

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## AT&T GRANT HELPS MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND YOUTH PREPARE FOR EMPLOYEMENT AFTER HIGHSCHOOL

Check presentation to be conducted on July 1<sup>st</sup> at Miami Lighthouse's Legislative Luncheon

**Miami, Fla. (June 23, 2015)** — **Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired** has received a grant from AT&T that will enable youth who are blind or visually impaired to engage in activities related to broadcast journalism leading to further education or employment after high school and preparation for successful transition to post-secondary pursuits. The AT&T grant will expand Miami Lighthouse's High School High Tech Program by adding broadcast journalism to their curriculum and training laboratory for high school students. They will learn about broadcast journalism by creating radio segments and podcasts using Miami Lighthouse's state-of-the-art Henry Stone recording studio.

"Miami Lighthouse is extremely honored to receive support from AT&T," said CEO Virginia A. Jacko. "It is vital that we afford high school students with visual impairments the opportunity to explore jobs in the communications industry. Because of AT&T we expect that students will increase their self-esteem and stay in school." This AT&T grant will enable Miami Lighthouse to implement the program with part-time instruction by individuals with backgrounds in broadcast journalism and in the sound engineering aspect of radio production. High School High Tech is a Program of the Able Trust designed to increase high school student enrollment in postsecondary institutions and improve student participation in education, vocational and employment related activities in technology fields.

"This project is aligned with the philanthropic priorities of AT&T," said Alex Dominguez, Area Director of External Affairs for AT&T. "The resources we are providing will allow Miami Lighthouse to address the needs and invest in programs such as High School High Tech that can transform the lives of high school students giving them the opportunity to develop leadership skills and inspire creativity, active learning, critical thinking and problem solving." The high school participants will work together to write and produce ten minute program segments of one-hour Podcast and radio broadcasts in which this AT&T support will be acknowledged. Miami Lighthouse invites press to attend the check presentation on July 1<sup>st</sup> at 12pm at its location, 601 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.

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## About Philanthropy & Social Innovation at AT&T

AT&T Inc. is committed to advancing education, strengthening communities and improving lives. Through its community initiatives, AT&T has a long history of investing in projects that create learning opportunities; promote academic and economic achievement; or address community needs. In 2013, more than \$130 million was contributed or directed through corporate-, employee-, social investment- and AT&T Foundation-giving programs. AT&T Aspire is AT&T's signature education initiative that drives innovation in education by bringing diverse resources to bear on the issue including funding, technology, employee volunteerism, and mentoring.

## **Cameron Ehren Sisser**

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