



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORAL GABLES COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$2,000 GRANT TO MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR ITS SENIOR GROUP ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

MIAMI—May 25th 2016— The Coral Gables Community Foundation celebrated its 2016 Scholarship and Community Grant Recipients at the home of Ajit and Maria Alicia Asrani. The Foundation awarded nearly \$100,000 in college scholarships to deserving students and grants to 15 non-profit organizations with an impact to Coral Gables. Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired was awarded a \$2,000 grant to benefit Coral Gables residents in our Senior Group Activities Program.

The Program enables these blind and visually impaired seniors (age 55+) to have access to arts and crafts and English as a Second Language classes. “This training will make it possible for these seniors to maximize their independence and continue to live at home instead of moving into assistive living facilities” said Virginia Jacko, President & CEO of Miami Lighthouse. SGA offers activities that aid in perfecting one’s blindness skills. Instruction on accessible technology and music therapy are also offered. Fitness and wellness activities include exercise and lectures with group discussions, field trips to local parks, and areas of interest.

Just this year alone Miami Lighthouse has provided services to over 100 residents of Coral Gables. One of our SGA participants, Dan (55 years old), was an airline mechanic by trade and also sang in his local choir. After Dan lost much of his eyesight his music hobby became a focus for reinventing himself at Miami Lighthouse. Despite being visually impaired, by participating in activities offered by Miami Lighthouse he now has a second career in the music industry by performing in the community. The grant from the Coral Gables Community Foundation has allowed Miami Lighthouse to help those who are blind and visually impaired lead confident and independent lives and reinforce what Miami Lighthouse teaches, that “it’s possible to see without sight™.”

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