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April 30, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Individuals Living With Blindness and Visual Impairment Experience Boating *15-Year Anniversary of Boating Partnership*

(North Fort Myers, FL)- Rotary Club of Cape Coral will be partnering with Lighthouse of SWFL to offer their clients, individuals living with blindness or vision impairment, the opportunity to experience the exhilaration of boating. Forty clients, all living with some form of vision loss, along with sighted guides, will meet at Tarpon Point Marina on Saturday, May 5, 2018 where they will be given a two hour boat ride on the open waters of the Caloosahatchee River and Gulf of Mexico by Rotary boat captains volunteering for the annual event.

Fifteen years in the making, the partnership provides a sensory exploration experience, giving those who are blind or visually impaired a new type of feeling. "Being totally blind, it's an amazing experience. I get to feel the breeze through my hair, the salty sea spray on my face, and the sounds of playful dolphins near the boats, things that sighted people might take for granted," said Sandy Burke, a former client of the Lighthouse, about previous years' experiences. "They always make sure we have a wonderful time," Burke said glowingly, "it's an awesome experience put on by awesome people."

"Our clients really enjoy the opportunity to get out into the community and practice the self-advocacy skills they have learned. They discover they can do things they never thought possible." said Amy Turner, Community Relations Coordinator with Lighthouse of SWFL, "We are so grateful to the Rotary Club of Cape Coral for providing opportunities for our clients that result in feelings of independence, self-worth and accomplishment. This event is something clients look forward to and continue to rave about."

Rotary is an organization of business, professional and community leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotary clubs provide members with an opportunity to give back to their communities and to connect with like-minded leaders and friends.

Lighthouse of SWFL is a non-profit, vision rehabilitation agency serving Lee, Glades, and Hendry counties. The mission of the Lighthouse of SWFL is to enable people of all ages living with a visual impairment or blindness to remain independent, active and productive in our society." Lighthouse of SWFL., is a 501(c)3 United Way Partner that is also partially funded by the Division of Blind Services, Lee County Government and other private donors. For more information, visit www.lighthouseswfl.org or call (239) 997-7797.

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