



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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SAVE THE DATE! 85th Diamond Anniversary Celebration

Saturday,
January 28, 2017
at the Historic
Biltmore Hotel

Feel the excitement!

Groundbreaking for the innovative Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ is just a few days away -- August 3rd to be exact -- and the excitement is palpable. The new building will house our important programs for children from birth through age four as well as pre-kindergartens for blind three- and four-year-olds.

Thanks to our generous donors, licensed teachers have already been hired and a pilot curriculum, providing early learning for five blind children and five sighted siblings or peers, will take place this fall, even before the new building is completed!



Rendering of Miami Lighthouse including the Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™

We're celebrating with the Division of Blind Services!

As Miami Lighthouse enters its 85th Anniversary Celebration year, we're pleased to have joined the Division of Blind Services (DBS) in their important celebration of 75 years of fostering independence for blind and visually impaired Floridians.



(Left to Right: Commissioner Pam Stewart, DBS Director Robert Doyle, Director of External Relations Cameron Sisser)

The DBS Anniversary Ceremony took place on July 28th at Florida South Western State College's Lee Campus in Fort Myers and was attended by Miami Lighthouse Director of External Relations Cameron Sisser who presented a proclamation on behalf of the Miami-Dade County Delegation. Miami Lighthouse Senior Case Manager Corina Hernandez attended as well.



(Left to Right: DBS Director Robert Doyle, President & CEO Virginia Jacko, and Commissioner Pam Stewart)

During the ceremony, DBS presented Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia Jacko with the "Successful 75" award, presented by Commissioner Pam Stewart and DBS Director Robert Doyle.

Our congratulations to the DBS for their many years of outstanding work!

The Road to Rio: Paralympian Natalie Bieule Visits Miami Lighthouse

Paralympian and recent Kellogg's cereal box cover girl Natalie Bieule came to Miami Lighthouse to visit with our STAR Program students, telling her story of how she came to be on the road to Rio and inspiring our students with her strength and determination.

A discus thrower with a prosthetic leg, the native Miamian had a big message for the students: "Never let anyone tell you no. The only limits are the ones we set for ourselves. No dream is ever too big!"



Paralympian Natalie Bieule (bottom left) with STAR Program students

Thank you, Natalie! We can't wait to watch you in the Paralympics!

Natalie Bieule's throws will be broadcast on NBS at September 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. EST.

EXILE Books, HistoryMiami Museum, and Miami Lighthouse Work Together

EXILE Books is joining forces with Miami Lighthouse to bring this summer as part of EXILE's residency at HistoryMiami Museum. Exploring the independent histories that comprise our city's past, present, and future, EXILE will chronicle the Lighthouse community's voice. Artists from the Miami Lighthouse Art Program led by Nelba Gonzalez will make tactile reliefs representing their personal stories.



Left to Right: Maria Estorino, Elia Khalaf, Lauren Monzon, Ivon Rodriguez, and Stuart Chase

Once complete, these reliefs will be donated as a series to the HistoryMiami Museum archive along with a blindfold, so that these unique works can be experienced solely through touch. EXILE will also release a publication to commemorate the project, featuring images of the reliefs alongside individual accounts of each artist's history. These works will also live within the museum's collection, showcasing Miami Lighthouse's artistic offerings while simultaneously archiving its cultural legacy.

Meet Krizia Perez, Manager of the Blind Babies & Children's Program

Ask Krizia Perez to describe her new role at the Miami Lighthouse, and she replies with feeling, "It's where my heart is."

The Miami native is actually not new to Miami Lighthouse. She served here for five years as a social worker, returning recently to her new position after a year away working with Miami Children's Hospital under the auspices of the Miami Dade County School System. A graduate of Florida State University, Krizia holds a Masters in Social Work from Barry University and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She is newly married to Anthony Warren, a Miami-Dade police officer.

As Manager of the Blind Babies and Children's Program, she was immersed in Summer Camp activities in addition to overseeing the Saturday Braille Literacy and Technology classes. Welcome back, Krizia!



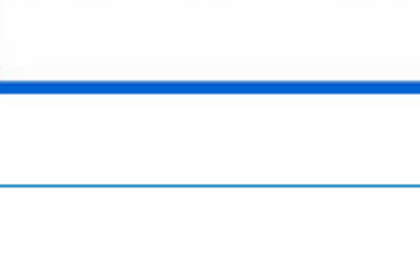
Krizia Perez (left) with STAR Program student Emilv Hernandez

Contributed by Joan Spector

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