

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE CEO RECEIVES

AXA ADVISORS 2008 BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

April 8, 2008 – Virginia A. Jacko, President and CEO of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, has received the AXA Advisors 2008 Business Woman of the Year Award in the Public Service/Non-Profit Award category. The Award was presented April 4th at a luncheon hosted by AXA and the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Jacko was a successful executive when she began to lose her sight to retinitis pigmentosa and came to Miami Lighthouse for vision rehabilitation. Now totally blind, as CEO she is leading Miami Lighthouse into a new era of growth and expanded client services. The institution recently received its first four-star ranking, the highest level from Charity Navigator, the independent evaluator of not-for-profits.

"I feel so blessed to know my passion," CEO Jacko exclaimed. "As Helen Keller said, "Through blindness, I found myself, my work and my God."

"Despite her blindness, she has a vision for the future of vision enhancement and rehabilitation in our community that will improve the lives of thousands of impaired people." said Chairman William R. Roy, Ph.D.

She was nominated for the award by Miami Lighthouse Honorary Board Member Don Marx and Pat Morgan of Smooth Sailing Executive and Life Coaching. The AXA Advisors Awards, which are sponsored by AXA Financial Protection, were established to honor outstanding professional businesswomen in Miami-Dade County.

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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 www.miamilighthouse.org. To schedule a tour call Jessica Joseph at 305-856-2288, ext. 226.

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.

