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BLIND USABA ATHLETES MENTOR TEENS AT MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE

MIAMI—June 9, 2008--Power lifters from the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) will have lunch at Miami Lighthouse for the Blind July 2 and spend time with students enrolled in the Transition program, which is aimed at kids ages 14-20 preparing for postsecondary schooling or vocational training. The blind power lifters will demonstrate their skills, and through sharing their experiences with the teens, offer motivation and confidence.

“This is an opportunity to focus on ability, not disability,” said Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia Jacko. “A blind person can do almost anything a sighted person does; sometimes they just need to learn how to do it differently and other times there is no difference.”

The Miami Lighthouse site visit by the blind athletes occurs just prior to the 2008 International Blind Sports Association’s (IBSA) Benchpress and Powerlifting World Championships, in which athletes from 15 nations will compete, to be held in Miami July 2-5 at the Hyatt Hotel Grand Ballroom. Miami Lighthouse is a sponsor of the U.S. team.

The Miami Lighthouse Summer Transition Program is an intensive eight-week camp designed to help young persons age 14-20 transition successfully and confidently into their future college for employment, family, and all that adulthood brings. The Transition program provides the opportunity to work on improving travel skills,

orientation and mobility and independent living skills. The program focuses on building self-confidence and self-esteem, and can include real-life job experience, job shadowing, volunteering, or paid work. Approximately 30 teens participate in the summer Transition program.

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Since its founding in 1976, The United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA), a community-based organization of the United States Olympic Committee, has reached thousands of blind individuals. The organization has emerged as more than just a world-class trainer of blind athletes, it has become a champion of the abilities of Americans who are legally blind. USABA's Mission: to enhance the lives of blind and visually impaired people by providing the opportunity for participation in sports and physical activity. For more information, please visit www.usaba.org.

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind is Florida's largest and oldest agency serving the blind and visually impaired. In addition to providing free vision care to thousands of financially disadvantaged children each year, Miami Lighthouse helps more than two thousand blind and visually impaired people and their families learn to live safe and independent lives while coping with vision loss. For more information visit:

<http://www.miamilighthouse.org>

OUR MISSION:

*To provide vision rehabilitation and eye health services that promote independence,
to educate professionals, and to conduct research in related fields.*