



lantern

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Since 1931, Transforming Lives on the Road to Independence

Mission Statement

To provide vision rehabilitation and eye health services that promote independence, to educate professionals, and to conduct research in related fields.



Come to Miami Lighthouse and enjoy the tranquility of our garden oasis, with delights for all the senses.

To schedule a Miami Lighthouse tour with our CEO, call Jessica Joseph at 786.362.7500.



Focus on Haiti: *Former MLB Client Injured in Haiti Disaster*

Antoine Romel Joseph, an accomplished violinist who is blind and a former client of Miami Lighthouse, was badly injured in the earthquake that devastated Haiti. He also lost his wife, who was pregnant, in the disaster. After receiving vision rehabilitation at Miami Lighthouse, Mr. Joseph returned to Haiti to pursue his musical career and open the New Victorian School, which was destroyed in the earthquake. He is also the founder and director of the Walenstein Musical Organization in Miami Gardens.

When CEO Virginia Jacko visited him at Jackson Memorial Hospital, she brought one of our music instructors, Randolph Margitza, also an accomplished violinist; Mr. Joseph was comforted by the beautiful music from Randy's violin. Mr. Joseph said that he had just finished a violin lesson when the earth devoured his violin and all of his equipment. We are lending him one of our instructional computers with screen reading software so that he can continue to write his book while convalescing in the hospital. He was surprised to learn of the Miami Lighthouse music production program and looks forward to collaborating with us. Mr. Joseph lost all the musical and computer equipment he uses to earn a living and to teach his students. Musician Stevie Wonder has donated a keyboard to Mr. Joseph, but he will need our assistance in replacing his computer with screen reading software, reading machine, the GPS system that helps him navigate with his cane, and other items. His injuries, including a broken hand and feet, will keep him in the hospital for several more weeks. So that we can help Mr. Joseph and other Haitians needing our services, please write on the enclosed donation envelope that your contribution is earmarked for this purpose.



Antoine Romel Joseph was visited in the hospital by CEO Jacko and violinist Randy Margitza

Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends of Miami Lighthouse:

As we carry our mission into another new decade, I would like to share with you a perspective on just how much Miami Lighthouse has achieved in recent years.

Miami Lighthouse, approaching the eightieth year of its history of transforming the lives of blind and visually impaired people, serves far more people today than we were able to in the past. A few examples: our Blind Babies program has grown from about 30 participants in 2003, to 98 in 2009. In 2005 we had 58 seniors in our SGA program; in 2009 we had 191. We helped more than 2,500 low-income schoolchildren with free eye care through the Heiken Children's Vision Program in 2007, the first year of the merger; this program has grown in response to the tremendous need, and provided eye exams to almost 5,000 children last year. We can expect demand for our services to continue to grow, as the incidence of vision problems increases.

This growing need could not have been met without your investments in our mission. In particular I want to mention the Sash A. Spencer Memorial Challenge incentive matching grant so generously offered last year by his widow. Because of the Sash Spencer Challenge, which doubled all new donations of \$100 or more, we were able to raise \$1 million before the scheduled end of the matching grant; then the match was kindly extended until the end of 2009, enabling us to raise another half million. We are immensely grateful to all of the donors who participated in the Sash Spencer Challenge, as their investment in Miami Lighthouse has enabled us to maintain our programs despite the difficult economy. Sash Spencer always strove for excellence in everything, and that spirit truly was with us in the challenge that bore his name.

Each year Miami Lighthouse transforms the lives of more than 7,000 people. You, the members of our big-hearted Miami Lighthouse family, have made this possible. We count on you for continued support.

With much gratitude,



Owen S. Freed, Esq.
Chairman, Board of Directors



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Spotlight on New Board Directors

Donna R. Blaustein, Esq., practices law in the area of estate planning, probate, trust and guardianship administration. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Goucher College and graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law with honors. She received her Masters Degree in Estate Planning from the University of Miami School of Law, and is certified as a specialist in Wills, Trusts and Estates by the Florida Bar. A frequent lecturer on estate planning and probate practice, Ms. Blaustein has published many articles on estate planning and guardianship issues in local and national professional publications. She has been active with Temple Beth Sholom of Miami Beach, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Mount Sinai Medical Center and the Planned Giving Council of Miami, is a former Miami Lighthouse Board Chair and has achieved the donor level of Grand Benefactor.



Peter R. Harrison is Senior Vice President for the Miami office of the commercial real estate firm Transwestern, and provides oversight management and direction to the full-service market team. Before joining Transwestern he was Senior Director for Cushman & Wakefield's Miami office. A Miami native, he received his B.A. from Denison University in Ohio and an M.B.A. from the University of Miami. With more than 35 years of office leasing, investment and land sales experience, Mr. Harrison's focus in brokerage has encompassed tenant representation, investment and land sales as well as agency leasing. He has served on the Beacon Council of Miami, is a member of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of Governors for Key Biscayne Yacht Club, and previously served on the Board of Miami Lighthouse following in the footsteps of his father and his grandfather. Peter and his family have a rich tradition of giving time, talent and treasure to the Miami Lighthouse.



Charles J. Nielson operates one of the largest surety bonds agencies in the country. Nielson & Co. has its roots in a surety bonds agency formed by Mr. Nielson and his partner in 1974 to service the surety bonds needs of contractors in the State of Florida. Today Nielson & Co. represents more than 30 A-rated, treasury-listed surety companies, annually writing more than \$3 billion in penal sum performance and payment bonds. Mr. Nielson has been involved with Miami Lighthouse since 1988 and previously served as Chairman of the Board, and as a donor has achieved the level of Grand Benefactor.



Louis Nostro, Esq. is the managing partner of the Miami office of Shutts & Bowen, LLP, where he also serves as chair of the Trusts and Estates Practice Group. He is certified by the Florida Bar as a specialist in Taxation and Wills, Trusts and Estates. Mr. Nostro holds a B.S. with honors; J.D. with honors; and LL.M. in Taxation, all from the University of Florida. He is a frequent lecturer at estate planning seminars sponsored by the American Bar Association, the Florida Bar, the NYU Tax Institute, the Washington and Oregon Tax Institute and regional estate planning and planned giving councils. He has been named as one of the top 100 estate planning attorneys in the nation by *Worth* magazine. He served as an adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Law from 2003-2008. The firm of Shutts & Bowen, LLP has achieved the donor level of Grand Benefactor.



Spotlight on Board Director

Congratulations to Board Director **State Representative Yolly Roberson** who is the recipient of the Miami-Dade County *In the Company of Women* Award in the category of Government and Law. These awards recognize local women from various disciplines for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the citizens of Miami-Dade County. The award will be presented at the 22nd Annual In the Company of Women Awards Ceremony in March.

Miami Lighthouse Welcomes The Miami Ophthalmological Society

In December Miami Lighthouse hosted a meeting of the Miami Ophthalmological Society (MOS). Attendees were welcomed by CEO Virginia Jacko and Dr. Henry Trattler, MOS Executive Director, and heard a testimonial from MLB low vision client Wendell Beard. Miami Lighthouse was pleased to host the MOS meeting as part of its expanded collaboration with ophthalmologists.



*CEO Virginia Jacko and Dr. Henry Trattler,
Executive Director, Miami Ophthalmological Society*



*Featured Speaker,
MLB Client Wendell Beard*



*MLB Heiken Advisory Committee
Member Dr. Craig McKeown and
Board Director Dr. Sander Dubovy*



Dr. Philip Rosenfeld



*Dr. William Lieberman, Board Chairman
Owen Freed and Dr. Louis Dan*



Virginia Jacko was a successful executive at Purdue University when she was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa. She would slowly, but surely, go completely blind. As the darkness grew around her, Virginia found the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired – and a new mission in life. Virginia turned a potentially devastating condition into an opportunity, going from student to President and CEO of the Lighthouse in just four years. Virginia's odyssey, retold by Doug Eadie and Virginia Jacko in the new book, *The Blind Visionary*, shows you how to create greater personal and professional satisfaction in your own life. An audio version will be available this summer.

Available in hard cover, soft cover, and eBook from www.TheBlindVisionary.com, or call (800) 209-7652 or email info@TheBlindVisionary.com.

Virginia will donate her royalties from the book, which includes a foreword by José Feliciano, to the Miami Lighthouse. Join us at **Books & Books, 265 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables** when Virginia will be signing copies at 6:30 p.m. on March 22.

Mission Accomplished...We Did It!

On November 4, 2009, more than 250 guests attended our annual Share the Vision Luncheon which was generously underwritten by Bessemer Trust. At the 2008 Share the Vision Luncheon the 1:1 Challenge in Memory of Sash A. Spencer was announced, and we are pleased to report that \$1.5 million was raised by the end of 2009.

We are truly grateful to all the donors who participated in the match, as their investment in Miami Lighthouse programs was doubled, and this has helped us maintain our programs during difficult economic times. Client participation is growing dramatically, as reported in our Chairman's letter (page 2). We could not meet this growing demand without our community's investment. Thank you.

Please enjoy the photos from the Share the Vision Luncheon on the following page.



Board Director Gloria Martin, Chairman Owen Freed, Henry & Inez Stone



CEO Virginia Jacko, State Representative Luis R. Garcia, State Representative & Board Director Yolly Roberson



Marlene Brody, Chairman Owen Freed, CEO Virginia Jacko



Bill Beckham, CEO Virginia Jacko & Board Director David Turner

**2009
Share The Vision
Luncheon
La Gorce Country Club**



Board Director Carol Russo, Erika Benedict, Board Director Kent Benedict & Otto Foerster



Bunny Bastian (center) with Kerry Rapport & Michael Marquez of Bessemer Trust, the luncheon sponsor



John Batchelor, Penny Stamps, CEO Virginia Jacko, Betty Chapman and Sandy Batchelor



Wendell Beard, George Foyo & Darrin Helfrick



Maria Tyler, Board Directors Michael Silva & Peter Harrison



Angel & Pam Alvarez, Board Director Alan Levitt, O.D.



Board Directors Carol Russo & Shelley Daniel Rutherford

Miami Lighthouse to Expand Music Inclusion Program with John S. and James L. Knight Award

Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired will expand its nationally recognized Music Inclusion Program for young adults to include both sighted and blind talented adults, with a \$125,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The Knight Arts Challenge is a five-year, \$40 million initiative to help bring the South Florida community together through the arts.

The Knight Foundation award will be augmented by matching funds from the Children's Trust and an anonymous philanthropist to double the program's capacity to generate quality music. The enhanced music production program will enable more talented community vocalists and musicians to perform in the Lighthouse's state-of-the-art Henry and Inez Stone music production studio. President and CEO Virginia Jacko stated, "We look forward to the community enjoying beautiful music by both sighted and visually impaired performers working together."

The full press release about the Knight Foundation grant and a Channel 10 news clip about the Miami Lighthouse Henry and Inez Stone Music and Sound Studio can be viewed on our web site: www.miamilighthouse.org



Musicians in the Miami Lighthouse Garden

 John S. and James L.
Knight Foundation
Informed, engaged communities.



*CEO Virginia Jacko & Dennis Scholl,
Miami Program Director, Knight
Foundation*

Spotlight on New Staff

Graciela Perez, Senior Case Manager, brings more than 20 years of experience to Miami Lighthouse, having previously worked at Catholic Charities as a program administrator. She earned a B.S. in Psychology from FIU and an M.S.W. from Barry University, and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.



Maria Fernandez, Occupational Therapist, is a licensed Occupational Therapist and has been a teacher with Miami-Dade County Public Schools. She also has experience working in a hospital, and as a research assistant at FIU. She earned a B.S. in Special Education and an M.S. in Occupational Therapy from Florida International University.



Miami Lighthouse Winter Highlights



MLB leadership gathered at the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting in January: Chairman-elect Michael Silva, Esq., Past Chairman William Roy, Ph.D., CEO Virginia A. Jacko, Treasurer John Harriman and Chairman Owen Freed, Esq. The meeting was held at Michael Silva's Key Biscayne home.



*Our littlest clients were very fortunate to have two holiday parties in December. The Junior League of Miami hosted a party on our **Blind Babies Play Day**, and later a second party was held just for our blind babies and their parents. Special appreciation goes to the Dade County Bar Association for providing presents for both events.*



Stimulus Funding Awarded for Job Training

Miami Lighthouse staff moved quickly in response to a funding opportunity announced last summer by the Florida Division of Blind Services, which has received additional funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. As a result, Miami Lighthouse has been awarded funds for Job Readiness, Public Awareness and Technology projects aimed at enhancing employability for blind and visually impaired program participants. The stimulus funding will be used to upgrade the 40 workstations in our Computer Training and Technology Center and to expand job readiness training for our clients and public awareness of vocational rehabilitation for the blind and visually impaired. The Federal stimulus funds were awarded to the Florida Department of Education to encourage vocational training.

For several years Miami Lighthouse has had a relationship with the Marriott Hotels Worldwide Call Center, providing them with computer literate visually impaired employees. Technology enables the blind and visually impaired to obtain mainstream employment in a wide range of fields, especially jobs involving computer use. The stimulus funding will enable Miami Lighthouse to train clients with the latest technology so that they can be employed by Marriott and other mainstream employers and to educate employers about the merits of hiring the blind and visually impaired.



Miami Lighthouse Visionaries Dinner Launches Center of Excellence

Shelley Daniel Rutherford and Larry Rutherford hosted the first meeting of the Miami Lighthouse Visionaries in their Coral Gables home in January, launching the Miami Lighthouse Center of Excellence. Music was provided by Miami Lighthouse musicians guitarist Harold Cobo and violinist Randolph Margitza.

The Miami Lighthouse Visionaries are a group of community philanthropists who will share their wisdom and expertise as Miami Lighthouse works to become a Center of Excellence in Low Vision Rehabilitation. Kirk Landon serves as Chair of the Visionaries.

The strategic initiatives in becoming a Center of Excellence in Low Vision Rehabilitation include:

- Provide services to blind babies, schoolchildren and adults including eye wellness and vision rehabilitation.
- Serve as a living laboratory for research and development of standards and new technology.
- Train and educate professionals to serve the blind and visually impaired to address a critical workforce shortage.
- Increase capacity to meet the growing need for additional services, including specialized outreach and year-round programming for children.

The Miami Lighthouse Visionaries will help CEO Virginia Jacko achieve this vision.



Jan Morrison, Board Director Gloria Martin, CEO Virginia Jacko, Elizabeth Poor



Chairman Owen Freed, CEO Virginia Jacko, Sheila Freed, Arthur Hertz



Paul DiMare, Penny Stamps, Board Director Pamela Garrison



Hosts Board Director Shelley Daniel Rutherford and Larry Rutherford, Jon Batchelor, Nancy Batchelor, Sandy Batchelor



Swanee DiMare, Nancy Batchelor, Phillis Oeters



Board Director Ramón Casas, Jan Morrison, Chairman Owen Freed



Trish Bell, CEO Virginia Jacko, Dan Bell

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Miami Lighthouse (Federal Tax ID #59-0637847) is a 501(c)(3) organization. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors. Listed below are gifts received between October 27, 2009 and January 31, 2010.

October 27, 2009 – January 31, 2010

One Million Dollar Challenge in Memory of Sash A. Spencer

The challenge in memory of Sash A. Spencer has been met. Thanks to the donors listed below and others, we exceeded our goal by raising over \$1.5 million. We extend our thanks to everyone who made this possible.

\$100,000+

The Batchelor Foundation
The Children's Trust
The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

\$10,000 - \$99,999

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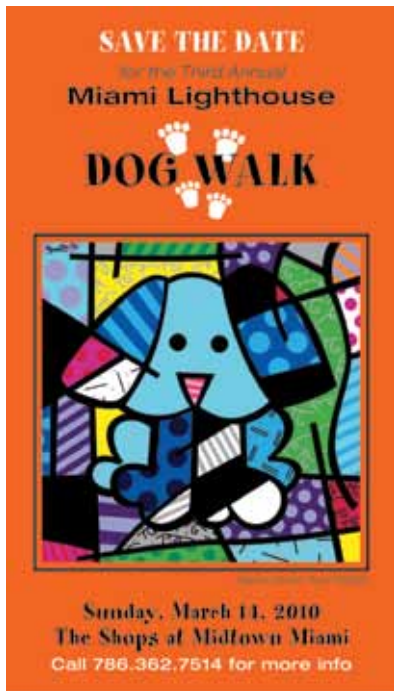
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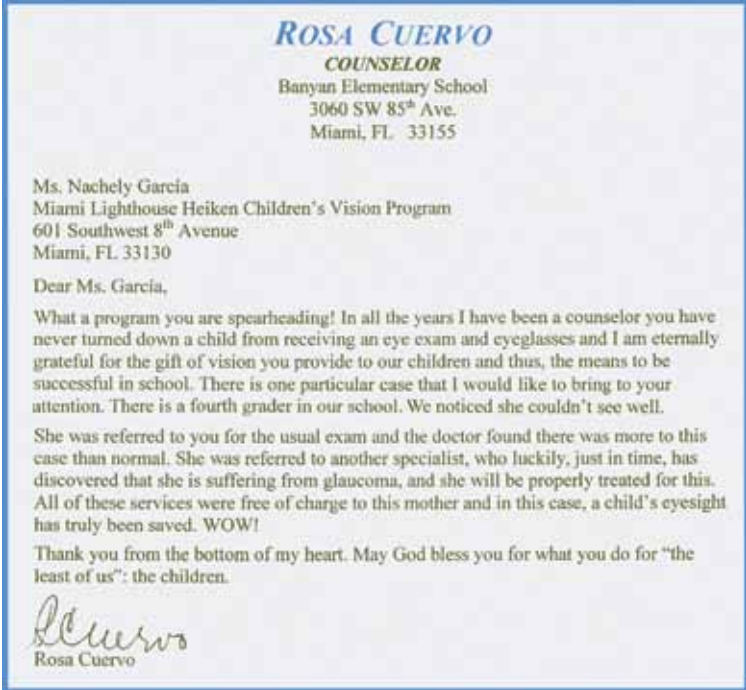
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