

MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE RECEIVES 4-STAR RANKING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Gloria Martin Incentive Matching Gift Complete for Fiscally Strong Miami Lighthouse
MIAMI—January 14, 2008—An incentive matching gift of more than \$1 million to the Miami Lighthouse from philanthropist Gloria Martin is now complete. For a one-year period every gift to Miami Lighthouse in excess of a previous pledge was matched by the Gloria Martin endowment, Miami Lighthouse’s largest ever single living-individual donation.

Miami Lighthouse has achieved an unprecedented level of fiscal wellbeing and increases in net revenue in the past two years. Recently the independent evaluator of not-for-profits Charity Navigator awarded Miami Lighthouse an overall rating of four stars, its highest ranking, reflecting fiscal stability and accountability.

“The four-star ranking from Charity Navigator reflects our status as a strong and reliable not-for-profit institution,” said Miami Lighthouse CEO Virginia A. Jacko. “Miami Lighthouse is in an unprecedented turnaround period, debt free and fiscally strong, with growing program capacity for the blind and visually impaired. We are serving more clients than ever.”

Ms. Martin contributed the largest single donation apart from bequests in the amount of \$1,104,200.60, a figure that reflected the date of Miami Lighthouse’s diamond jubilee anniversary.

Gloria Martin came to Miami from Toronto at age 20, and has owned a number of successful businesses, including Sherry’s Bag in Pinecrest. She has long been involved in philanthropic causes. She was inspired to make her generous gift by the life-changing experience her friend, legendary music producer Henry Stone, had at Miami Lighthouse. When Mr. Stone went blind following glaucoma surgery, at Ms. Martin’s urging he came to Miami Lighthouse for rehabilitation. The Henry & Inez Stone Music and Sound Studio, the first and only facility of its kind in the nation, forms an important part of the Gloria Martin Third Floor Wing, which opened in May 2007.

A combination of public and private funds enabled the Miami Lighthouse to create new facilities for blind and visually-impaired people of all ages. Miami Lighthouse CEO Jacko noted that the original 900-square-foot original building “has become a

35,000-square-foot establishment,” thanks in part to pro bono work by Arellano Construction. The Rev. Marta Weeks’ donation of \$200,000 enabled the creation of the Little Lighthouse facility for babies and toddlers, and the Centennial Project of the Rotary Club of Miami established a fitness center. “The generosity of the State of Florida and the many other donors enables Miami Lighthouse to transform lives,” CEO Jacko said.

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Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, located at 601 S.W. 8th Avenue in East Little Havana, is Florida’s largest and oldest agency serving the blind and visually impaired. For seventy-six years, Miami Lighthouse has been fostering hope, confidence and independence for blind and visually impaired clients of all ages by offering a comprehensive range of vision rehabilitation and training opportunities.