



lantern

Since 1931, Transforming Lives on the Road to Independence VOL. 28 NO. 3
Fall 2008

Jean Ellen duPont Shehan Honored as Woman of Vision

More than 50 of Miami's most prominent female philanthropists gathered at Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired on June 24 for the second annual Women of Vision luncheon.

The inspiring event included the presentation of the 2008 Woman of Vision Award to Jean Ellen duPont Shehan; the completion of Gloria Martin's \$1.1 million gift to Miami Lighthouse; news from CEO Virginia A. Jacko about new initiatives at Miami Lighthouse; a touching testimonial from Helen Mopsick, whose 6-month-old son Colton participates in the Miami Lighthouse Blind Babies program; and original music performed by the Miami Lighthouse musicians. Norma Jean Abraham, Shelley Beckwith Rutherford and Norma Quintero hosted the event.

Jean Ellen duPont Shehan, upon receiving the Woman of Vision award, a monogrammed flower by René Ruiz, praised the services at

Miami Lighthouse and spoke movingly of her own changes in vision.

As she presented a check for more than \$300,000 completing her



CEO Virginia Jacko, Jean Ellen duPont Shehan, Norma Quintero, Norma Jean Abraham and Shelley Beckwith Rutherford

\$1.1 million incentive matching gift, Gloria Martin recalled the transformative effect Miami Lighthouse services had on her friend, the legendary music producer Henry Stone: "He became a new person." She was the first Woman of Vision in 2007, in recognition of her gift, the single largest non-bequest gift in the history of 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.

Henry Stone: Man of Vision

Miami Lighthouse honored legendary music producer and former client Henry Stone as the inaugural "Man of Vision" in June, in recognition of his generous support



Music legend Henry Stone

of the nationally-acclaimed Miami Lighthouse Music Program. The Henry & Inez Stone Music & Sound Studio at Miami Lighthouse is home to an unparalleled music inclusion program, partially funded by The Children's Trust, that prepares musically-gifted blind or visually impaired young people for mainstream employment. The studio was made possible by Gloria Martin's gift of more than \$1 million.

Henry Stone is truly a music industry legend, having worked with Ray Charles, James Brown and KC and the Sunshine Band. In September "The Twist," first produced and recorded by Henry Stone, was named the Billboard Hot 100 Era Number 1 Song of All Time.

USABA Athletes Inspire MLB Teens

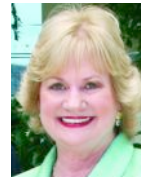
Powerlifters from the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) inspired and encouraged the 30 students ages 14-20 in the Miami Lighthouse Transition program this summer. The athletes gave powerlifting demonstrations and motivational speeches, and connected with the teens on a personal level.

Keynote speaker Cody Colchado Jr. and the other USABA athletes competed in the 2008 International Blind Sports Association's (IBSA) Benchpress and Power-

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More photos inside ➔

President's letter



Dear Friends of Miami Lighthouse,

The economic downturn is affecting everyone, including Miami Lighthouse. But the Miami Lighthouse family has much to be thankful for. Here are a few examples:

- The voters of Miami-Dade County approved continued funding for The Children's Trust in August. Without our funding from The Children's Trust, we would not have our nationally-recognized inclusion program, which brings sighted and blind kids together to make music while learning employment skills. They just finished their second CD, *It's Not Impossible*. The Children's Trust also funds our Blind Babies Program and our summer camps for younger kids, where they learn so much about the world and have such a good time participating in activities that sighted kids often take for granted. We applaud David Lawrence of The Children's Trust. His commitment to children is the catalyst for the trans-formation of so many children's lives in Miami-Dade County, including our kids at Miami Lighthouse.
- The Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors, for their foresight and caring in expanding the mission of Miami Lighthouse to include community eye wellness, development of the vision rehabilitation professions, and research into better ways of minimizing the impact of vision loss. With the senior population affected by severe vision loss expected to almost double by 2020 and, as we have found, so many thousands of children's eye care needs going unmet in Miami-Dade, the need is staggering and to reach those who need us, we had to change and broaden our focus.

That new focus has already helped a lot of people. The first phase of our Center of Excellence initiative, the expansion of our Mobile Outreach and Children's Services, is well under way, thanks to the support of the Batchelor Foundation and others. We have doubled our capacity to serve children who fail state-mandated vision screenings and whose families have no other resources for vision care and are ineligible for other aid. There are thousands of them, and we expect to help thousands more in the coming year. Our Children's Services programs now run year-round to begin to address the serious lack of Braille literacy and basic skills we have found, which is due to the small number of trained teachers of the visually impaired. We also are collaborating with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and several universities to offer seminars, internships, credit courses and CEU opportunities to grow the vision rehabilitation and education professions, thanks in part to the Anthony R. Abraham Foundation.

- Our clients. In a typical month we serve more than 1,000 people, and every day I have something to be thankful for, because every day I hear a new story of a life that was transformed by Miami Lighthouse instructors. You can read some of Helen Mopsick's remarks on page 5 of this newsletter, but that is only a small fraction of the positive feedback we get from mothers of blind babies, totally blind people who have new ways of doing what they need to do, seniors who have regained their independence, even parents whose children have gone from at-risk kids to "A" students because of simple corrective lenses.

- You, our donors and supporters. Because of all of you, Miami Lighthouse is a highly acclaimed vision rehabilitation center, and now we are successfully taking the first steps toward meeting a portion of a staggering need. In addition to our vision rehabilitation programs, which are counted among the best in the U.S., our low vision services, children's services, assistive technology, professional training and community education and outreach will enable us to transform the lives of thousands. I think that our founder, Dolly Gamble, would be very proud of what she started in 1931, and very thankful, too, as I am, for the support we receive from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Virginia A. Jacko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Virginia A. Jacko

President & CEO



Women of Vision: “Walk in Our Shoes”



Inez Stone, Board Director Gloria Martin and Carmen Betancourt-Lewis



Teresa Sarnoff, host Norma Jean Abraham and Leslie Steinberg



Past Board Chair Susan P. Kelley and Board Director Carol P. Russo



Barbara Guilford and Board Director Pamela Garrison

Mary Gonzalez, Betty Gonzalez, CEO Virginia Jacko, Electra Spillis and Carmen Bishopric



Inaugural Men of Vision Event: “Havana Nights”



Board Directors Edward J. Joyce and Kent M. Benedict



Jennifer Lowe, Mark Naszradi of Williamson Cadillac, CEO Virginia Jacko and Board Director Lorenzo Jackson Jr., Esq.



Modesto Abety, Maty Aguirre and Allen Sells



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President and Chief Executive Officer
Virginia A. Jacko



In Brief:

Board Directors **Edward J. Joyce** and **Kent M. Benedict** along with colleagues from Northern Trust Bank visited Miami Lighthouse for a tour, joining clients in the Gallery for lunch. The group learned about the many programs and services offered by Miami Lighthouse to blind and visually impaired children and adults.



Several prestigious grants were awarded recently to Miami Lighthouse, demonstrating the confidence that grantors have in our mission:

- **Allegany Franciscan Ministries** awarded a capacity building grant for the development of Miami Lighthouse Center of Excellence initiatives, and the pursuit of a new social enterprise aimed at helping more people affected by vision impairment.
- **The Children's Trust** has provided funding for a year-round teenage inclusion music project, in which sighted and blind and visually impaired kids make great music together.
- **The Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation** awarded a grant to the Miami Lighthouse Heiken Children's Vision Program to expand free eye care to low-income schoolchildren.
- **The Anthony R. Abraham Foundation** is assisting our collaborations with M-DCPS and universities.
- **Florida Optometric Association Charities** will fund a medical director position and community education outreach to parents regarding the importance of early detection of vision problems in children.

Miami Lighthouse would like to express thanks for support of our summer programs for Transition and Pre-Transition kids, made possible in large part by **The Children's Trust** and the **Batchelor Foundation**. Special outings were made possible with the cooperation of **Arthur H. Hertz** and **Andrew Hertz** of Miami Seaquarium for our teens' Dolphin Encounter, **Harvey and Ellen Amster** and **Jack Tierney** for the horseback riding experience, **Jim Fiorito** for a fieldtrip to Bayside for an Island Cruise, and **Dr. Harold and Gail Cohen** for the Disney World trip.



Miami Lighthouse 2007 Volunteer of the Year **Ed Blumenthal** has received the 2008 Positive Aging Award, Inter-Generational Category, from the Alliance for Aging.

Miami Lighthouse had help with a variety of tasks as volunteers from Deloitte Touche pitched in to help on Deloitte's ninth annual "IMPACT" Day in June.

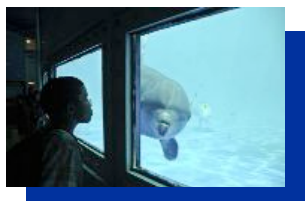
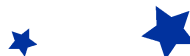
Miami Lighthouse Welcomes New Board Members

John H.B. Harriman is Senior Director of The Standard Chartered Private Bank in Miami, a United Kingdom-headquartered bank with large operations in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Standard Chartered recently acquired American Express Bank, where Mr. Harriman had been working since 2002. He was the President and Senior Country Executive of American Express Bank in Brazil from 2005 to 2006, returning to Miami at the beginning of 2007. Mr. Harriman was educated at the University of Durham in England and the Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management in Phoenix, Arizona. He is a former President of the Florida International Bankers Association and is currently a Director of the British Florida Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Harriman is active in Standard Chartered's Seeing is Believing program, which works to restore and protect eyesight worldwide.

David M. Turner III, CPA, has been a Managing Partner with Turner & Associates in Miami since 1996. Mr. Turner is treasurer of The Land Trust of Dade County, treasurer of the Deering Estate Foundation, and a member of the Estate Planning Council of Greater Miami. His practice emphasizes corporate and individual planning and taxation, forensic accounting, estate planning, postmortem estate and trust tax planning and business consulting. Mr. Turner also testifies as an expert witness in divorce matters, bankruptcy cases, wrongful death valuation issues and securities litigation. He graduated *cum laude* with a B.S. in accounting from Florida State University.

Bruce J. Winick, Esq. is Professor of Law and Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, where he has taught since 1974. An internationally known scholar and lecturer, he also has had a long career as a civil rights lawyer, and frequently serves as an expert witness on a variety of law-related issues. He is co-founder of the school of social enquiry known as therapeutic jurisprudence, an interdisciplinary field of legal scholarship that has a distinctive law reform agenda. He is the author of numerous books, most recently *Civil Commitment: A Therapeutic Jurisprudence Model*. Professor Winick previously served as New York City's Director of Court Mental Health Services and as General Counsel of its Department of Mental Health. He holds a J.D. from New York University School of Law, where he was editor of the *N.Y.U. Law Review*.

STAR Summer Fun at Miami Lighthouse: Memories That Will Last a Lifetime



Kids in our STAR (Summer Training and Recreation) programs for children ages 5-13 enjoyed a lot of fun and educational activities this summer, including swimming, ice skating, horseback riding and a trip to the Miami Seaquarium.

A Mother's Heartfelt Story Moves Women of Vision

Helen Mopsick's son Colton was born last year with aniridia, a rare eye disease that means he has no iris. These are excerpts from their story, which she shared with the Women of Vision.

I started thinking about all the things Colton may not be able to do -- ride a bike? play ball? drive a car? read books? . . . My friend suggested I contact Miami Lighthouse. Within hours I had a response from Gisela Vazquez, one of the social workers. She told me what to expect from a low vision child: talk to him constantly,



Helen Mopsick and son Colton

hold him as much as possible, stimulate his other senses.

The therapist, Marisela Pareda, makes Colton 'work out' when she's at our home, and I have no doubt that's the reason he is doing so well physically (he is sitting up, crawling, tracking objects and lights, reaching for toys).

There is nothing that can prepare you for this; but I will forever be indebted to Miami Lighthouse for giving me the skills and frame of mind to enjoy the beauty of my special child.

USABA Athletes Inspire MLB Teens

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lifting World Championship in July. Miami Lighthouse was a sponsor of Team USA, which took third place in the international competition here in Miami. They competed with the Miami Lighthouse logo proudly displayed on their uniforms as their team sponsor.

"Competitive sports help us stop the negative stereotypes," Colchado said. "The sighted world has this false perception that the blind are frail and weak, so when successful blind athletes emerge they are considered exceptions-- but they aren't exceptions. They are doing what is expected, because the blind and visually impaired can do anything if the time is taken to teach them how."

The eight-week Transition program at Miami Lighthouse helps students prepare for postsecondary schooling or vocational training.



Memorials

June 1 - September 30, 2008

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IMO Hazel Andersen

Mr. Donald J. Andersen

IMO Isabel Arguelles

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Ms. Irene F. Cheda

IMO Alberto Coll

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Dr. Robert B. Jacko

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IMO Gerardo M. Fernandez

Mr. Jorge J. Fernandez

IMO Josefa Figueras

Mr. Juan Figueras

IMO Sylvia Gaynes

Ms. Bernice K. Haller

IMO Valentin Gonzalez

Ms. Zita Hevia

IMO Rajith Gunewardene

Mrs. Swarna Latha Gunewardene

IMO Stella Hall

Ms. Ernestine McKay

IMO Dr. William G. Heuson

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Andrea Heuson Sharp, Ph.D.

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IMO Henrietta Kahan

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Mrs. Dorothy McDowell

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Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Boronot

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Mr. and Mrs. Jesus Cabrisas

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Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Ochoa

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Ms. Bernice K. Haller

Your gift to Miami Lighthouse in honor or in loving memory of a relative or friend makes a lasting remembrance. Each time a tribute is made, a notice will be sent to the family acknowledging your support.

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June 1 - September 30, 2008

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Donors June 1 - September 30, 2008

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Ms. Gloria Martin

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Many of our programs are made possible by the continuing support of the Florida Division of Blind Services and The Children's Trust.

Save the Date

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Foundation Fighting Blindness will present a Mini Vision Seminar January 24, 2009, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., a complimentary seminar on AMD, RP and Vision Enhancement and Rehabilitation. For more information please call Julia King at 305-856-2288 Ext. 249.

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Our teens ages 14-18 enjoyed a Dolphin Encounter this summer at Miami Seaquarium. They were able to touch dolphins, feed them and play with them, an unforgettable experience. Our 2008 summer programs also included a horse farm visit and a special trip to Disney World.

Miami Lighthouse
601 SW 8th Ave. Miami, FL 33130
(305) 856-2288 Fax (305) 285-6967
Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00-4:30
www.miamilighthouse.org

Miami Lighthouse Lantern Newsletter

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For the print-impaired, the Lantern is available in an alternative format. For more information, contact Julia King at 305-856-2288, ext. 249 or visit the website at www.miamilighthouse.org.

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