

Rachlin *Cohen*
& Holtz
Accountants ■ Advisors

presents

SFBJ'S
BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR
2007
AWARDS

SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS JOURNAL | JULY 13, 2007

**NONPROFIT
LEADER**

WINNER

VIRGINIA JACKO

*President/CEO, Miami Lighthouse
for the Blind*

■ **Web site:** www.miamilighthouse.org

■ **Address:** 601 S.W. Eighth Ave.,
Miami 33130

■ **Phone:** (305) 856-2288, ext. 245

■ **E-mail:** vjacko@miamilighthouse.org



Virginia Jacko's goal at the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind is to grow her own staff and teachers of the visually impaired adults and children. Her vision is to create a National Center of Excellence in which higher education faculty, public school teachers and medical experts help attract and train new vision rehabilitation professionals.

Jacko already has changed the benefit structure of the organization to provide equal benefits to part-time disabled employees, as one-third of the employees are legally blind.

She has received numerous awards for her work and has spoken to many groups across the nation. But Jacko's caring advocacy for people with disabilities is what sets her apart. When she found out that some of her visually impaired and blind staff weren't able to get a hot lunch, she found donors to repair the serving kitchen and hired a cook to prepare daily lunches.