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## **FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

**PHOTOS ATTACHED**

**VIDEOS & ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

## **HISPANIC BUSINESS INITIATIVE FUND HOSTS ANNUAL CLIENT RECOGNITION EVENT**

**(Tampa, FL) October 10, 2014** – Three local Hispanic-owned companies were honored at the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida’s (HBIF) 2014 Success Stories Luncheon. The event is the organization’s annual fundraiser to recognize outstanding entrepreneurs who received technical assistance from the nonprofit organization and have demonstrated growth since then.

The theme of this year’s event, *¡Avanzando!*, focused on the advancement of the small businesses HBIF helps, the nonprofit organization itself, the local economy and community. More than 400 West Coast of Florida government, business and community leaders joined the volunteers and clients of HBIF for the event. Florida Lieutenant Governor Carlos Lopez-Cantera and Hillsborough County Administrator Mike Merrill spoke during the event, as did representatives from event host sponsors Bank of America, Florida Blue, Nielsen, PNC Bank, and Wells Fargo.

The businesses honored at the event were selected based on their growth and economic impact. “Our 2014 honorees have overcome challenges and succeeded in growing their business and creating jobs,” said Jan Aspuru, Chair of HBIF’s statewide Board of Directors. “There is no better way to describe the work we do throughout the year than through our clients’ testimonials.”

The following three local Hispanic-owned businesses were recognized:

- **Bay Janitorial Service - Dueños: Andrés y Maritza Gómez**  
The company began with only one employee and today has more than 40 staff members, offering a wide range of commercial and residential janitorial services.
- **TherAbilities Performing Arts Center (TPAC) - Dueña: Lourdes Quiñones**  
Provides specialized physical, occupational, music and speech therapy services, as well as extracurricular activities in a therapeutic environment, for children and adults with disabilities.
- **Optimum Plumbing - Dueño: Vladimir Breton**  
Offers commercial and residential plumbing services, while also offering services in renovation, sewer cleaning, pressure jetting, plumbing fixtures and replacements.

The 2014 Success Stories Luncheon was made possible thanks to these sponsors. **Host Sponsors:** Bank of America, Chase, Florida Blue, Nielsen, PNC Bank, and Wells Fargo. **Champion Sponsors:** AT&T and Walt Disney World Resort. **Honorary Sponsors:** BB&T, Duke Energy, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay, and Suncoast Credit Union. **Media Sponsor:** Univision Tampa Bay.

The Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida (HBIF) is the leading Hispanic economic development, nonprofit organization specializing in providing free bilingual assistance to Hispanic entrepreneurs who are establishing or expanding their business in the state of Florida. Since 1991, HBIF has promoted the Hispanic entrepreneur, offering programs and creating partnerships to advance the region's economic development and foster job creation. HBIF is headquartered in Orlando and has offices in the West Coast, Central and South Florida regions. For more information, visit [www.HBIFFlorida.org](http://www.HBIFFlorida.org).

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