



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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## In This Issue

[Miami Lighthouse rated top nonprofit by national evaluator](#)

["See the Light Luncheon" set to launch 85th Anniversary Celebration](#)

[Miami Lighthouse: Leading the way in Adult Education and Job Training](#)

[Guidepost for Success: Miami Lighthouse's High School High Tech Program](#)

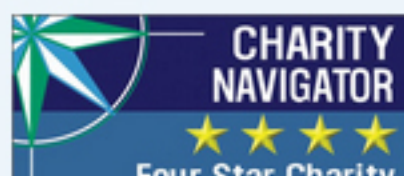
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## Eighth consecutive 4-star rating announced November 1

Miami Lighthouse is proud to announce that we have earned our eighth consecutive 4-star rating from the national nonprofit evaluator Charity Navigator. The announcement letter states, "Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 2% of the charities we rate have received at least 8 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, highlights the fine work of efficient, ethical and open charities. Our goal in all of this is to provide donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make."



## "See the Light Luncheon" set to launch 85th Anniversary Celebration

The celebration of eighty-five years of excellence in programs and services for the blind and visually impaired will begin on Thursday, November 12th at our "See the Light Luncheon" at the Riviera Country Club in Coral Gables. Mark A. Trowbridge, President & CEO of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, will serve as emcee. Thomas J. Wlodkowski, Vice President of Accessibility for Comcast, will be the keynote speaker. A computer scientist blind since birth, Mr. Wlodkowski provides executive leadership for all of Comcast's accessibility development, including the new innovative Talking Guide for television viewers who are blind or have low vision.

Sponsors for the annual event include Nostro Jones, P.A., GenSpring Family Offices and Comcast. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Norma Jean Abraham with Audio/Visual partially underwritten by Monster Sound Productions.

For more information, please contact Cameron Sisser at 786-362-7515 or [csisser@miamilighthouse.org](mailto:csisser@miamilighthouse.org)

## Mark Your Calendar

The Miami Foundation

# GiveMiami 2015 day

Thank you for your generosity and support!

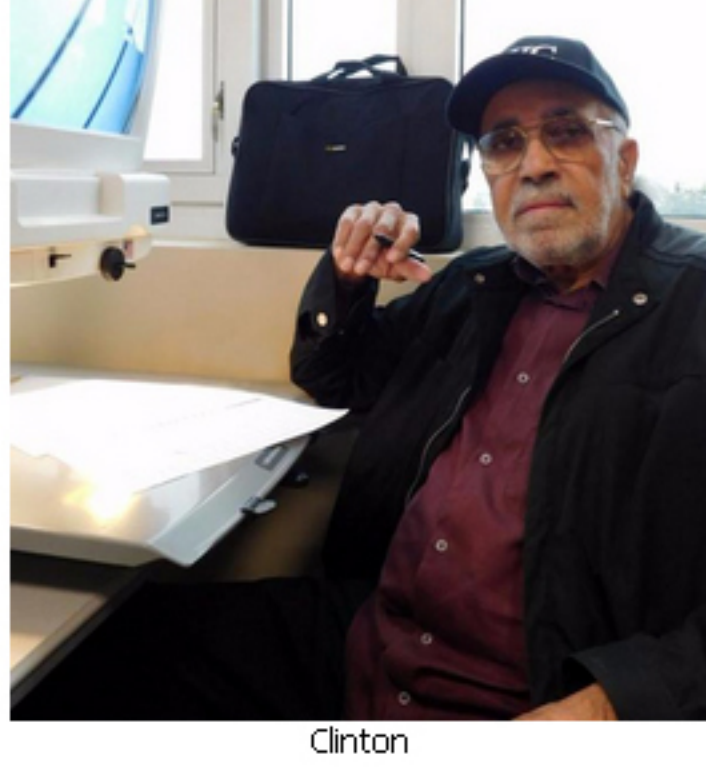
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[givemiamiday.org](http://givemiamiday.org)

## Miami Lighthouse: Leading the way in Adult Education and Job Training.

For students with vision disabilities, higher education can seem like an impossible dream. "Our Adult Basic Education Program (ABE) is designed for clients ranging in age from 18 to 80," says CEO Virginia Jacko. "A wonderful example of the wide-reaching effect of this innovative education program is our client, Clinton C."

Clinton is a 78-year-old married man with three children who began losing the central portion of his eyesight in 1993. Now retired, he spends four days a week attending classes in reading, writing, individual tutoring and computer technology at Miami Lighthouse working towards his GED, something he will tell you he never thought possible when he had to drop out of school in the 7th grade. "I have a long way to go for my GED, but every day Ms. Charles, our teacher from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Adult Education Program, helps me to make progress," he says. "It really means a lot to me."



Clinton



Lena, Client; Brendan Gibson, Job Readiness Instructor; Loquita, Client

On the Job Training end of the spectrum you can find recent client Chieftain A. Formerly a professor at St. Thomas University and now visually disabled, the 62-year-old native of Trinidad & Tobago came to Miami Lighthouse to participate in our Assistive Technology course, an important segment of our Job Readiness Program. With his recent re-training and rehabilitation, he is now pursuing certification in E-Learning courses and plans to get back into the classroom, albeit a virtual one, where he can maximize his newly acquired knowledge. In a parting note to his Job Coach, Pauline Winick, he wrote "Words can't say how thankful I am. Your assistance in resume development was vital. God bless you always."

## Guidepost for Success: Miami Lighthouse's High School High Tech Program

Chief Program Officer Carol Brady-Simmons and Reinaldo Sanchez, Transition and Education Services Coordinator, recently attended The Able Trust High School High Tech (HSHT) Annual Conference which focused on issues affecting young people with visual disabilities who are attempting to enter the workforce.

The transition from youth to adulthood is challenging for almost every young person. This is particularly true for a young person's disabilities. Yet, it is in those critical transition-age years that a young people's future can be determined. The five important guideposts that the conference addressed, which are incorporated in our Miami Lighthouse HSHT Program, include School Preparation, Youth Development & Leadership, Career Preparation, Connecting Activities and Family Involvement.



High School High Tech Students with Transition and Education Services Coordinator Reinaldo Sanchez (second row left)

Forty-two teenage "transitioners" are currently enrolled in our HSHT Program which helps ready them for work after graduation. The students follow a curriculum to prepare them to get STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) jobs. Funded by the Able Trust, our HSHT Program helps our students obtain internships, "shadow" professionals and experience many different jobs. They also learn important interviewing skills and how to write a good resume.

*Contributed by Joan Spector*



We express our appreciation to Festival Miami and the University of Miami Frost School of Music for providing concert tickets to our Miami Lighthouse Music Program students. For upcoming events schedule and to purchase tickets, [click here](#).

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