



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 5 August 2014

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Mark Your Calendar!

The Miami Foundation

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Young Professionals of the Lighthouse (YPOL) Host Legislative Luncheon

On Thursday, July 10th, the Young Professionals of Miami Lighthouse held their annual Legislative Luncheon and networking event at Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Over ninety guests including elected officials and aides, Miami Lighthouse board directors, and young professionals gathered to enjoy the complimentary luncheon and networking underwritten by All Aboard Florida. This year's lunch honored the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation represented by Chair Eddy Gonzalez and the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners chaired by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa who was represented by Manny Orbis.

The luncheon began with Better Chance Music Production Program™ student Leon Stewart performing the national anthem on keyboard. Ray Casas, Miami Lighthouse Board Chair-elect, welcomed attendees and introduced Summer Training and Recreation Program (STAR) student Silvio Plata who gave the invocation. Virginia A. Jacko, President & CEO, spoke about the inspiring mission of Miami Lighthouse and the importance of leadership and uniting young professionals, elected officials and Miami Lighthouse's board directors.

At the close of the luncheon, guests were treated to a personal tour of Miami Lighthouse and were able to see the many different activities that more than 150 children participate in on a daily basis in our summer camp. We thank all the elected officials, board directors and young professionals who attended the event.



State Representative Kionne L. McGhee, Board Chair-elect Ray Casas, Senator Gwen Margolis, Robert Levy, State Representative Eddy Gonzalez, President and CEO Virginia Jacko, Senator Anitere Flores, Senator Oscar Braynon, Senator Dwight Bullard

Lighthouse's Teenage Campers Play Beep Ball with Miami Marlins Interns



Thirty-five of Miami Lighthouse's blind and visually impaired teen age summer campers got to play Beep Ball with the Miami Marlins interns on July 8th at Marlins Park. The fun filled "Marlins Ayudan Intern Event" was a heated affair, with blindfolded interns competing with Miami Lighthouse campers in an adaptive version of America's favorite pastime. Ayudan, Spanish for "help," is the signature volunteer initiative of the Miami Marlins.

Following the games, awards were given to players and teams. The competitive and playful nature of the Beep Ball Classic is an excellent example of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind's slogan - "It's possible to see without sight."™ Miami Lighthouse for the Blind is a two-time Charity Partner of the Marlins Foundation and has received over \$50,000 in charitable donations from the team to underwrite the cost of providing vision screenings, comprehensive eye exams and prescription glasses to underserved inner-city schoolchildren who receive eye care through our Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program.

Miami Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) Awards Important New Grants to Miami Lighthouse

Two important new grants have just been awarded to the Miami Lighthouse, according to Joe Greene, Miami Lighthouse Manager of Education Services. The first will serve as a means of enabling visually impaired adults to secure their GED. The second will focus on empowering parents of visually impaired children to increase their involvement in the literacy education of their child.

"Many of our adult clients have been unable to finish high school and achieving their GED will be a huge step toward helping them be more competitive in the work force," says Greene, who will oversee Miami Lighthouse's collaboration with public school teachers. Adult education classes at Miami Lighthouse will include English as a second language as well as coursework and will be held Monday through Thursday from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

Profile Of The Month

Meet Joe Greene - Manager of Education Services



Joe Greene (left) with Transition Program students

"Literacy is a pathway to independence for the visually impaired of all ages," says Joe Greene. As Manager of Education Services, he oversees all of Miami Lighthouse's education programs including Transition for teenagers and our Braille Literacy Program for students from 6 to 13. He is also deeply involved in the two exciting new grants that have just been awarded to Miami Lighthouse by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Arriving in South Florida from his home in Ohio just one year ago, Greene holds a Master in Education and is a Certified Reading Specialist for the Visually Impaired. He is also certified nationally as an Orientation & Mobility Specialist.

Contributed by Joan Spector



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