



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 66  
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## In This Issue

"See the Light" Luncheon

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White Cane Day Brings Hundreds to Little Havana!

MIA launches Aira Service for visually impaired passengers

[VISIT  
WEBSITE](#)

Miami Lighthouse's 90th Anniversary Celebration at the historic Biltmore Hotel

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## "See the Light" Luncheon

The spectacular and contemporary new clubhouse of the Riviera Country Club was the scene of this year's "See The Light" luncheon on Thursday, October 24th. Guests enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres before sitting down to a delicious lunch and watching a moving program that began with Lighthouse Music Program student Silvio Plata singing "Por Ti Volare" and was followed by a performance from our adorable early learners from our Lighthouse Learning Center for Children. Guests viewed the "Light the Way" Video which introduced our 90th Anniversary \$4.5 million one-for-one matching challenge to raise \$9 million for our Learning Center expansion.

The keynote speech by blind Paralympian Danelle Umstead kept the audience spellbound as recounted how Miami Lighthouse believed in her as a blind downhill skier and she ultimately became a 4-time Paralympic ski medalist, the first blind contestant on Dancing With The Stars, and today is a sought-after motivational speaker.

The highly successful event raised more than \$150,000, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar, according to President & CEO Virginia Jacko. Sponsors for this year's luncheon included GenSpring/SunTrust Private Wealth, H. Angela Whitman Foundation, Norma Jean Abraham, GrayRobinson, El Carajo International Tapas & Wines, Monster Sound Production, MultiVision Video & Film, and Orchids by Olivier & Marlen Caudron.



*Danelle Umstead and Virginia A. Jacko*



*Scott J. Richey and Emcee Marissa Bagg*



*Silvio Plata, Miami Lighthouse Student*





*Performance by our Miami Lighthouse's Early Learners*

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## **White Cane Day Brings Hundreds to Little Havana!**

We are so grateful to City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and Billy The Marlin, for leading this year's White Cane Day march. Our thanks also go to the City of Miami Police Department and Fire Rescue Department for their help and guidance during the walk down SW 8th Street and back to our Miami Lighthouse. The procession, including more than 100 blind and visually impaired Miamians walking with white canes and guide dogs, as well as, many sighted volunteers, enjoyed the celebration which ended back at Miami Lighthouse with entertainment, refreshments and speakers. Check out this CBS-4 news piece on the White Cane Day march.



White Cane Day is a national observance which was established by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964. The day is set aside to celebrate the many achievements of the blind and visually impaired, and their important symbol of independence, the white cane. Event sponsors included Florida Blue, OrCam, Mass Mutual Miami, Lions for the Blind, Tracfone, Telefonica, Ambutech, Walgreens Store #15994, Einsteins Bros. Bagels #2300 and Burger King Store #12778.



*White Cane Day 2019*

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## MIA launches Aira Service for visually impaired passengers

In recognition of Blindness Awareness Month, representatives from Miami International Airport (MIA), Aira, and the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired announced MIA's addition to the Aira Airport Network- a free mobile service that allows blind or low-vision travelers to receive up-to-the minute flight information, navigate security, use self-service kiosks, find restaurants and services, identify baggage, and more.

Our Orientation & Mobility Program at Miami Lighthouse teaches the blind and visually impaired how to travel safely using technology like the Aira app. We applaud the partnership between Aira and MIA for being at the forefront of assisting those who are blind and visually impaired. Check out this WSVN-7 news piece about the unveiling

## MIA unveils app for visually impaired passengers





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## Miami Lighthouse's 90th Anniversary Celebration at the historic Biltmore Hotel

Join Miami's most influential philanthropists, business and civic leaders on Saturday, January 25, 2020, as our Miami Lighthouse celebrates 90 years of service to the blind and visually impaired. The milestone gala is presented by Northern Trust and is a black tie event. Individual tickets are \$700 and sponsorship opportunities are available, as well as advertisements congratulating Miami Lighthouse in the official 90th Anniversary Celebration program booklet. To purchase tickets, a table, or to place an advertisement in the program, please contact Cameron Sisser at [csisser@miamilighthouse.org](mailto:csisser@miamilighthouse.org) or at 786-362-7515.



*90th Anniversary Celebration Save the Date*

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## In the News:

[Telemundo 51, October 23, 2019 - "Lighthouse for the Blind una oportunidad para niños ciegos en Miami"](#)

[CBS Miami, October 16, 2019 - "Miami March Marks 90th Annual White Cane Day"](#)

[The Broadcast Bridge, October 9, 2019 - "Avoiding ADA Lawsuits"](#)

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*Contributed by Joan Spector*

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