FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE RECEIVES SIXTH CONSECUTIVE FOUR-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

MIAMI—October 1, 2013–Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired has entered the top three percent of U.S. charities, receiving its sixth consecutive 4-star rating, the highest rating possible, from Charity Navigator in recognition of its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances.

The notification letter from Charity Navigator, the widely respected independent evaluator of not-for-profit finances, states: “Only 3% of the charities we rate have received at least 6 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired outperforms most other charities in America. This ‘exceptional’ designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.”

"It is important to our donors and grantors that their investment is used for client services to the fullest extent. That we are in the top three percent of American charities for fiscal responsibility reflects our sound fiscal management and efficient use of donor dollars.” said Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia A. Jacko. Miami Lighthouse, Florida’s largest and oldest private agency serving the blind and visually impaired, opened in Miami in 1931. With an expanded facility at the original location, as well as mobile units that travel to public schools and senior centers, Miami Lighthouse experienced a 19-fold increase in the number of clients served between 2004 and 2012.

Additional information is available on the Miami Lighthouse web site: www.miamilighthouse.org.

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MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE MISSION STATEMENT:
To provide vision rehabilitation and eye health services that promote independence, to collaborate with and educate professionals, and to conduct research in related fields.

Contact:
Virginia A. Jacko
President & CEO
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October 1, 2013

Virginia Jacko  
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
601 Southwest Eighth Avenue  
Miami, FL 33130

Dear Virginia Jacko:

On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired on achieving our coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, highlights the fine work of efficient, ethical and open charities. Our goal in all of this is to provide donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make.

Based on the most recent information available, we have issued a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired has earned our sixth consecutive 4-star rating. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 3% of the charities we rate have received at least 6 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired outperforms most other charities in America. This “exceptional” designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

Forbes, Business Week, and Kiplinger's Financial Magazine, among others, have profiled and celebrated our unique method of applying data-driven analysis to the charitable sector. We evaluate ten times more charities than our nearest competitor and currently attract more visitors to our website than all other charity rating groups combined, thus making us the leading charity evaluator in America. Our data shows that users of our site gave more than they planned to before viewing our findings, and in fact, it is estimated that last year Charity Navigator influenced approximately $10 billion in charitable gifts.

We believe our service will enhance your organization's fundraising and public relations efforts. Our favorable review of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired's fiscal health and commitment to accountability & transparency will be visible on our website as of October 1st.

We wish you continued success in your charitable endeavors.

Sincerely,

Ken Berger  
President & Chief Executive Officer