



Issue 100
March 2023

LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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McCrea Family Volunteer Luncheon

On Valentine’s Day, February 14th, we celebrated our annual McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Luncheon by saying “thank you” to our volunteers. A longstanding tradition at Miami Lighthouse, the event has been made possible by the McCrea family, whose legacy of volunteerism with us began in our early days when Helen Sloan McCrea (1889-1978) devoted herself to the important mission of serving the blind.

We wish to share a big thank you with our volunteers of the year, Alicia Celorio, Jetty Loretta Susi and Alma Weintraub, and to the Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, our Board Directors and Honorary Board Directors. A special heartfelt thanks to David B. McCrea for his continued sponsorship of this signature event.



Miami Lighthouse Board Directors left to right: Chair of the Board Charles Nielson, President and CEO Virginia Jacko, Chair-Elect Steven Solomon, Stacey Jones, Peter Harrison, Frank Voytek, Robin Shelley



Lion Clubs representatives left to right: James Campbell, Barbara Campbell, Elizabeth Fisher, President and CEO Virginia Jacko, Stacey Jones, Harry Magee, Adita Vazquez



Rotary Clubs representatives left to right: Board Director Robin Shelley, Susan Shelley, President and CEO Virginia Jacko, Rotary District Governor Michael Kesti, Noreen Timoney, Norby Rudel, Maria Rudel, Board Director Frank Voytek



Volunteers of the Year: Jetty Loretta Susi, with Social Group Activities Coordinator Diana Cheng, Alma Weintraub, and President and CEO Virginia Jacko

“It’s Possible To See ART Without Sight”

Join us on Saturday, March 11th from 10AM to 1:00PM for our 3rd Annual Art Walk at Miami Lighthouse. This tactile and visual arts show has been created by artists who are blind or visually impaired, from our early learners to seniors, guided by our motto, “It’s Possible to See ART Without Sight.”

This unique show celebrates inclusion, diversity and equity in the arts, featuring performances by our Miami Lighthouse United Voices Choir and offering interactive guided art activities. Miami Lighthouse's Art Walk is an inclusive free event for all ages. To RSVP [Click Here](#).

**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR THIRD ANNUAL
ART WALK AT MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE**

**"IT'S POSSIBLE TO SEE
ART
WITHOUT SIGHT"**

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 11, 2023
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

601 SW 8th Avenue | Miami, Florida 33130
Mary M. and Sash A. Spencer Campus
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind
and Visually Impaired



RSVP via Eventbrite or csisser@miamilighthouse.org



Featuring works by our Miami Lighthouse national and international award-winning artists and music by our Miami Lighthouse United Voices Choir.

"With the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners."



3rd Annual Art Walk at Miami Lighthouse Invitation

Empathy and Inclusion: Miami Lighthouse Bridges Gap for Blind, Visually Impaired Students

We are proud to announce that our Early Learning Inclusion Program for both vision impaired and sighted children was recently recognized by [NBC-6](#) as being one of the top early learning programs and superior at bridging the education gap for blind students, helping them mainstream to traditional schools. “Too often the blind are overlooked,” said President and CEO Virginia Jacko. “Whether we're talking employment or education or inclusion. That's why we have created our Early Learning Inclusion program at Miami Lighthouse.

Check out the NBC-6 feature story ["Empathy and Inclusion: Miami Lighthouse Bridges Gap for Blind, Visually Impaired Students."](#)

Our program's success stems from our inclusion model and our approach to the early childhood education curriculum. We use the same curriculum offered at traditional schools in Miami-Dade County but format its delivery, like using braille, or larger print, or making adjustments in contrast, to meet the unique needs of our students, helping build a strong foundation for visually impaired and/or blind students at our school. Our efforts prove to be working. A [recent study](#) from the University of Miami found that interactions between teachers and students at our school exceeded national averages for pre-K and toddler classes. The study also found that the inclusion model fostered greater empathy and students improved both their social and peer interaction skills.

Celebrating the 100th Issue of our *Light Line*™



Our *Light Line*™ publication would not be possible without Joan Spector who has been contributing her artistic writing style since inception 9 years ago this month. Her original idea for a monthly blog from Miami Lighthouse quickly turned into our *Light Line*™ keeping our Miami Lighthouse family informed of all our activities. We thank Joan for her monthly contribution where she donates her time building content for our *Light Line*™.

Miami Lighthouse Needs You

As tax season approaches, now is the time to think about your financial planning. Your support makes it possible to provide free programs and services that empower blind and visually impaired people of all ages, from infants to older adults, helping them overcome the challenges of vision impairment. We are hoping you will help us in a way that is suitable to you this tax season.

Making a tax deductible contribution is just a click away:

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For more information call CEO Virginia Jacko at 305-856-4176.

In the News:

- [The Wall Street Journal, February 19, 2023 – "Employers, Give the Blind a Chance"](#)
- [NBC6 News, February 13, 2023 – "Empathy and Inclusion: Miami Lighthouse Bridges Gap for Blind, Visually Impaired Students"](#)
- [Spot On Florida, February 12, 2023 – "Miami Lighthouse Academy Early Learning Program Scores High Marks For Inclusive Early Childhood Education Classes"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. | 601 SW 8th Avenue, Miami, FL
33130