



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

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You are invited to Art Walk in Little Havana presented by Miami Lighthouse.

The Miami Lighthouse campus is the canvas for the community's latest works of art with four distinctive pieces designed by nationally recognized artists. With homage to our early learners, the Bright Beacons of our community, twin artists George and William Hustus have brought their street art to SW seventh street and eighth avenue with a four story mural. Sergio Lastres, a Cuban-born artist, has created an original piece called "Blackout" after his trip to Israel. There he observed blind actors performing and was inspired to bring his version of art from the perspective of a blind or visually impaired person to the lobby of Miami Lighthouse. Carlos and JC Carroll Alves helped create "Touching our Dream," three pillars of ceramic mosaic pieces displayed in our pavilion. Also on display is "Sight" an original work created by international artist, Brazilian-born and Miami-made, Romero Britto.

Our student artists will also demonstrate what recently deceased Museum of Modern Art conceptual artist, Robert Morris called "Blind Time Drawing." Visitors can observe these culturally important art pieces made by clients of Miami Lighthouse throughout the building.

Please join these artists and media on a walking tour with wine and cheese.

When: Wednesday, February 20th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where: Miami Lighthouse located at 601 SW 8th Ave.

Our children created a unique National Day of Service project.

Students from our Bright Beacons' Children's Program were proud to participate in our service project honoring the recent Martin Luther King: National Day of Service. The students assembled and hand-delivered care packages to seniors in the Miami Lighthouse Social Group Activities Program. Included in the packages were self-care items such as hand sanitizer, lotion, tissues, wipes and candy mints. Each student wrote and/or brailed a card in the packages that read, "We love and appreciate you!"



One of our Bright Beacon Children's Program students delivers care package to one of our seniors in our Social Group Activities Program

Our teenagers are learning to live actively.

An exciting grant from the Simply Healthcare Foundation has enabled Miami Lighthouse to become one of only 17 organizations nationwide to participate in a National Fitness Challenge for teenagers with visual disabilities. This initiative was founded by the United States Association of Blind Athletes. The generous grant will be used to offer adaptive yoga classes, walking groups, running clinics and other sports and fitness activities that can help to maximize healthy lifestyles.

"This is an opportunity for our teenagers to focus on ability, not disability," said Miami Lighthouse President & CEO Virginia Jacko. "A blind person can do almost anything a sighted person can do, including living an active lifestyle. That is why we teach here that 'It's Possible to See Without Sight.'"

As part of the program, transition students recently were taught to play goalball by Miami-Dade Parks instructors. Prior to playing several rounds of the game at Gwen Cherry Park Gym, they completed warm up and stretching exercises. For most students it was the first they successfully participated in this type of truly active sport.



Teenage students in our Transition Program play goalball at Gwen Cherry Park Gym

Contributed by Joan Spector

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