



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 110
February 2024

In This Issue

- **Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Celebrates Historic 95-Year Milestone with its Diamond Anniversary Celebration Presented by Northern Trust**
- **Congratulations, Carol Brady-Simmons, our Chief Program Officer!**
- **Did you read about Daniel Solomon?**
- **Are you interested in playing or coaching Blind Soccer?**

[DONATE
NOW](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Celebrates Historic 95-Year Milestone with its Diamond Anniversary Celebration Presented by Northern Trust

Miami Lighthouse marked a historic milestone of 95 years of service with our Diamond Anniversary Celebration hosted on Saturday, January 27th at the historic Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables. An incredible 95 Years Salute video was shown to guests which can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

The sold-out crowd of community leaders heard from President and CEO, Virginia Jacko, about the Board of Directors commitment to sustain and grow for another 95 years. CEO Jacko announced a two-year campaign to raise \$9.5 million to continue the legacy of transforming the lives of blind babies to seniors affected by uncorrectable vision loss for the next 95 years. A "Matching Team" of philanthropists have already committed a \$4 million contribution to Miami Lighthouse's donation goal. For questions regarding the Campaign contact Virginia Jacko at [305-856-4176](tel:305-856-4176) or vjacko@miamilighthouse.org.



President and CEO Virginia Jacko speaks to audience about sustaining and growing Miami Lighthouse Programs for another 95 years.

We thank our table sponsors, corporate sponsors supporting this special evening including Platinum Signature Sponsor Florida Power and Light, Design and Décor Sponsor Florida Blue, Audio Visual Sponsor CareSource, Program Booklet Sponsor Shutts & Bowen, Live Auction Booklet Sponsor Cunningham Advisory Group, Cocktail Sponsor Bacardí, Wine Sponsor El Carajo, Invitation Sponsor GrayRobinson, Auctioneer Sponsors Terri Shikany & Linda Corey, Print Media Sponsor Walgreens, Gift of Vision Sponsor Baptist Health South Florida, Valet Sponsor Murgado Automotive Group, Photography Sponsor Miller Construction Company, Video Sponsor Multivision, In-Kind Sponsor Go 2 Events and Lighthouse Art Takeaway Sponsor Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins.



Brooke Solomon, CEO Virginia Jacko, Chair of the Board Steven Solomon and Staci Solomon



Olga Nielson, CEO Virginia Jacko and Immediate Past Chair of the Board Charles Nielson



Roe Stamps, CEO Virginia Jacko and Esther De Deo



Janet Nostro and Past Chair of the Board Lou Nostro



Mitchell Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor



Dan Bell and Trish Bell



Former County Commissioner Sally Heyman, CEO Virginia Jacko and State Representative Vicki Lopez



Past Chair of the Board George Foyo, Emina Nazarian, CEO Virginia Jacko and Sam Nazarian



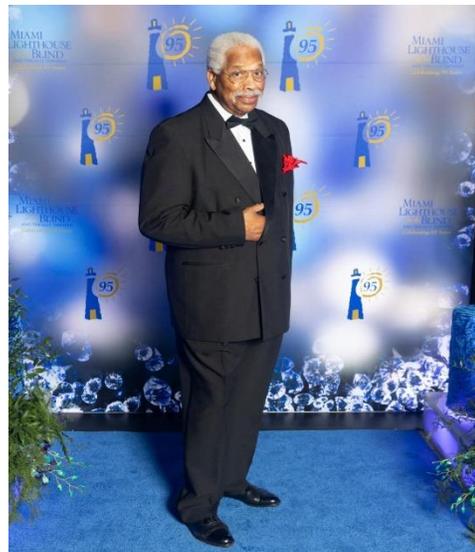
Stephanie Kantsaw, CEO Virginia Jacko and Board Director Angela Whitman



Thomas Abraham, David Lawrence Jr. Molly Quinn and Mark Ackermann



Susan Shelley and Board Director Robert Shelley



Board Director Stacey Jones



Board Director Sheila Freed and Mel Miller



Board Director Scott Richey and Miami Lighthouse Academy Officer Karla Richey



Silvia Harrison, CEO Virginia Jacko and Board Director David Harrison



Board Director Mauricio Villasuso, CEO Virginia Jacko and Alceste Villasuso



*Manolo Montilla and Board Director
Debbie Montilla*



*Xiomara Niebles, CEO Virginia Jacko and Board
Director Ralph Niebles*



Board Director Dr. Alan Levitt and Andrea Levitt



Loretta Morris and Board Director Dr. Stephen Morris



Emina and Sam Nazarian with Miss Florida



Danielle De Oliveira, CEO Virginia Jacko and Board Director Ali Mandsaurwala

Congratulations, Carol Brady-Simmons, our Chief Program Officer!



Carol Brady-Simmons, Chief Program Officer

We are proud to announce that the arrival of 2024 marks 35 years of outstanding service by our Chief Program Officer Carol Brady-Simmons. Carol brings both energy and creativity to the many projects she undertakes. She has served in many different capacities during her tenure at Miami Lighthouse, including Chair of Orientation & Mobility, Interim Director of Adult Services, Director of Children's Services and Director of the Low Vision Program. She is also responsible for starting the highly successful Blind Babies Program and has also overseen daily operation of our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Heiken Program.

Our deepest thanks and gratitude go out to Carol for the unique role she plays as our Chief Program Officer at Miami Lighthouse. We are so lucky to have you!

Did you read about Daniel Solomon?

The Miami Herald headlines article with title “Blind since birth, Brown University student helps others like him.”

Going back to when his parents brought him to Miami Lighthouse when he was diagnosed as a small child with ocular albinism, Daniel, has never let his disability keep him from living life. Daniel graduated summa cum laude from Palmetto Senior High School, a 2022 Silver Knight recipient and was accepted to his first college of choice, Brown University.

Daniel considers the training and experience he received from Miami Lighthouse to be the bedrock behind his ability to succeed in life. In response to the help he was given by Miami Lighthouse, he has worked with Brown University to develop programs to bridge the gap between education and inclusivity for the blind. He now co-teaches the program at Brown’s School of Public Health.

To read The Miami Herald article [click here](#).

Are you interested in playing or coaching Blind Soccer?

Calling all soccer enthusiasts and supporters of inclusivity – mark your calendars for a groundbreaking event hosted by the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) in partnership with Miami Lighthouse on Saturday February 24th, from 9 AM to 1 PM at Soctainer. Use the below links to sign up.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, February 24

Arrival Time: 9:00 am

Event Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Venue: Soctainer, in Little Havana at 820 SW 20th Ave., Miami, FL 33135. Valet parking will be provided.

Program #1: 9 am – 10:15 am: For blind and visually impaired youth (18 & under) and adults

- [Blind Soccer Kickoff for Inclusion Event Experience Registration Link](#)

Program #2: 10:30 – 11:30 am: Blind soccer immersive experience for stakeholders and potential coaches

- [Blind Soccer Kickoff for Inclusion Event Stakeholder Experience Registration Link](#)

Demonstration 11:45 am – 1:00 pm: Blind soccer demonstration & meet-n-greet lunch with USA Blind Soccer Men’s National Team athletes

In the News:

- [Miami's Community News, January 26, 2024 – "MCDONALD'S GOLDEN GRANTS PROGRAM AWARDED MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE Miami recipient accepted \\$5,000 McDonald's Golden Grant"](#)
- [Miami Herald, January 19, 2024 – "Blind since birth, Brown University student helps others like him"](#)
- [WPLG Local 10, January 2, 2024 – "Legally blind woman wins statewide art competition"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

Follow us

[Visit Our Website](#)



Listen to our Podcast



Vision Insights



WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?

CHOOSE MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE

AS YOUR CHARITY ON FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER



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](#)

EMPLOYER ID #59-0637847. MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED, FLORIDA REGISTRATION #CH775. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED, INC. NON-PROFIT IRS EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IS 59-0637847.

