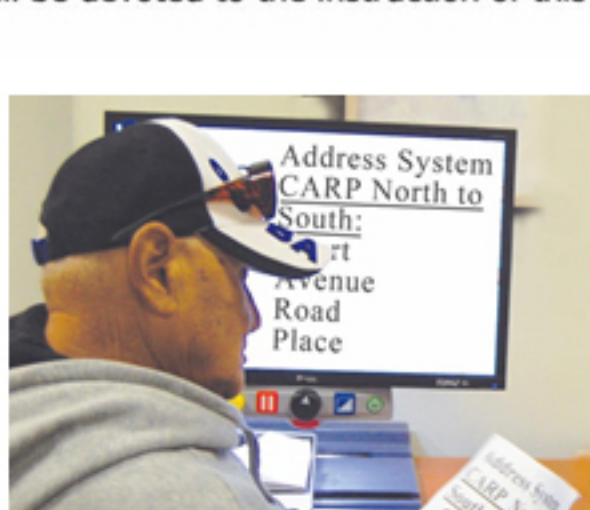
The Shops at Midtown Miami, at 3401 North Miami Avenue, will be the starting point for the Miami Lighthouse's 8th Annual Dog Walk, and everyone is invited. There will be a "Bagels & Bones Breakfast" at the site for hungry two legged and four legged guests, plus "Doggie Contests & Prizes." The grand prize for most pledges collected is a Romero Britto signed Azul dog sculpture. Registration is \$30, with entrants getting a tee shirt with a Romero Britto design plus a doggie bandana. It's a really fun event that raises much needed funds for Miami Lighthouse programs, so please attend.

In honor of the Dog Walk we will also be giving away special "doggie bookmarks" to everyone who attends. Designed by graphic artist and Lighthouse volunteer Susie Conroy, the charming bookmark is topped by a cutout of a Lab dog's head with "Facts about what to do when you meet a person with a guide dog" on one side, and "Facts about the Miami Lighthouse" on the other.

Comcast brings Voice Guided Television to the Miami Lighthouse

Comcast has announced it will partner with the Miami Light House for the Blind & Visually Impaired to introduce its new voice guidance technology. The remarkable "talking guide" is a feature on the X1 platform that reads aloud selections from program titles, network names and time slots as well as DVR and on demand settings, giving users the freedom to independently explore and navigate thousands of TV shows and movies. An entire access technology laboratory on our new Fourth Floor will be devoted to the instruction of this exciting program.

"One of the most important things we can do at Miami Lighthouse is give our clients the tools to be independent and help them navigate their world," said President & CEO Virginia Jacko. "The X1 talking guide from Comcast represents a huge leap forward in helping the blind and visually impaired learn how they can experience and enjoy their television entertainment in ways they could not even imagine before," she says. "It reinforces what we teach here at the Miami Lighthouse, that it's possible to see without sight.™"



Engaging the Low Vision Community through Education, Research, and Service

On February 7, 2015 Miami Lighthouse in collaboration with the Florida International University Nichole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences Occupational Therapy Department offered a continuing education seminar for Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and Nurses to empower healthcare professionals with the knowledge they require to meet the needs of the growing number of patients who are impacted by low vision. The all day seminar was attended by 44 registrants who received continuing education credits for their participation. Topics related to low vision and blindness as they impact functioning and quality of life from birth through the adult years included infant development, assistive technology, communication, patient/family-centered care and independent living. On the evaluation questionnaire, participants' overall rating of the workshop was 4.9 out of 5.

City of Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine visits Miami Lighthouse



City of Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine visited Miami Lighthouse recently and took a tour of our facility and programs. During his tour, Mayor Levine visited the Better Chance Music Production Program™, the Senior Group Health and Activities area and the Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes for adults pursuing their GED. This year, the city of Miami Beach is marking its 100th anniversary.

Miami Lighthouse Students Join Miami Marlins for Beep Baseball at Marlins Park

The Miami Marlins hosted Miami Lighthouse students on Monday, February 16th for the Marlins Ayudan Beep Ball Classic at Marlins Park. The students teamed up with Miami Beep Baseball. Through this adapted version of the game, blind and visually impaired students were able to experience the popular game of baseball first-hand. We thank the Marlins Foundation for making this exciting experience for our students possible.

Contributed by Joan Spector



601 SW 8th Avenue | Miami, FL 33130

305-856-2288

www.miamilighthouse.org