

Management Team



Virginia A. Jacko, President and CEO

Virginia A. Jacko is a blind visionary in a sighted world, who attributes her continuing success as an experienced financial executive to her vocational rehabilitation at Miami Lighthouse.

During her tenure, the number of clients has increased from fewer than 500 in 2004 to over 15,000 today. A variety of innovative new programs in Braille and technology literacy, adult basic education, GED, ESOL, job readiness, music, ceramic arts, year-round programming for blind and visually impaired schoolchildren, pre-kindergartens for blind and visually impaired three- and four-year olds and eye wellness services to schoolchildren throughout the State of Florida. Miami Lighthouse is recognized as a national Center of Excellence through professional publications and academic presentations.

Since CEO Jacko took the reins in 2005, the Miami Lighthouse operating budget has increased fourfold through donor cultivation and successful grant applications. Miami Lighthouse also has achieved eight consecutive four-star rankings from Charity Navigator under her tenure, placing it in the top 2 percent of not-for-profits in the nation.

Ms. Jacko writes about and is a sought-after guest speaker for business groups, chambers of commerce and national conferences on topics such as board governance, nonprofit accounting and accessibility for the blind and visually impaired. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Loyola University (Chicago) and a Master of Science from Purdue University. In 2012 she was named Distinguished Alumna by the Purdue College of Health and Human Sciences and the HHS Alumni Association, Purdue University. She was named to the South Florida Business Journal 2016 class of Influential Businesswomen.

Awards (since 2007):

Molina Health Care Community Champion Award, 2014
AXA Advisors Businesswoman of the Year, Public Servant/Non Profit Professional category, 2014
One of ten distinguished alums honored by Purdue University as an "Old Master," 2013
Most Valuable Non-Profit Award, Switchboard of Miami, 2013
Junior League of Miami "Women Who Make a Difference" Honoree, 2013
Recipient of Bronze medal in Miami Today's Gold Medal Awards Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program's service to thousands of under-served children in public schools, 2012
Claude Pepper, Thelma Gibson 2012 Award for Community Service
Florida Women of Achievement 2012_
South Florida Business Journal Excellence in Health Care Award, Non-Profit, 2011
Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce 2010 Sapphire Award, nonprofit category, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Nancy Hughes Community Commitment Award presented at the Miami-Dade County Days Awards Luncheon in Tallahassee, April 2010
Business Leader Media's Movers & Shakers Award, 2009
South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Women of Leadership Award, 2009
Miami-Dade County Parks In the Company of Women Award, 2009
Finalist, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Health Care

Heroes Award, 2009
Health Foundation of South Florida Concern Award, 2008
AXA Advisory Business Woman of the Year,
Public Service/Non-Profit, 2008
Women's Power Caucus Quiet Storm Achiever, 2008
South Florida Business Journal Business Woman of the Year,
Non-Profit, 2007