



Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Kicks off NASA sponsored tour "Walk On The Sun"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MIAMI—November 24, 2008--The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind will be the first stop in Miami on the NASA sponsored tour "Walk on the Sun" a new, interactive musical exhibit that stimulates the senses. The kickoff will take place on December 1st from 11:00 A.M to 3:00 P.M at Miami Lighthouse, 601 SW 8th Avenue, Miami FL, 33130.

Omar Benegas, a former client and current music instructor at Miami Lighthouse, will be the first to try this amazing experience. Featuring new images of the sun and space from the Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO) Space Mission, the exhibit allows people **who are blind and visually impaired to perceive the colors, textures and brightness in the images by translating the images into music.** The process involves translating the pixel values into musical pitches played by various instruments. The pixel color determines the instrument and the brightness determines the pitch that is generated in real time. In addition, the exhibit allows the explorer to select the parts of the image they hear by moving over the image area, which is data projected over their body and onto the floor.

"This is a terrific opportunity for our blind and visually impaired community to experience the progress of science and technology first hand," says Virginia A. Jacko, President and CEO of the Miami Lighthouse. "We are extremely honored to host the first exhibit in Miami especially when Miami Lighthouse is home to the state-of-the-art Henry & Inez Sound Studio which allows our blind teenage musicians to study music performance, composition, production and distribution, leading to mainstream employment."

The exhibit was designed by Marty Quinn of Design Rhythmics Sonification Research Lab in collaboration with UC Berkeley's Space Science Lab, NASA, and the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium. Quinn will be on hand to demonstrate and host the exhibit. Quinn is working closely with the National Federation of the Blind and science centers nationwide to bring this unique experience to all people. For more information about Miami Lighthouse or to schedule a tour, please call Virginia Jacko at **305-856-4176.**

**Members of the media are cordially invited to join us.
Media is advised to arrive by 10:45 A.M**

OUR MISSION:

*To provide vision rehabilitation and eye health services that promote independence,
to educate professionals, and to conduct research in related fields.*

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