



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 30 September 2016

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SAVE THE DATE!
85th
Diamond
Anniversary
Celebration

Saturday,
January 28, 2017
at the Historic
Biltmore Hotel

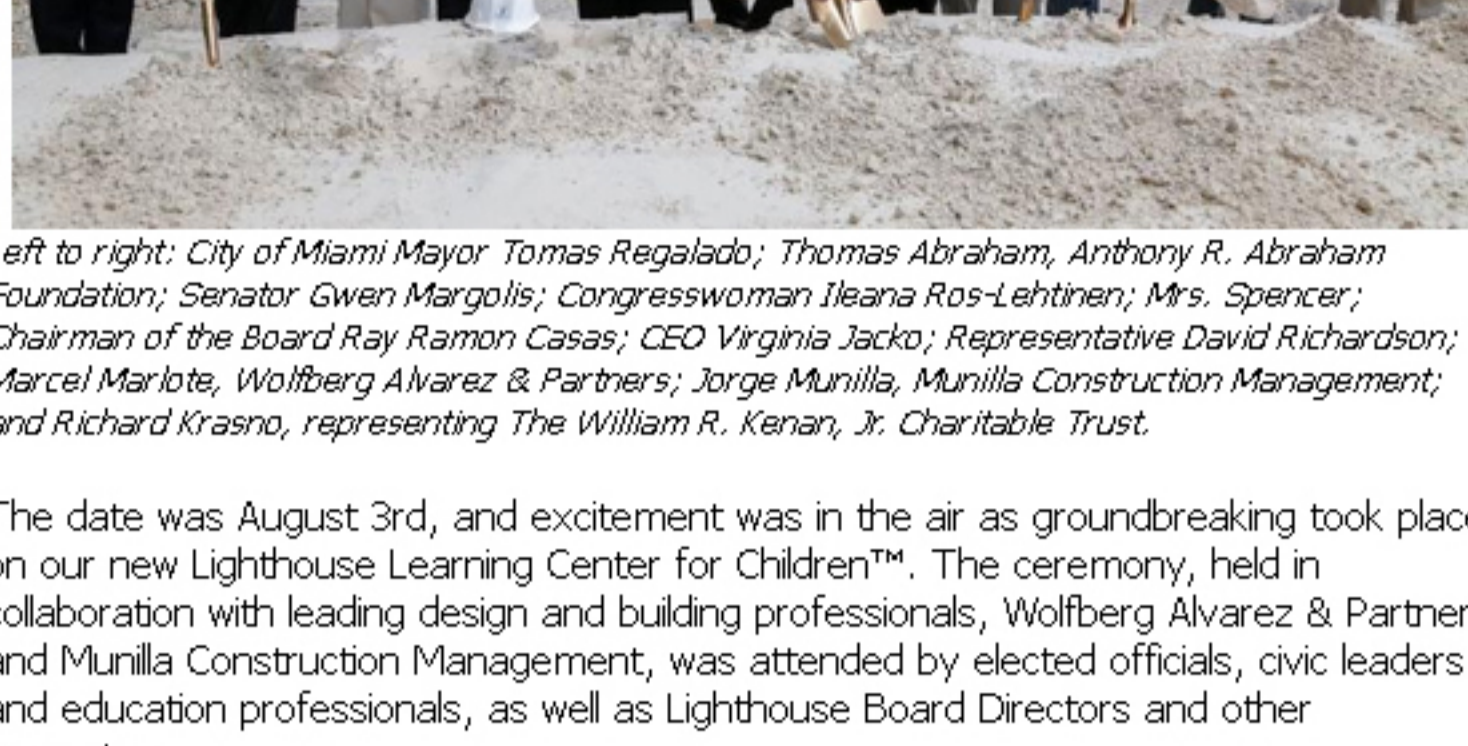
Miami Lighthouse Early Intervention Blind Babies Program Named 2016 Program of the Year by The Children's Trust



Left to right: Lily de Moya, The Children's Trust Board Member; Carol Brady-Simmons, Miami Lighthouse Chief Program Officer; Virginia Jacko, Miami Lighthouse President & CEO; and Isabel Chica, Miami Lighthouse Director of Children's Programs

Among the many hundreds of children's programs in Miami-Dade County, Miami Lighthouse's Early Intervention Blind Babies Program was named the 2016 Program of the Year by the Children's Trust. This most prestigious award recognizes our Early Intervention Program, in particular, for including parents as teachers. The event took place at the Champion for Children's Awards event held by The Children's Trust. "The true Champions for Children are the parents of the more than one hundred blind babies and toddlers in our Blind Babies Program," said Miami Lighthouse President and CEO Virginia Jacko in her acceptance speech.

Breaking Ground on our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™



Left to right: City of Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado; Thomas Abraham, Anthony R. Abraham Foundation; Senator Gwen Margolis; Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen; Mrs. Spencer; Chairman of the Board Ray Ramon Casas; CEO Virginia Jacko; Representative David Richardson; Marcel Marlole, Wolfberg Alvarez & Partners; Jorge Munilla, Munilla Construction Management; and Richard Krasno, representing The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust.

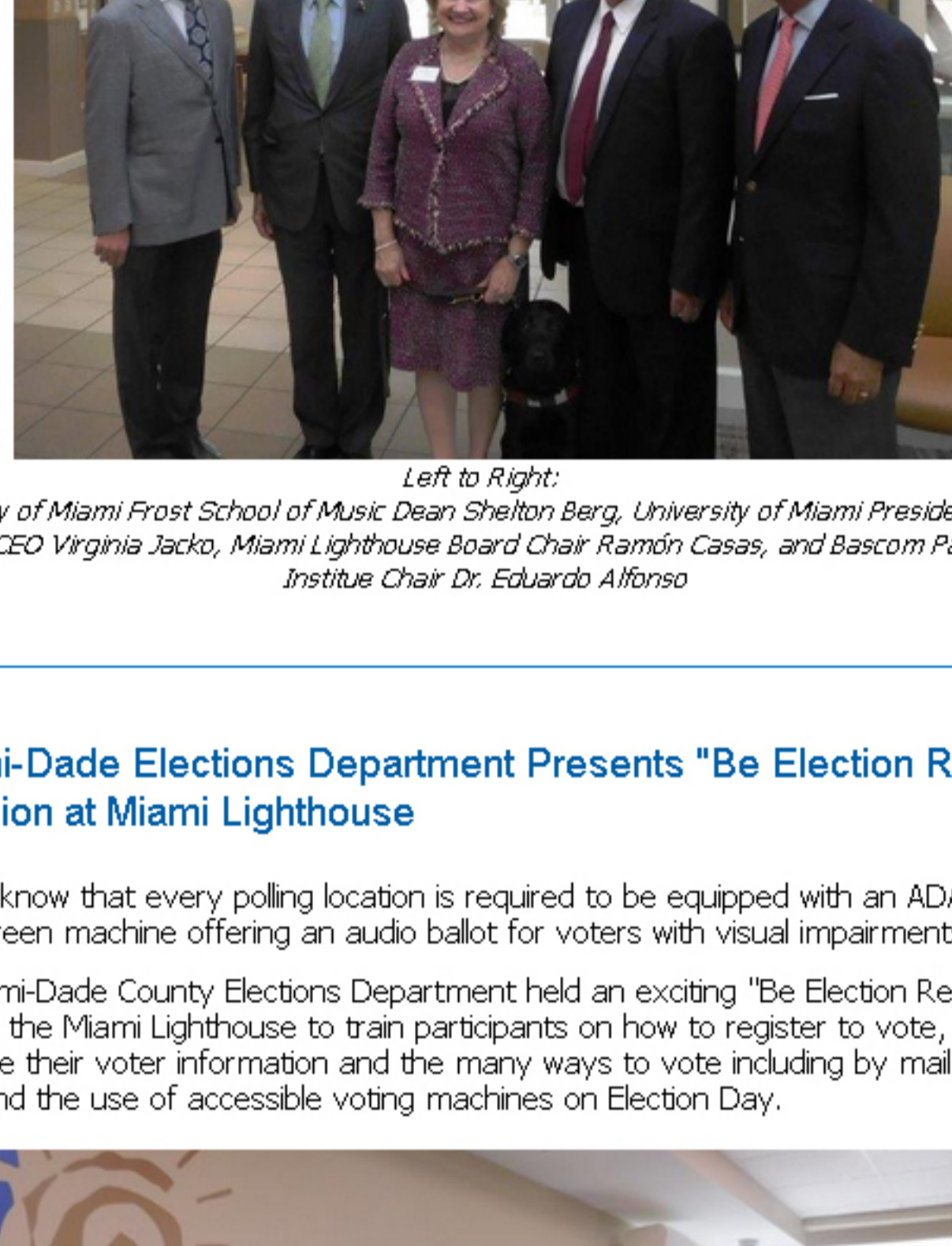
The date was August 3rd, and excitement was in the air as groundbreaking took place on our new Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™. The ceremony, held in collaboration with leading design and building professionals, Wolfberg Alvarez & Partners and Munilla Construction Management, was attended by elected officials, civic leaders and education professionals, as well as Lighthouse Board Directors and other supporters.

With construction now underway, the new Learning Center will soon provide the community with a first-of-its-kind pre-kindergarten program for blind and visually impaired children alongside sighted youngsters from the surrounding neighborhood. The innovative program is being introduced by Miami Lighthouse in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and The Early Learning Coalition. The new facility has been made possible by private donations in response to a challenge grant from a local philanthropist.

University of Miami President Visits Miami Lighthouse for the Blind

On August 24th Dr. Julio Frenk, President of the University of Miami, toured Miami Lighthouse for the Blind's facility and explored innovative new partnerships between Miami Lighthouse, University of Miami Frost School of Music, and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. Highlights of the tour included our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™ Pre-Kindergarten, the Low Vision Solutions Center, the Better Chance Music Production Program™, Senior Health and Group Activities Program, and our Computer Accessibility program.

We look forward to building bridges and a bright future between the University of Miami and Miami Lighthouse for the Blind.



Left to Right: University of Miami Frost School of Music Dean Shelton Berg, University of Miami President Dr. Julio Frenk, CEO Virginia Jacko, Miami Lighthouse Board Chair Ramón Casas, and Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Chair Dr. Eduardo Alfonso

Miami-Dade Elections Department Presents "Be Election Ready" Session at Miami Lighthouse

Did you know that every polling location is required to be equipped with an ADA touchscreen machine offering an audio ballot for voters with visual impairments?

The Miami-Dade County Elections Department held an exciting "Be Election Ready" event at the Miami Lighthouse to train participants on how to register to vote, confirm or update their voter information and the many ways to vote including by mail, early voting and the use of accessible voting machines on Election Day.

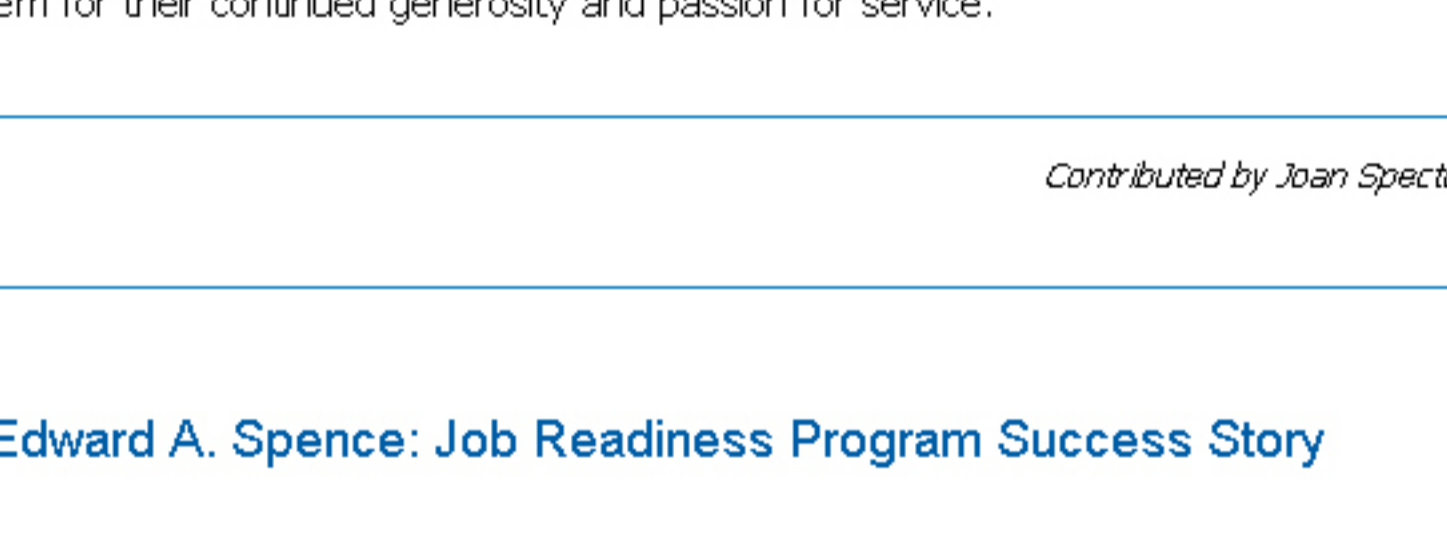


Miami Lighthouse clients learn how to use the accessibility features of the voting machines.

The unique event, attended by Lighthouse clients, took place on August 16th and was hosted by Carolina Lopez, Deputy Supervisor of Elections. Lighthouse CEO Virginia Jacko thanked the Election Department for taking the time to ensure that our visually impaired clients had the opportunity to fully learn about the voting process. The educational event reinforced, once again, the Miami Lighthouse motto, "It's possible to see without sight.™"

CEO Jacko is a Guest Speaker at Rotary Club "100 Year Celebration"

Miami Lighthouse's relationship with the Rotary Club of Miami harkens back to 1931 when, along with the Lions Club, it was instrumental in founding Miami Lighthouse with Rotarian Thomas Grady serving as the first Board Chair from 1931 to 1933. The Rotary Club of Miami has continued to support the Lighthouse since that time, even as it celebrates its 100 Year Jubilee and we celebrate 2016 years of service.

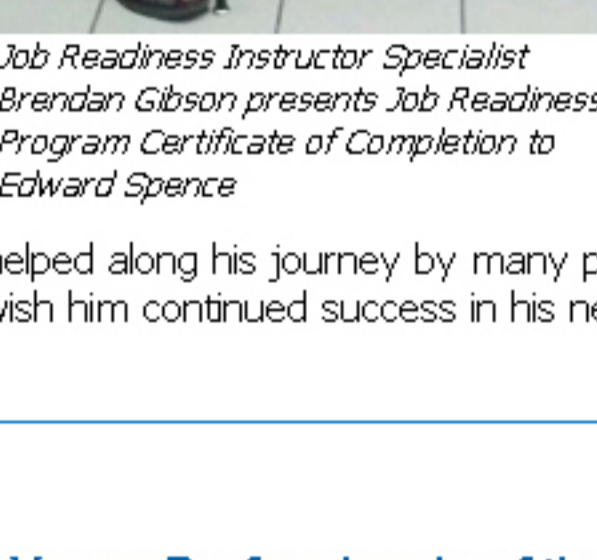


Left to Right: Rotary Club of Miami Vice President and Treasurer Phil Sepp, Diane Landsberg, Miami Lighthouse Board Director Scott Richey, Miami Lighthouse President & CEO Virginia Jacko, Rotary Board Director of Miami Oliver Ruiz, and Cathy Cahill

At a recent meeting at which she was invited to speak, CEO Jacko was presented with a check for \$5,000. In accepting the donation, Ms. Jacko spoke about the Rotary Club's important role in Miami Lighthouse's establishment so long ago and thanked them for their continued generosity and passion for service.

Contributed by Joan Spector

Edward A. Spence: Job Readiness Program Success Story



Job Readiness Instructor Specialist Brendan Gibson presents Job Readiness Program Certificate of Completion to Edward Spence

Edward Spence is embarking on a very successful second career. The former skycap was unable to continue work due to vision loss caused by glaucoma. Because he is a man who always provided for himself and his family, he resolved to learn the skills necessary to regain independence.

In late 2012 and early 2013, Mr. Spence immersed himself in the various programs offered by Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. He took keyboarding and orientation and mobility classes. He enrolled in everything job rehabilitation could offer and in 2014 in our Job Readiness Program where he took a Vocational Personality Test. Mr. Spence scored extremely high in the food services component. Upon hearing the result, he recalled that years ago his family had been in the restaurant business. Our Job Readiness team helped him apply for the Division of Blind Services (DBS) Bureau of Business Enterprise Program (BBE). Mr. Spence successfully completed the program, and was determined to have a career in food services. His perseverance paid off in September 2015 when he joined two other vendors and signed a contract for a military dining facility at Camp Blanding in Starke, Florida. In August 2016 Mr. Spence was named BBE vendor of the month. Edward Spence was helped along his journey by many professionals at Miami Lighthouse and DBS. All of us wish him continued success in his new endeavor!

Young Professionals of the Lighthouse Present the 2nd Annual Chicken Wing Eating Contest!

Join the Young Professionals of the Lighthouse as they host the second annual Miami Lighthouse Chicken Championship Wing Eating Contest at Batch Gastropub on September 16th to benefit Miami Lighthouse's Music Program. Network with local young professionals, enjoy a complimentary drink, appetizers and happy hour pricing beginning at 6:30 p.m. The wing eating contest will start at 8:00 p.m. Come as a spectator or a participant, and help support a great cause while enjoying some friendly competition. A \$20 donation for spectators, and a \$50 entry for competitors (limited competitor tickets available). For tickets please click [here](#).



MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE
CHICKEN CHAMPIONSHIP
ANNUAL WING EATING CONTEST

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016
 6:30 – 8:30 PM
 CONTEST STARTS AT 8:00 PM

BATCH GASTROPUB
 30 SW 12TH STREET
 MIAMI, FL 33130
 305.808.5555

\$20 DONATION FOR SPECTATORS
 ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE MUSIC PROGRAM
 RECEIVE 1 COMPLIMENTARY DRINK & APPS
 PLUS HAPPY HOUR PRICING ON DRINKS

\$50 ENTRY FOR COMPETITORS
 RECEIVE 1 COMPLIMENTARY DRINK & APPS
 PLUS HAPPY HOUR PRICING ON DRINKS

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF THE LIGHTHOUSE CO-CHAIRS
 Will Beckham Kent Benedict Pablo Gonzalez



Invitation Flyer with information listed in the text above. Batch Gastropub's address is: 30 SW 12th Street, Miami, FL 33130, and the phone number is 305.808.5555. The Young Professionals of the Lighthouse Co-Chairs are Will Beckham, Kent Benedict, and Pablo Gonzalez.



Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to Miami Lighthouse!

If you're shopping at Amazon, simply shop through the AmazonSmile website and choose Miami Lighthouse as the charity to receive a donation every time you make purchase.

[Get Started](#)

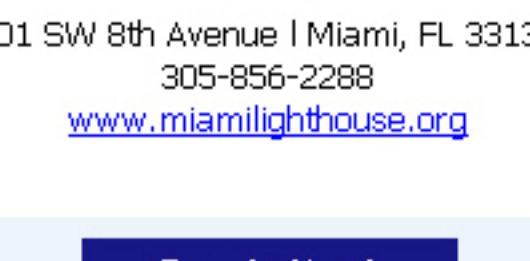


Shop on eBay and give at checkout!

If you're shopping on eBay, make Miami Lighthouse your "Favorite Non-profit" and choose to give a donation at checkout.

Selling on eBay? You can also support us by designating Miami Lighthouse to receive 10-100% of your final sale price.

[Get Started](#)



601 SW 8th Avenue | Miami, FL 33130
 305-856-2288
www.miamilighthouse.org

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