



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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USA Blind Soccer comes to Miami!

More than 150 participants took part in the **USA Blind Soccer - Kickoff for Inclusion** event on February 24, hosted by the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) in collaboration with the Anthony R. Abraham Foundation and Miami Lighthouse for the Blind. Attendees of all ages had the opportunity to meet athletes from the first-ever USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team, view a blind soccer demonstration and most importantly try the sport of blind soccer for themselves. They also got to meet Oseas De Leon, a developmental athlete, who serves as Technology Instructor at Miami Lighthouse and has been playing blind soccer since he was three years old. Oseas is now competing to be selected for the US National Team and was recently [featured on WSVN-7 Spotlight which you can view here](#).

Assisting with the day's demonstrations were coaches and players from the Barry University and Christopher Columbus High School soccer teams. Other organizations attending or volunteering for the event were Florida Power & Light, Barry University Student Government Association, The University of Miami Soccer, City of Coral Gables, Dade County FC, Florida International University Athletics, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Next Era Energy, Northern Trust, Nova Southeastern University, Orange Bowl Committee, Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, The Children's Movement of Florida and Internationally Renowned Pop Artist Romero Britto.

Thomas A. Abraham, Chairman of the Anthony R. Abraham Foundation, noted that "this pioneering effort highlights our strong belief in the transformative power of sports to create opportunities, dismantle barriers, and nurture inclusivity for the visually impaired." "Building Blind Soccer" sites have already been established in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Dallas, Columbus, Charlotte and Baltimore.



Board Director USABA Gary Remensnyder, Chair of The Anthony R. Abraham Foundation Thomas Abraham, Chair of The Children's Movement of Florida David Lawrence Jr., CEO of Miami Lighthouse Virginia Jacko, CEO of USABA Molly Quinn, CEO of the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau David Whitaker, CEO of the Orange Bowl Committee Eric Poms and Miami-Dade County Public Schools Administrator Natalie Tappert



Thomas Abraham and Internationally Renowned Pop Artist Romero Britto experience Blind Soccer



Miami Lighthouse Technology Instructor and USA Blind Soccer Developmental Athlete Oseas De Leon drives for a Goal



Thomas Abraham with USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team

“Valentine's Luncheon” Celebrates our Volunteers

Miami Lighthouse celebrated Valentine’s Day with our annual McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Saying “Thank You” to our volunteers is a longstanding tradition made possible by the McCrea Family Foundation whose legacy of volunteerism began in our very early days when Helen Sloan McCrea (1989-1978) devoted herself to the important mission of serving the blind.

This year’s lunch honored the Miami Springs Lions Club and the Rotary Club of Miami, who have held events throughout the year to put food in backpacks for students attending our Miami Lighthouse Academy, thereby preventing food insecurity among our Miami Lighthouse Academy families.

Our volunteer Board Directors, Honorary Board Directors, and Legal Counsel were also honored. A special heartfelt thanks to David B. McCrea for his continued sponsorship of this signature event.



Miami Springs Lions Club 35-N and The Rotary Club of Miami honored at McCrea Family Volunteer Recognition Luncheon



Speaking of Volunteers we, Honor Joan Spector



Volunteer Light Line™ contributor Joan Spector

Our Light Line™ publication would not be possible without Joan Spector who has been contributing her artistic writing style since inception 10 years ago this month. Her original idea for a monthly blog from Miami Lighthouse quickly turned into our Light Line™ e-newsletter 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™ on a volunteer basis.

In the News:

- [EIN Presswire, February 22, 2024 – "The Anthony R. Abraham Foundation is proud to support the U.S Association of Blind Athletes in Miami, Florida"](#)
- [Social Miami, February 22, 2024 – "Miami Lighthouse for the Blind: 95th Diamond Anniversary Celebration"](#)
- [Miami's Community News, February 8, 2024 – "USA Blind Soccer Holds Kickoff for Inclusion Event in Miami"](#)

[Read more!](#)

Contributed by Joan Spector

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