



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 16 July 2015

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Spotlight on Young Professionals at Legislative Luncheon

The Young Professionals of the Lighthouse hosted the annual Legislative Luncheon on July 1st, honoring Miami Lighthouse champions in the Florida Legislature during the recent legislative session. Honorees in attendance included Senator Gwen Margolis, Representative Jose Felix Diaz and Representative David Richardson. Thanks was also extended to our governmental relations guru, Bob Levy, President of Robert M. Levy & Associates, for his important work with the Legislature on behalf of Miami Lighthouse.

A highlight of the event, sponsored by All Aboard Florida, was the presentation to Miami Lighthouse of a grant by AT&T. The important new grant will enable youth who are blind or visually impaired to engage in activities related to broadcast journalism, expanding their options for further education in the field and employment. The presentation was made by Alex Dominguez, Area Director of External Affairs for AT&T.

"We are extremely honored to receive support from AT&T," said CEO Virginia A. Jacko. "This generous grant will significantly expand Miami Lighthouse's High School High Tech Program and provide our students with the opportunity to explore jobs in the communications industry."



Representative David Richardson, President & CEO Virginia Jacko, Board Chair Ray Casas, Senator Gwen Margolis and Representative Jose Felix Diaz



SGA Client Maximo Gonzalez, All Soule from All Aboard Florida and Board Chair Ray Casas



AT&T Regional Director of External Affairs Alex Dominguez and President & CEO Virginia Jacko

We're growing a "Garden for the Five Senses."



Thanks to BB&T Bank and SFM Services, Miami Lighthouse high school students are enjoying a community garden designed to appeal to the five senses, offering fragrance, a variety of natural textures, the sounds of birds and bees, and the taste of fresh grown herbs and vegetables. The garden is tended by our teenage clients, allowing them to contribute their time and talents to their community in tangible ways.



Profiles of the Month

Introducing Senior Case Manager Corina Hernandez and Case Manager Yuni Miguez

Contact our Case Management Staff for Information about our services

Under the strong leadership of Chief Program Officer Carol Brady-Simmons, Miami Lighthouse's Case Management Staff represents the first point of contact for people seeking our services.



Senior Case Manager Corina Hernandez is the ultimate multi-tasker. She oversees clients involved in Vocational Rehabilitation programs and helps them get competitive jobs. She also counsels adults in our Independent Living Program. Corina serves as the link between Miami Lighthouse clients and the STS transportation services that are such an important element of independence for those with visual disabilities.

Fluent in four languages, she holds advance degrees from Florida International University in both Mental Health Counseling and Rehabilitation Counseling. Her positive energy about everything she does with the Miami Lighthouse is best summed up in her statement, "I cannot live without my work." Corina can be reached at 786-362-7445.



Case Manager Yuni Miguez loves her role of helping clients live more independent and meaningful lives. She notes that when new clients come into her office at the Miami Lighthouse, they are sometimes depressed because of their new or worsening vision problems. In her words, "It makes my heart happy to see the difference just a week of programs here at the Lighthouse can make in changing their lives."

One of her proudest moments came recently when a client who had arrived in her office a year earlier, depressed, stressed out and frightened from his ritual detachment, announced that she had literally "changed his life" by introducing him to the Miami Lighthouse's Orientation & Mobility and Home & Personal Management Programs. This gentleman now regularly participates in Miami Lighthouse programs.

Yuni's education and experience help her understand the needs of the people we serve. She is fluent in English and Spanish, and enjoys assisting people of all ages. Yuni can be reached at 786-362-7444.

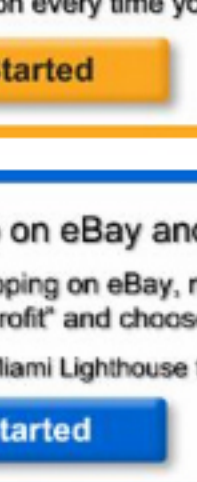
Contributed by Joan Spector



save the date

Mix and mingle with over 20 of your favorite non-profits. Party with a purpose as all proceeds from this event will be split evenly among participating groups.

Thursday, October 22
from 6-10pm
at Fritz and Franz
60 Merrick Way,
Coral Gables, FL 33134



PAUSE FOR A CAUSE
party with a purpose

amazonSmile Shop at AmazonSmile and Amazon will make a donation to Miami Lighthouse!

If you're shopping at Amazon, simply shop through the AmazonSmile website and choose **Miami Lighthouse** as the charity to receive a donation every time you make purchase.

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If you're shopping on eBay, make **Miami Lighthouse** your "Favorite Non-profit" and choose to give a donation at checkout. Selling on eBay? You can also support us by designating Miami Lighthouse to receive 10-100% of your final sale price.

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