



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND CELEBRATES
NATIONAL WHITE CANE DAY**

Miami, Fla. — Monday, October 14, 2013 — You may be aware of the national White Cane Day observance. Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired will celebrate White Cane Day in Miami on Tuesday, October 15th. Beginning at 8:30 a.m., an estimated 200 people of all ages will walk from Miami Lighthouse, at 601 S.W. 8th Ave., down 8th Street to raise awareness for the White Cane Laws, and then will continue the celebration with food, music featuring Miami Lighthouse Better Chance Music Production Program™ musicians, keynote speakers and special presentations. “White Cane Day is important for Miami-Dade County residents because it makes people more aware of the tools used by individuals who are blind or visually impaired that allow them to lead independent, productive lives,” said Virginia A. Jacko, President & CEO of Miami Lighthouse.

White Cane Day is a national observance celebrated on October 15th each year. The date is set aside to celebrate the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired and the important symbol of independence for the blind, the white cane. This year’s event is being led by Grand Marshalls State Representative David Richardson, City of Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado and Billy the Marlin. Emceed by CBS-4 reporter Lauren Pastrana the event will feature keynote speaker Julius Davis, Division of Blind Services District Administrator, and special recognition to Barbara Moyer, Manager of the Miami-Dade Public Library System Talking Books Library, for her years of service and dedication to the Talking Books Library System. Participating sponsors include Noven Pharmaceuticals, Walmart and Tropical Financial Credit Union. Breakfast is sponsored by Starbucks, Lions for the Blind and Susie Wahab and lunch is sponsored by Burger King, American Fruit & Produce and Sonia Zamora.

For individuals who are blind or have significant vision impairment, White Cane Day is considered to be “Independence Day” and is symbolized by the white cane that enables blind people to negotiate obstacles and travel safely. President Lyndon B. Johnson instituted White Cane Safety Day in 1964 with a proclamation declaring the day as a safety reminder to promote consideration of the blind on the streets and roadways. The White Cane Day walk has a \$5 suggested contribution for the visually impaired and \$20 contribution for all other participants. **Media is invited to attend White Cane Day and is advised to arrive by 9:00 a.m.**

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