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**MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FEATURES VISUALLY IMPAIRED SKI RACER
AT WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY FESTIVITIES**

MIAMI—October 10, 2008—Danelle D'Aquanni Umstead, a visually impaired female athlete currently training to compete as an alpine ski racer in the 2010 Paralympics, will deliver the keynote address at the White Cane Safety Day celebration at Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired Wed. October 15. Miami Lighthouse, Florida's largest and oldest agency serving the blind and visually impaired, is located at 601 SW 8th Avenue in the East Little Havana neighborhood of Miami.

Hundreds of graduates of Miami Lighthouse vision rehabilitation programs, community leaders, friends and volunteers will participate in the annual White Cane Day Walk-a-Thon. White Cane Safety Day, a national observance, educates the public on blindness issues and the White Cane Law, which protects blind and visually impaired pedestrians. Last year auditory pedestrian signals were installed at Eight Avenue and Seventh Street, so that blind and visually impaired clients of Miami Lighthouse can walk to Walgreens, a block away on the corner of Eighth Street. The auditory signals were a joint project between state and county highway authorities.

The Walk-a-Thon begins at 9:45 a.m., followed by speakers at 10:30 a.m.

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Virginia A. Jacko, Miami Lighthouse President and CEO



Danelle D'Aquanni Umstead

(Visit www.vision4gold.org to learn more about Danelle.)

White Cane Safety Day is a national observance established by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964, in recognition of the white cane as both a tool and a symbol of blindness. With proper training, people using the white cane (or a guide dog) can enjoy greater mobility and safety by determining the location of curbs, steps, uneven pavement, and other obstacles, giving them the freedom to travel independently to their schools and workplaces and to participate more fully in the life of their communities.

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MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE MISSION STATEMENT

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

<http://www.miamilighthouse.org>