

## congratulations



### Agency Scores High Marks in National Accreditation Review

The Miami Lighthouse received glowing accolades from a team of experts from the National Accreditation Council (NAC) who visited the agency last summer to conduct the Council's five-year review.

The team's written report marveled at the numerous changes and improvements agency-wide since NAC's last visit in 1999, including major upgrades in facilities, programs, community outreach and personnel.

Specifically, the report commends the Lighthouse for "creating an environment that fosters learning" by completing its major addition and build-out plans for the third floor.

The addition of the comprehensive children's programs that encompass infant, preschool and school-age services was cited as an important achievement, as well as the continuing commitment to provide the very latest technology programs to clients. Ongoing programs and efforts to reach the multicultural, multilingual blind and visually impaired residents of the community were also praised.

Increasing referrals by strengthening bonds with other organizations, such as the Division of Blind Services, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and Miami-Dade Public Schools, was lauded by the report. The establishment of a satellite facility in south Miami-Dade was also cited as an excellent effort to reach more visually impaired people.

Key staffing additions, such as the addition of President and CEO Roxann Mayros and Director of Development Sheldon Roy, have "increased the level of professionalism and cultivated a working environment that values inclusion, teamwork, open communications and creativity.

The NAC team also focused on several fiscal achievements, including new policies to protect the Lighthouse endowment and stepped-up fundraising planning and programs.

An excerpt from the NAC summary read, "The agency is fostering a focus on the future and is considering how to: raise more money, promote greater awareness, create a working board with greater reach and influence, and to expand services to meet the diverse and changing needs of consumers."

## client services

### Lighthouse Helps Blind Residents Weather the Storms of 2004



Lighthouse client Gloria Annis navigates through debris-tossed streets.

Charlie ... Frances ... Ivan ... Jeanne ...

The recent history-making hurricane season will long be remembered for the physical and emotional suffering these storms inflicted on Floridians from Miami to Pensacola. But consider how frightening and stressful the emergency evacuations, power outages, downed trees and other disruptions were to the thousands of residents of our region who are blind and visually impaired.

Fortunately, the Miami Lighthouse provides specialized skills and training that allows clients to live safely and independently in all situations, particularly before, during and after a hurricane.

"We not only prepare our clients with the skills to handle an emergency situation, but also the self-confidence to know they can weather any storm that comes their way," says President Roxann Mayros.

The Lighthouse teaches blind people how to use public transportation and move

If you know someone who is blind or visually impaired who can benefit from our services, please contact Dr. Elly du Pré at 305.856.2288, ext.



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# giving

## 'Tis the Season for Year-End

Amid the hustle and bustle of the holiday months, take time out to plan for your year-end giving to charitable organizations. Did you know that certain gifts to the Miami Lighthouse can provide desirable tax advantages? Always contact your financial advisor for advice on charitable giving.

### CASH OR SECURITIES

Gifts of cash can be made to the Lighthouse for general services or a specific area of need. Stocks or investments that have grown in value have been held for more than one year can be given at a low net cost. The donor receives a deduction of the fair market value and avoids capital gains tax. Securities that have lost value can be donated and a loss can be entered on your return, subject to limitations.

### Roxann Mayros Named a 2004 Concern Award Finalist

Lighthouse President and CEO Roxann Mayros has been named a 2004 Concern Award Finalist by the Health Foundation of South Florida. The award honors individuals who have made a healthy difference in the lives of others in South Florida.

Two winners will receive a \$25,000 grant each and the four runners-up will be awarded \$10,000 grants to be given to their favorite charity.

### Clients Pass 2004 Hurricane Survival Test page 1

safely through their neighborhood. Clients know how to access emergency information through computers and the internet. They can also manage their daily tasks, create emergency checklists and create hurricane kits stocked with food, water, batteries, medicines and first aid supplies.

"I counted my blessings during this storm season," said former client Gloria Annis. "I knew I would be safe, thanks to the skills I learned at the Lighthouse."



Gloria Annis with her hurricane supplies.

### LIFE INSURANCE

Policies that are paid up and no longer needed can be given for their approximate replacement value. Current policies can continue to be paid with the premiums tax deductible if the Lighthouse is named owner and beneficiary. A new policy naming the Lighthouse as beneficiary guarantees the agency a future gift.

### CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

Trusts can provide immediate tax advantages, provide for family needs and secure the future for the Miami Lighthouse. Built with securities, properties or cash, remainder trusts can provide income for family members and beneficiaries for a specified period with the assets then given to the Lighthouse. Assets of the trust can be sold and reinvested without any capital gains tax.

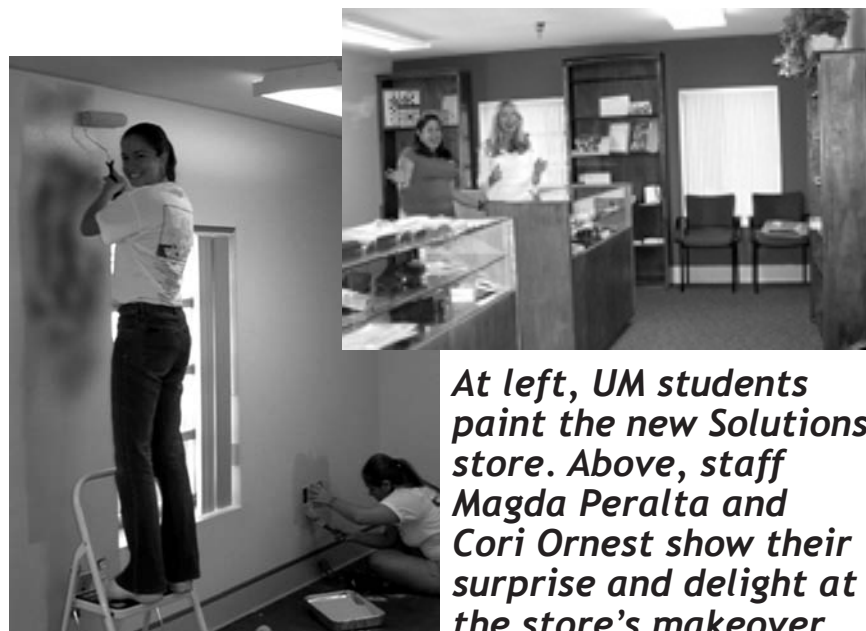
For more information, call the Development and Community Relations Office at (305) 856-2288.

## 'While You Were Out' UM Student Volunteers Relocate

Clients and staff returning to the Lighthouse on a Monday morning were surprised to find that the agency's Solutions store had moved into a new, freshly remodeled location, thanks to the energetic volunteer group *Hurricanes Helping the Hometown*.

More than 20 University of Miami students spent a Saturday moving boxes, building shelves, painting and staining to give the newly relocated Solutions a brand new look.

This is the second visit by the UM community service program that benefits dozens of charitable organizations in South Florida. Last year the students trimmed, planted and mulched in the Courtyard Garden. The joint program sponsored by the University of Miami Student Activity Office and Volunteer Service Center recently sent 650 students into the community for a one-day volunteer blitz for nonprofit organizations.



At left, UM students paint the new Solutions store. Above, staff Magda Peralta and Cori Ornest show their surprise and delight at the store's makeover.



# solutions

## Holiday Gift Ideas Aplenty at New Solutions Store

Talking key chain digital watch with alarm, \$12.50



Portable braille, \$15



Talking alarm clock



Braille Scrabble game with audio instructions



Zoomcaps to enlarge computer keyboards, in black and

Parrot Voice Mate personal organizer, \$250



Why brave the crowded shopping malls this holiday shopping season when we have all those hard-to-find gift ideas at the brand new Lighthouse Solutions store?

In its new location, Solutions offers the latest blind and low vision aids and electronic devices, kitchen gadgets, magnifiers, games, toys and even braille jewelry. You can find something for everyone on your list.

What is this year's must-have stocking stuffer? It could be the ultra-cool Voice Mate Parrot, a hand-held electronic personal organizer that serves as a phone book that will automatically dial a selected phone number. It's also a talking calendar, calculator, clock, appointment reminder and recorder. The Parrot is available in English and Spanish. How about a clever hand-held scanner that easily lets blind and visually impaired users identify objects? The Viola uses a simple system of coded labels that the user attaches to any object and when the label is scanned the recorder repeats what was recorded for that particular label.

Also new this year are a variety of fashionable braille charm bracelets and necklaces. The elegant beads spell a name or message with both visual letters on one side and raised braille on the other. For the bathroom, there is the talking scale that accurately provides a voice announcement of your weight each morning, whether you want to hear it or not.

Zoom Caps are small covers that can be placed over the normal computer keyboard to enlarge the letters, both white on black and in reverse. There is also a portable braille slate and stylist. Braille playing cards are \$12.50 a pack and large-print cards are only \$4 a pack.

Visit the store to see a wide variety of the latest high intensity lamps and television magni-



Fashionable braille jewelry, \$25 - \$35



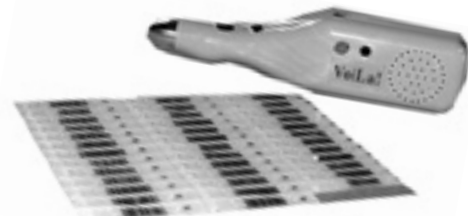
Enlarged print playing cards, \$4 a pack



Assorted hand-held



Talking bathroom



Viola scanner with attachable bar code strips, \$205



### Join Us For Solutions Grand Reopening

Wednesday December 1, 2004  
Ribbon Cutting • Refreshments  
10 a.m. - noon  
For more information:  
(350) 856-2288

# diagnosis

## Researchers Seek Cure to Retinitis

*Retinitis Pigmentosa is an inherited, progressively blinding disease with no current treatment or cure. Its early signs are decreased night vision, a gradual loss of peripheral vision, and in some cases, loss of central vision.*

**Q:** What is retinitis pigmentosa?

**A:** Retinitis pigmentosa (RP) is the name for a group of eye diseases. RP causes the retina to deteriorate. RP diseases are genetic and are passed down from one or both parents. RP damages the cells in the retina that sense light. These cells are known as rods and cones. The rods are associated with side vision and night vision. Clear central vision and color vision are associated with the cones.

RP mutates the genes of the rod cells and they slowly stop working. As the rod cells stop working, peripheral vision is slowly lost until you can only see a small tunnel of vision straight ahead. RP can cause serious vision loss.

**Q:** How common is RP?

**A:** Roughly 400,000 Americans have retinitis pigmentosa and other related retinal disorders.

**Q:** What are the signs of RP I should watch for?

**A:** Symptoms of RP are not limited to any one age group. The first signs may appear in adulthood, but usually appear during childhood or adolescence. The two most common symptoms of RP that you should watch for are:

- You are slow to adapt to dim light (night blindness)
- You have a slow loss of side vision.

**Q:** What treatments are available for RP?

**A:** Doctors are still working to understand RP and find better treatments. Right now, there is no cure for RP. Some ophthalmologists believe that

treatment with high doses of Vitamin A can slow the progression of retinitis pigmentosa, and that taking Vitamin E makes it worse.

**Q:** What if I have RP?

**A:** As with most medical problems, early detection helps people plan for the disease and any loss of sight. People with RP should wear a visor and sunglasses to protect their eyes in bright sunlight. These items are available at the Miami Lighthouse.

If you have RP, contact the Miami Lighthouse and ask for our **low-vision specialist Cori Ornest (ext. 266)** who can help you to make the most of your limited vision. There are many types of vision aids available at the Lighthouse Solutions store, including shields, lamps, electronic magnifiers and night vision scopes - all to help you to live productively and independently with RP.

*Information provided by the National Eye Institute and Prevent Blindness America.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand Reopening of Solutions	Wed. Dec. 1
Insight Support Group Party	Sat. Dec. 18
Client Holiday Party	Wed. Dec. 22
Lighthouse closed for vacation (will reopen Monday Jan. 3)	Dec. 24 - 31
National Braille Challenge	Sat. Jan. 29

**For more information on these or other events, contact the Lighthouse at (305) 856-2288**

## Wish List is Your Opportunity To Help

The Lighthouse Wish List allows friends of the agency to donate specific needed items or the funds to purchase goods and services. For more information, contact the Development Office at (305) 856-2288.

Needed Items	COST
Large-sized puzzles and Lego blocks	\$ 50
Relaxation tapes and compact discs	\$ 85
Portable play pit for toddlers	\$150
Solar shield kit for those with light sensitivity	\$185
Digital Camera for the Little Lighthouse	\$225
Computer projector for presentations	\$1,500
Portable low vision kit	\$1,750
STAR Scholarship for one child (Summer Training & Recreation)	\$4,050

# happenings

## White Cane Day Celebration Draws a Crowd

Several prominent politicians joined more than 70 blind and visually impaired people who walked through Miami Lighthouse's Little Havana neighborhood to put the spotlight on National White Cane Safety Day.

U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and State Representative Julio Robaina walked side by side with Lighthouse clients and staff to recognize the need for motorists to exercise special care and awareness for blind pedestrians.

White Cane Safety Day has become a national observance on October 15th to educate the public about the many blind people who are killed or injured when crossing streets even with the help of a guide dog or white cane.

The observance at the Lighthouse began with presentations of proclamations from the cities of Miami and Miami Beach. The guest speaker was Lighthouse Board Member Virginia Jacko who was at the podium with her guide dog, Tracker.

## Lighthouse to Host Braille Challenge Competition

The National Braille Challenge is coming to the Lighthouse on January 29, 2005. The event will partner the Miami Lighthouse with Miami-Dade Public Schools and promotes the use of braille among blind and visually impaired youngsters of all ages and abilities. All children who participate in the preliminary rounds receive a certificate and gift.

The top performers will be invited to compete in the final round to be held in California. For more information, call (305) 856-2288.

## Kiwanians Show Support for Lighthouse

Representatives from 14 local Kiwanis Clubs recently held their Divisional Council meeting and dinner at the Miami Lighthouse, with the service clubs all pledging support to the agency in the coming year.

President Roxann Mayros welcomed more than 100 Kiwanians, who then enjoyed a tour of the facility before sitting down to a catered dinner in the gallery.

"When we took a tour of the Miami Lighthouse our hearts were touched," said Kiwanis Lieutenant Governor Mayra Perez. "We learned that some infant blindness is reversible if the child is treated at a very early age since the brain can be taught to see." Mayra said the Lighthouse has been added as one of the major Kiwanis projects in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties for the coming year. The event was hosted by the Key Biscayne Kiwanis Club and its president Dr. Alberto Su-



## Lighthouse Clients Enjoy New Film on Ray Charles

Clients and Staff at the Miami Lighthouse are excited over the opening of *Ray*, a new movie portraying the life story of the late musician/songwriter/singer Ray Charles. Blind and visually impaired people around the world consider him an inspiration and role model for living a full and productive life despite the loss of his sight.

There is a special tie with Charles and the Miami Lighthouse. He was recognized by the agency for his contributions during a 1985 concert in Miami and generously performed a benefit concert to mark the opening of the agency's new addition in 1998. The memorable show played to a packed house at the James L. Knight Center.



arez.

"After this tour we realize how lucky we are to be able to see," Ms. Perez added.

# honors

June 1, 2004 - September 30, 2004

Make a Living Tribute to that special person in your life. A notice of your gift will be sent to those being honored.

*Mr. Bart Barthelemy*  
Mr. Ivan I. Safra  
Mr. William P. Brous  
Mr. and Mrs. Eli Feinberg  
Mr. John F. Heider  
Mr. Jim Hyman  
Mr. Robert D. Zahner  
Ms. Katrina J. Lavene  
Douglas N. Ross

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& *Arnold Blaustein, MD*  
Michael A. Dribin, Esq.  
Mr. Sidney Dulman  
Judge A. Jay Cristol  
Mr. Charles Gratz  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip S. Littman  
Ms. Helene Penn

*Dr. Lawrence Kessler*  
Mr. and Mrs. Morris I. Weiss

*Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Levy*  
Mrs. Elsie Levy  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven K. Davis

*Mr. Maurice Orvitz*  
Mrs. Dorothy Cassett

*Dr. Carmen Puliafito*  
Ms. Harriet Halpryn

*Mr. Charles S. Dunn*  
Mr. Robert C. Washington

*Mrs. Bernice Greenberg*  
Mr. Richard B. Greenberg

# memorials

June 1, 2004 - September 30, 2004

A gift to Miami Lighthouse in loving memory of a late relative or friend makes a lasting remembrance. The family will receive notification of your legacy.

*Mr. Joseph Berkowitz*  
Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Brenner

*Raquel Fuster's Mother*  
Ms. Raquel Fuster

*Mr. Manny Malter*  
Mrs. Ellen Grapin

*William Bobrick*  
Mrs. Thelma Bobrick

*Georgina Rivera's Mother*  
Ms. Georgina Rivera

*Leezal Maniaci*  
Mr. Robert Keith

*Caridad Buigas*  
Mrs. Bertha Buigas

*Mr. Burton B. Goldstein*  
Mr. and Mrs. Willis H. Flick, Esq.  
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Metcalf  
Ms. Barbara Steiner

*Cosimo Marsan*  
Mr. Alvin L. Brown, C.P.A.  
Mr. Donald McCorquodale  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott Brown

*Mr. Fozy Cowart*  
Ms. Olga C. Phillips

*Mr. David Goodman*  
Dr. and Mrs. John H. Francis, Jr.

*Ms. Allene McKinney Dyer*  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott Brown

*Ms. Maria de los Angeles Pena*  
Ms. Zulima D. Medina

*Roshani Gunewardene's Grandmother*  
Roshani M. Gunewardene, Esq.

*Ms. Maria Munoz*  
Ms. Marilola Tudela

*Ms. Dorothy Derby Bires*  
Lockheed Martin Information  
and Technologies Services

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Mr. and Mrs. Morris I. Weiss

*Mr. Tom Pennekamp*  
Dr. and Mrs. Alfred  
G. Smith, Sr.

*Mr. Leonardo Espin*  
Ms. Esther Espin

*John Bassi's mother*  
Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd L. Wruble

*Ms. Loyda Perez*  
Ms. Elvira Tenrys

*Mr. Julio Fernandez-Selles*  
Mrs. Alice L. Fernandez-Selles

*Marilyn Katzenstein*  
Mr. and Mrs. Morris I. Weiss  
Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd L. Wruble

*Arthur Peters*  
Neal S. Keys, Esq.

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Mr. Jorge Fernandez

*Mia Kluger*  
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Prof. Sarah H. Ramsey

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*Edith Rauschkolf*  
Ms. Sylvia Faibish

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Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Levy

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*Dr. Nathaniel Frayne*  
Ms. Bobbi Ann Ossip

*Lucila Lopez*  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph J. Oller

*Mr. Leonard Wein*  
Mrs. Fay Ablin Stein

*Ann Funderburg*  
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Daniels

*Doris Love*  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Davis, Jr.

*Mr. Garland Williams*  
Ms. Mary L. Little



## Looking for the perfect holiday gift?

Make this holiday special by showing how much you care for a loved one or special person in your life. Give a Lighthouse Living Tribute Honor.

# donors

June 1, 2004 - September 30, 2004

## \$50,000 and above

Alliance for Human Services  
Health Foundation of South Florida  
The Children's Trust

## \$20,000 and above

Calvin & Flavia de Camp Oak  
Foundation  
Estate of Benedict G. Rucker  
Mr. John West Thatcher

## \$10,000-\$19,999

Donna R. Blaustein, Esq. and  
Arnold Blaustein, M.D.  
Dunspaugh-Dalton Foundation

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Estate of Mrs. Louise Shirey  
Sara H. Woodruff Foundation

## \$2,500-\$4,999

American Gift Corporation  
Lions Club of Miami  
William F. & Betty Franz Memorial  
Fund

## \$1,000-\$2,499

L. Jules Arkin Family Foundation, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Bishopric  
Estate of Esther Blattner  
Ms. Lila N. Dickerson  
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Genet  
Dr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Hanly  
Kiwanis Club of Doral Inc.  
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## \$500-\$999

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The Berger Family Charitable Fund  
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Hialeah  
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Ms. Aileen C. Suarez

## \$250-\$499

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Ms. Elly Du Pré  
Dr. & Mrs. Alejandro Espailat  
Mr. Lazar Gilinski  
Mr. Jason Grey  
Dr. Thomas E. Johnson  
Ms Roxann Mayros  
Mr. Jaime Moreno

## \$50-249

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Actsyst Door Systems, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Adelman  
Mrs. Margarita Alejandre  
Mr. David Anderson  
Ms. Cheryl Andrews  
Ms. Anita Angelica  
Anonymous Gifts  
Mr. Robert C. Arnholt  
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Mr. and Mrs. William Avella  
Mrs. Ruth Ball  
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Florida International Land  
Surveyors  
Mr. William J. Gallwey III, Esq.  
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Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Gartenbaum  
Mrs. Carole L. Gerstein  
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Donor listings are from June 1, 2004  
- September 30, 2004. Any other  
donations will be listed in our next issue.

# chronicle

## A Period of Transition: 1960-1974

### *Lighthouse Moves from Workshops to Rehabilitation*

During its first three decades, the main goals of the Miami Lighthouse were to provide social activities and sheltered workshops for the blind. But as the turbulent 1960s progressed, winds of change blowing across our nation would ultimately reach the Lighthouse and set the agency on a new path.

By 1965, new Federal funding programs were providing monies to private social service agencies. During these years, the Lighthouse was operating sheltered workshops at its main building and at a separate facility in Hialeah.

During this period, the national trend was developing among agencies for the blind, many were moving away from sheltered workshops and towards rehabilitation. This movement was fueled by the many new college graduates leaving universities with master's degrees in this new field of rehabilitation.

The Lighthouse Board realized the agency needed to make fundamental changes in its operations. Plans to made to close the workshops and hire a new executive director with professional rehabilitation training and experience. In the early 1970s the Hialeah workshop was closed

and the building sold. The proceeds from the sale allowed the Lighthouse to purchase other properties adjacent to the original building and to construct additional space was on the second floor.

Soon, a fledgling rehabilitation program was underway. These first tentative steps towards teaching the blind and visually impaired how to live and work independently would become the model the Lighthouse would follow for the next 30 years.



*The sale of the Hialeah workshop in the early 1970s helped to fund the start of the agency's new rehabilitation programs.*

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