

If you know someone who is blind or visually impaired who can benefit from our services, please contact the Lighthouse at 305.856.2288.



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staff

Virginia A. Jacko Agency's First Blind CEO

The Miami Lighthouse Board of Directors recently named Virginia Jacko as the agency's permanent President and Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Jacko, a long-time advocate for the blind and experienced financial executive, had served as Acting CEO since March of this year and is the agency's first blind director.



"We are fortunate to have the leadership of an experienced executive who understands the mission of the Lighthouse," said Board President Donna Blaustein. Ms. Jacko and her guide dog, Tracker, have been tireless ambassadors for the Miami Lighthouse. She has spoken before dozens of community groups, schools and civic organizations about living with blindness.

Ms. Jacko was Director of Financial Affairs at Purdue University in Indiana where she completed a 24-year career. She has a finance degree from Loyola University and a graduate degree from Purdue.

AFB President Applauds Miami Lighthouse Leadership

Carl Augusto, President of the American Federation for the Blind (AFB), recently visited the Miami Lighthouse to tour and meet with CEO Virginia Jacko and Board Chair-Elect James Kracht. Among Mr. Augusto's many compliments was the statement that the Miami Lighthouse will make history during its 75th anniversary year (2006) by being the first agency with a CEO and Board Chair who are both blind. The New York-based AFB was founded by Helen Keller for professionals working in vision rehabilitation and training.



summer program

Children Learn While Having Fun at Lighthouse

In between the swimming, kayaking, ice skating, sailing and field trips to the library and museums, the children attending the Miami Lighthouse Summer Camp learned valuable independence and social skills while making new friendships.

The successful summer programs, now geared toward specific age groups, feature

four customized six-week sessions for children aged 6 to 18.

Participants in STAR (Summer Training & Recreation) program, aged 6-13, took part in a special reading activity cosponsored by the Miami-Dade Public Library System. The children enjoyed reading, storytelling and discussing their favorite books in Braille, cassette and large print. They also visited the Coral Gables Library for a multimedia presentation and tour. All kids attended a concluding awards ceremony and received "Reading Winners" certificates.



In addition to the field trips, the summer participants received training in personal management, communication and computer training mixed in with typical summer camp fun and plenty of time for socializing. Older children engaged in the Summer Keys to Independent Living (SKIL) program; and the Summer Employment Experience (SEE) Program for those interested in college or seeking competitive employment.

See more photos, letters and stories about the Summer Program on Page 4.

special visit

Legendary Singer Jose Feliciano Delights Clients and Staff



Miami Lighthouse staff and clients enjoyed a special visit by one of music's most influential and beloved Latin performers. Singer and songwriter Jose Feliciano thrilled the Lighthouse during a recent surprise visit while in Miami on business. Mr. Feliciano has used the services of the Lighthouse to print Braille versions of song lyrics. He showed his appreciation by meeting with Lighthouse CEO Virginia Jacko and discussing issues important to the blind. He also graciously listened to the music of Lighthouse client Osvaldo Rodriguez and briefly addressed the crowd of fans that had assembled in the gallery. Before leaving, Mr. Feliciano promised to build on his new relationship with Miami Lighthouse.

(Above) Jose Feliciano talks to the crowd in the gallery. At left, he reads the Braille lyrics of client Osvaldo Rodriguez as CEO Virginia Jacko looks on.



milestones

Lighthouse Gears Up for 75th Anniversary

A diamond anniversary only comes around once and Miami Lighthouse wants to make sure its milestone 75th year is a memorable celebration of its long-standing mission to the blind and visually impaired.

A Diamond Jubilee planning committee comprised of staff, Board members and friends is busily coordinating special events and activities leading up to the anniversary. A festive gala dinner and other community events are being planned and organized.

New Logo Makes Its Debut

The Miami Lighthouse has unveiled a new logo just in time for its 75th Anniversary. It has been nearly 20 years since the agency logo has been redesigned. The logo incorporates a playful lighthouse and sun icon that represents a new and positive outlook. The logo will be used in a variety of applications and includes the tagline, *Celebrating 75 years of Hope, Confidence and Independence*. It was designed by artists from Miami Herald Direct.

Volunteer For Our 75th!
The Miami Lighthouse wants to tap into the talents and creativity of our many friends in the community to make our 75th Anniversary special. If you are interested in being a part of the celebration, call (305) 856-2288.



Lighthouse Family Mourns Passing of Gayle Krause

Gayle Krause, a tireless advocate for the blind and a longtime friend to Miami Lighthouse, passed away suddenly last Spring. She was Assistant Director of the Office of ADA Coordination for Miami-Dade. She was active in the American Council of the Blind and an inspiration and mentor to many staff and clients of the Lighthouse. Although totally blind, Gayle was an expert in make-up and clothing. She will always be remembered by clients for the helpful advice and assistance she selflessly gave.

Upcoming Events

Feel the Vision Tours Tuesdays 8:30 a.m.

WHITE CANE DAY

Friday Oct. 14, 2005 • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Join us for a Walk-a-thon and Resource Fair
Booths • Speakers • Refreshments • Lunch • Awards

Free parking. Donations and volunteers are welcome.

Contact Angie Blanco

For information on these or other events at the Miami Lighthouse, please call (305) 856-2288.



Fitness trainer Joseph Castillo keeps clients busy with a variety of exercises.



programs

Adult Exercise Class Keeps Lighthouse Clients Limber

Improving the strength, balance and posture of blind adults are the main goals of an innovative new fitness class underway at the Lighthouse. For two afternoons a week, clients do a variety of exercises and activities under the supervision of Joe Castillo of Restoring Fitness. "We have designed a program that the clients can take with

them when they leave the Lighthouse," said Castillo. "They can continue improving their well-being and overall health by doing these exercises for the rest of their lives."

Castillo stresses that clients do not need expensive equipment or a membership at a fancy gym. Using simple equipment such as ankle weights, elastic bands and exercise balls, clients get a complete and beneficial workout. "These items are portable and inexpensive," said Castillo, who is a licensed physical therapist, massage therapist and fitness trainer. Working with CEO Virginia Jacko, Castillo hopes to create an audio instructional CD for clients to play at home.

Equipment Donation Strengthens Clients

A generous gift from Health Foundation of South Florida supplied clients with the exercise equipment needed for the new fitness class.

Profile

Dade Community Foundation Long-time Partner to the Lighthouse Mission

For nearly 40 years, a strong bond has existed between the Dade Community Foundation and Miami Lighthouse. Founded in 1967, the Dade Community Foundation has continually recognized the Lighthouse and supported its service to the blind citizens of our region.

The Dade Community Foundation was created to establish a permanent endowment to support nonprofit organizations, education, culture, the environment, economic development, religion, the arts and health and human resources. The over arching goal of the Foundation is to bring together our diverse ethnic and social groups in constructive relationships.

The Foundation's director from 1977-85 was the late John H. McDonnell. A former member of the Lighthouse Board, McDonnell was instrumental in developing the agency's fund-raising department.

The Foundation's current President, Ruth Shack, also has close ties with the Lighthouse. "We need to support the agencies that provide the safety net for those in need and enrich all our lives," she said.

DADE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Client Competes in National Braille Challenge

Former Lighthouse client Nallym Bravo represented the State of Florida at the National Braille Challenge held earlier this summer in Los Angeles. Nallym, 14, was one of 60 students nationwide to qualify for the final round of competition at the Universal Sheraton Hotel. Nallym, who lives in south Miami-Dade, participated in two summer camps at the Lighthouse.

Nallym traveled to California with her mother Milagros Rios and enjoyed two days of activities surrounding the competition. Although Nallym did not win in her age-group category, she received a qualifying award.

Mr. Ken Pyatt, an executive of American Airlines, made the trip to Los Angeles possible by arranging free airfare for Nallym and her family.

board

Members Added At June Meeting

Miami Lighthouse recently welcomed three new members to its Board of Directors, each offering their time and talents to further the agency's mission.

John B. Henderson, Esq., first joined the Lighthouse Board in 1999 and served for four years before moving to the Honorary Board. We welcome an individual with a broad range of experience and talents, from government law to international relations to corporate management. He has served as senior vice president of Textron and president of Scott Labs. John has a law degree from Harvard and enjoys sailing. He has owned seven sailboats, three of which he acquired after he was blind.

William R. Roy, Ph.D. is an expert in management, human resources and marketing. He has served since 1990 as Partner & Director of Research and Marketing Strategy of Kelley Swofford Roy as well as Founder and Managing Partner of

The Middlebrook Group. He holds an M.B.A. in Marketing and a Ph.D. in Marketing, Consumer Psychology and International Economics, from the University of Michigan. He is very active in professional and cultural associations. His wife is former Lighthouse Board President Susan Kelley.

Teresa S. Zohn has worked in education, rehabilitation and real estate. She currently works as Residential and Commercial Realtor for Esslinger Wooten Maxwell. Her previous positions include Employee Assistance Program Consultant, Director of Spectrum Programs, and Vocational Counselor with the State of Florida, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Teresa has a B.S. in Special Education and M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling, both from University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She is an active volunteer for organizations such as Junior League of Miami, Inn Transition North and Fairchild Tropical Gardens.

summer camp

Children Share in the Joy of Discovery

When more than 30 children went to the Miami SeaQuarium to experience a private "touch and tell" presentation arranged by the attraction executives Arthur and Andrew Hertz. Most par-



Summer program participants enjoy an outing to the Miami Seaquarium that was covered by the Miami Herald and several television stations.

ticipants realized this was a once-in-a-lifetime event and they made the most of it. In thank you notes, the children wrote of the rubbery feel of the dolphin skin and the clicking sound they heard when the animals were near.

It was one of the many exhilarating experiences for the summer program participants. Many thanks to the organizations and individuals who made this year's program a success.



Roselyn Duran (4th from left) during her summer work experience at MGE Architects. Her letter is below center.

Dear Ms. Jacko:

My son is attending the Lighthouse summer camp for the third year in a row and I wanted you to know how much we are enjoying ourselves and how much we appreciate the great service the Lighthouse provides for the children. We look forward with eager anticipation every year. I feel that it is very important for the kids to have the support and camaraderie that the Lighthouse provides. We especially enjoyed our visit to the SeaQuarium. You have given us a unique experience that we may never have had otherwise. Stephen and I are truly grateful.

Sincerely,
Dessire and Stephen

Dear Ms. Jacko:

I will be a senior this year at Miami Senior High. I have attended the Lighthouse SEE program for the past three summers and this one was the best. We had some wonderful opportunities, going golfing, ice skating and participating in musical productions. But, for me, the best part of the summer was doing a work experience at MGE Architects. It is my dream to become an architect, and with the help of the Lighthouse and MGE, I now know that I am capable of making this dream a reality.

- Roselyn Duran

Dear Andrew Hertz,
Miami Seaquarium

Thank you for a great sea experience. My favorite parts of our trip were petting the dolphins and the killer whale show. I hope to come back next year.

Your Friend,
Nasya Wright

happenings

Volunteers in the Spotlight at Afternoon Tea

An old-fashioned afternoon tea was the setting to salute those special individuals at the heart of the Lighthouse: volunteers.

The event acknowledged the generosity of the Sloan McCrea family, now in its fourth generation of supporting the Lighthouse volunteers. As a young man more than 60 years ago, Sloan accompanied his mother when she visited the Lighthouse to volunteer. Sloan continued the tradition for decades, serving on the Board and supporting the Lighthouse. The family has pledged to support volunteer recognition in coming years.



(L-R) Virginia Jacko, Board Member David B. McCrea, Esq, his daughter, Ashley, and Sloan McCrea (sitting) and wife Eugenia.



(L-R) Roberto Diaz, Virginia Jacko and Tracker, Frank Bastek.

Receiving volunteer awards were Roberto Diaz, and Frank Bastek, who have given countless hours

FOCUS Hosts Spring Jazz in the Garden

They came for the music and to taste wine and gourmet food, but they stayed to support the mission of Miami Lighthouse. FOCUS, the young professionals group of Miami Lighthouse, partnered with Leadership Miami to host a perfect evening of entertainment, food and fellowship.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship by several organizations, the lobby and garden courtyard were transformed with tasting tables featuring treats from France, Italy, Chile and Australia. A variety of music ensembles enter-



(L-R) John Prada, CEO Virginia Jacko and Board Chair-Elect James Kracht.



(L-R) Tangie White, Board members Lorenzo Jackson and Ana Martinez, and Ana's husband, Hugo.

tained the crowd and tours of the Lighthouse were offered. There was also a stand-up comedy performance.

Northern Trust Hosts Reception for Major Donors

Northern Trust Bank of Florida recently hosted a reception for major supporters of the Lighthouse mission. Speakers included CEO Virginia Jacko, blind musician Harold Cobo and former client Dorothy Swift. Each shared their personal challenges transitioning from sight to blindness.

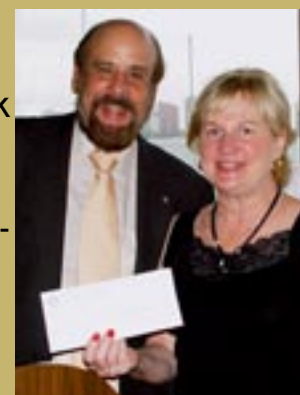
Honored guests included Northern Trust executives, Dr. Steve Marcus, CEO of Health Foundation of South Florida; Joe Pena, Director of Development at Dade Community Foundation and Paul Johnson, President of Tweed Charitable Foundation.

(L-R) Sheldon Roy, Director of Development; Mrs. Marjorie Schell, Legacy Benefactor; Donna Blaustein, Board Chair and Dick McCroskey, CFO of Northern Trust Bank.



Rotary Club of Miami Completes Gift

The Rotary Club of Miami recently presented a check to Miami Lighthouse as part of the club's Centennial Project commitment to the agency. The project includes completing the blind children's facility on the third floor. Members of the 88-year-old downtown Rotary Club were instrumental in the founding of the Lighthouse in 1931.



Rotary Club President Randy Golden and Lighthouse CEO Virginia Jacko

honors

January 1 - June 30, 2005

Jorge Echarte

Ms. Maria J. Echarte

Zander, Elle, & Nick Futernick

Mrs. and Mr. Ronda H. Fuchs

Mr. Irving Genet

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Teitler

Patricia S. Gonda

Assurant Foundation

Bernice Greenberg

Mr. Richard B. Greenberg

Minnie Kaminsky

Ms. Lillian R. Harris

Ms. Shirley Harris

Mr. Jack Katz

Ms. Ruth Bianchi

Ms. Lena Levine

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Feuer

Sloan McCrea

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Feuer

Mothers Day

Morris W. Siegel

Janet Pilger

Mrs. Janet Pilger

Ms. Joanne F. Poerschke

Ms. Kathy Poerschke

Leah Remsen

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Dr. and Mrs. Charles B. Mutter

Ignacio Year

Mr. Ishmael Morin

Ms. Sonya Zonenshine

Mr. Steven Belinsky

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

memorials

January 1 - June 30, 2005

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kruger

Lidia Amodio

Mr. and Mrs. Roger J. Tartaglia

Dr. Julius Benjamin

Mr. Jerome Benjamin

Mr. William Bobrick

Mrs. Thelma Bobrick

Fozy Cowart

Ms. Olga C. Phillips

Nova Del Grosso

Mrs. Jeannie Lampell

Sylvia Eisman

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Feuer

Flor & Rafael

Mr. Rafael Benitez

Raquel Fuster

Ms. Raquel I. Fuster

Gloria Garrison

Ms. Pamela Garrison

Mr. R. Kirkwood Landon

Eloina Gil

Mr. and Mrs. Tomas F. Gil

Jesus Guzman

Mr. and Mrs. Jose P. Guzman

Ramon Hunda

Ms. Maria Hunda

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Irving Komensky

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Ms. Arline R. Marlane

Gilda Williams

Ms. Patricia Kelly

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.

donors

January 1 - June 30, 2005

\$100,000 and above

Estate of Ramona K. Inglis

\$10,000-100,000

Estate of Dorothy Gray

Estate of Ruth Gorovsky

McCrea Foundation

Estate of Helen T. Musgrave

Mt. and Mrs. Charles J. Nielson

The Rotary Foundation of Miami

Mr. John West Thatcher

Health Foundation of South Florida

5,000-9,999

Dade Community Foundation

Mr. Gary W. Fenchuk

Northern Trust Bank of Florida

\$2,500-4,999

William F. & Betty Frantz Memorial Fund

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Morrison

\$1,000-2,499

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Mr. and Mrs. J. Scott Brown

Ms. Maria Teresa Canning

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The Goldsmith Family Foundation

donors - Continued

\$1,000-2,499

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If you would like more information about making a charitable contribution to the Miami Lighthouse, please contact the Development office at 305.856.2288.

solutions

Voila! Hand-held Scanner Can Identify Any Item

A clever hand-held talking scanner allows blind and visually impaired individuals to easily identify anything from an article of clothing to a medicine bottle to your favorite CD. *Voila!*, which is available at the Lighthouse Solutions Store, comes with 50 bar-code tags that can be attached to any object. After tagging the item, the user records the bar code and speaks the name of the object into the Voila. When the tag is scanned, the Voila repeats the recorded name of the object.

Voila is battery operated, completely portable



and has enough memory to record 250 tags. The labels can be rescanned and used for a different item. The cost is approximately \$200.

**Our Solutions Store is open
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.**

Wish List Your Opportunity To Help

Through Wish List, friends of the agency can donate items or the funds to purchase them. Contact the Development Office for more information, (305) 856-2288

Educational toys for toddlers	\$100
Digital camera for Children's Program	\$450
Color laser printer	\$500
Computer projector	\$1,400
Portable low vision kit	\$1,750
STAR scholarship for one child (Summer Training & Recreation)	\$4,000

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