



LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 1 March 2014

Welcome to the first edition of *LIGHT LINE™*, Miami Lighthouse's new on-line blog. There is so much new and exciting happening here at the Lighthouse these days that we wanted to keep everyone updated on a more regular basis. We look forward to your thoughts and comments as well as your suggestions for information you might like us to explore in future blogs.

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■ Report to Stakeholders

On January 28, Board Chairman Agustin Arellano Jr. presented the Miami Lighthouse Annual Report to Stakeholders, enumerating the remarkable achievements of 2013, a year the report termed "*one of empowerment for children, youth and adults who, thanks to our programs, can lead more productive, rewarding and enjoyable lives.*"

The report provides a comprehensive listing of more than 15 items covering Impact, Financial Health, Strategic Planning and Recognition that have successfully taken place during the previous 12 month period. It offers an in depth view of Miami Lighthouse's mission and purpose and can be read in its entirety by [clicking here](#).

Save the date! Wednesday, April 30th, 2014.

■ Join us for Music Under the Stars: Bon Appétit Miami



Join legislators, ophthalmologists, optometrists, school officials and community leaders at Miami Lighthouse in celebrating over 20 years of free eye examinations for more than 85,000 children in need who failed their school vision screening but had no resources for eye care.

Music Under the Stars: Bon Appétit Miami attendees will enjoy music by Miami Lighthouse Better Chance Music Production Program™ students and instructors with guest performances including Latin Grammy Winner Paul Hoyle, fabulous food from great Miami area restaurants, delicious beverages and a terrific silent auction. [Click here](#) for tickets.

■ Tail-Wagging Success: Our 7th Annual "Walk, Waggle & Stroll"



The Shops at Midtown Miami was the scene of another successful fundraiser for Miami Lighthouse on Sunday, March 16th. Led by CEO Virginia Jacko and her service dog, Kieran, a bevy of two-and-four-legged supporters of Miami Lighthouse's important work for the visually impaired enjoyed breakfast sponsored by McDonald's before moving out for a leisurely doggie walk around the neighborhood.

Emceed by John Morales, of NBC6, the event gave special recognition to honoree, Romero Britto and was led by co-founder and grand marshal Miami-Dade Commissioner Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade Fire Urban Search and Rescue Team and Miami Lighthouse Board Directors. [Click here](#) for more de"tails".

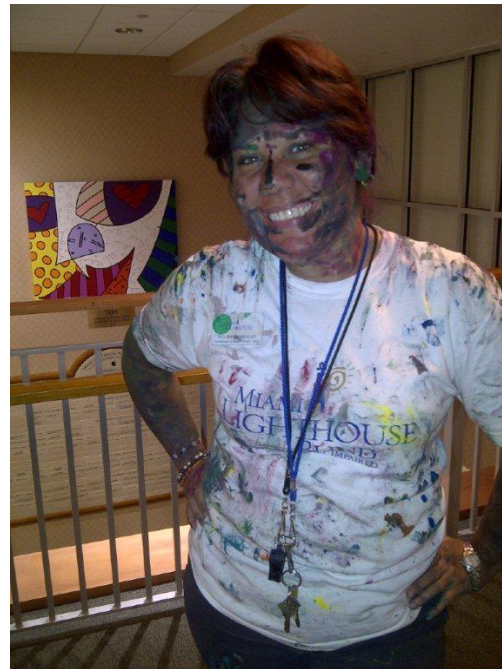


Profile Of The Month

Meet Nelba Gonzalez, SGA Program Coordinator

They call it an arts & crafts class, but the work adult clients of Miami Lighthouse do, under the loving guidance of Social Group Activity Coordinator Nelba Gonzalez, is truly "art" in every sense of the word. Mature men and women, some totally blind, others with extremely limited sight, create beautiful ceramics, elegant weavings and professional quality paintings.

Nelba teaches her "students" to use their minds, their memory and their sense of touch to create beauty. Most importantly, the sense of pride they so obviously take from the work they are doing goes a long way towards restoring self respect and independence despite their visual disabilities.



Nelba joined the Miami Lighthouse staff seven years ago and was already accredited in Minor Vision Therapy from her work in her native Cuba. Initially she worked in Orientation and Braille programs, but as an accomplished artist in her own right, she was soon put in charge of the developing arts program. Under Nelba's guidance, SGA has become one of Miami Lighthouse's most popular and best attended programs.



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