



# LIGHT LINE™

A MONTHLY BLOG FROM MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Issue 8 November 2014

## In This Issue

[Celebration Marks Opening of Educational Empowerment Center](#)

[More than 200 Walkers Attend "White Cane Day"](#)

["See the Light Luncheon" Scheduled for Nov. 20th](#)

[Beta Tau Chapter of Delta Gamma Holding "Anchor Splash 2014"](#)

[Profile of the Month](#)

## Celebration Marks Opening of Educational Empowerment Center

Close to 200 guests gathered on the new 4th floor of Miami Lighthouse on the evening of October 7th, to toast the ribbon cutting marking the official opening of the Sash A. Spencer Educational Empowerment Center. Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado, State Senator Gwen Margolis and Miami Commissioner Sally Heyman did the honors as delighted donors and supporters raised their glasses and clapped their approval.

The event, sponsored by Walgreen Co., Northern Trust and Nostro Jones, P.A. was a gala evening as guests toured the various rooms that are now used daily by Miami Lighthouse clients. The three new rooms are the Jan & Daniel Lewis Braille Homeroom, the Carmella Witt Technology Laboratory funded by the Stamps Family Charitable Foundation, and the 3,000 sq. ft. Marta Weeks Wulf Transition Suite. The firm of OHL Arellano provided pro bono general contracting services for the new addition which is specifically designed to help teenagers and adults achieve gainful employment.



Ribbon cutting celebration: Jan and Daniel Lewis, Agustin Arellano, Sr., Commissioner Sally Heyman, Mrs. Sash A. Spencer, Chair-elect Ray Casas, Virginia Jacko President & CEO, Carmella Witt, Mayor Tomas Regalado, Marta Weeks Wulf and Penny Stamps.

## Mark Your Calendar!

The Miami Foundation  
**Give Miami day**  
11.20.14

Contributions made on Thursday November 20, 2014 will receive a percentage match by The Miami Foundation.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

## More than 200 Walkers Attend "White Cane Day"



Emcee John Morales, Virginia Morgan representing Representative David Richardson, Lt.Col Tony Colmenares, Virginia Jacko, President & CEO, Billy the Marlin, Dave Hagemann, Lion Juan Tejera and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

If you were in the neighborhood of the Miami Lighthouse on Wednesday morning, October 15th, you might have joined the 200 or more walkers celebrating "White Cane Day." Leading the group down and back S.W. 8th Street were members of the Miami Police and Fire Departments followed by Grand Marshals Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Lt. Col. Tony Colmenares, Director, City of Miami Veterans Services, Lion Juan Tejera, Immediate Past District Governor 35-N, Dave Hagemann from Guiding Eyes for the Blind, and Billy The Marlin, representing The Marlins Foundation. Participating sponsors included Molina Healthcare of Florida, OrCam Technologies and Noven Pharmaceuticals. Breakfast was sponsored by Starbucks, Chik-fil-A, Arahis Bakery, Miami Sunshine Lions Club, American Fruit, Lion Dilma Rodrigues, Cecilia Ferrer, and lunch was sponsored by Burger King, Lions for the Blind and Susie Wahab.

## "See the Light Luncheon" Scheduled for Nov. 20th at Riviera Country Club

Mark Trowbridge, President & CEO of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce will emcee the complimentary event for more than 200 of South Florida's leading philanthropists and community leaders. Hors d'oeuvres, compliments of Norma Jean Abraham, and wine will be served at 11:30am, followed by the luncheon at noon. The featured speaker will be Latin GRAMMY® performer and Miami Lighthouse client, Natalia Sulca. Generous sponsors for this invitation only event include Florida Power & Light, Shutts & Bowen LLP, and JM Private Insurance, with audio/visual partially underwritten by Monster Sound Productions.

## Beta Tau Chapter of Delta Gamma Holding "Anchor Splash 2014" on November 2nd & 3rd

The sisters of the University of Miami chapter of Delta Gamma sorority are committed to "Service of Sight" with a percentage of the funds they raise annually through "Anchor Splash" donated to Miami Lighthouse. The members also volunteer regularly at the Lighthouse and have done so for years.

If you are interested in donating to "Anchor Splash", please [click here](#).

## Profile Of The Month

### Meet Krizia Perez, Social Worker for the Children's Program



You'll catch Krizia on the 3rd floor of the Miami Lighthouse on Mondays and Wednesdays, as she presides over the first expanding Blind Babies "Play Day" program. The two-hour long morning sessions involve mothers and their babies in a series of activities designed to help the youngsters learn to interact with others and help the parents to work with their visually impaired offspring. Krizia describes the program as offering sensory play, gross motor activity and literacy in the form of reading by both the parents and staff, and notes that many of the children make remarkable progress.

"I love my job," says Krizia, a Miami native, who has been with Miami Lighthouse for four years and holds a Masters Degree in Social Work from Barry University. "When I am not here at Miami Lighthouse, I am most often visiting in the homes of families whose children are visually impaired." On Monday and Wednesday mornings these families have the opportunity to participate in programs specifically designed for blind babies. "When a mother exclaims, 'Oh, I didn't know my blind child could play with others,' we know our programs are making a difference!"

Contributed by Joan Spector



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