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FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

PHOTOS ATTACHED

VIDEOS & ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

HBIF HOSTS ANNUAL CLIENT RECOGNITION EVENT

Local nonprofit ends Hispanic Heritage Month with successful entrepreneurship celebration

(Tampa, FL) October 23, 2015 – Three local Hispanic-owned businesses were honored at the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida's (HBIF) *2015 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 success and growth since then.

More than 400 West Coast of Florida government, business and community leaders joined HBIF volunteers and clients 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, JP Morgan Chase and Wells Fargo.

The entrepreneurs honored at the event were selected based on the growth and economic impact of their business. "Helping Hispanic entrepreneurs to become owners of successful companies is HBIF's main purpose. We are proud to contribute to their growth," said Victor Rivera, HBIF Statewide Vice Chair and West Coast Regional Board Co-Chair. "Their stories demonstrate the level of passion, commitment, hard work and resourcefulness that enabled them to turn their dreams into prospering businesses."

The following three local Hispanic-owned businesses were recognized:

- **e-Smart Recycling – Owner: Tony Selvaggio**
An electronic recycling company specializing in recycling, repurposing and reusing computers, electronics and IT equipment, and putting them in the hands of people across the world who would not otherwise have access to technology.
- **Pezco Aquafarming – Owner: Juan Carlos Libreros**
A family-owned business that sells, markets, distributes and manages the accounting for a progressive and co-ownership network of aquaculture farmers and processors, whose core products are farm-raised, certified sustainable, fresh tilapia and rainbow trout.
- **Bazzle Baby – Owner: Michaelene Cadiz**
A brand of fashionable, functional and safe products for babies and toddlers that help make parents' lives easier while keeping style in mind. They offer different bibs in a variety of sizes, pacifier clips, burp cloths, and accessories, all available in a variety of chic and modern designs and tested for safety and by parents.

The *2015 Success Stories Luncheon* was made possible thanks to these sponsors. **Host Sponsors:** Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase and Wells Fargo. **Champion Sponsors:** Florida Blue, Nielsen, Suncoast Credit Union and SunTrust. **Honorary Sponsors:** Fifth Third Bank and BB&T. **Media Sponsors:** Estrella TV and Univision Tampa Bay.

About HBIF

The Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida, Inc. (HBIF) is the leading Hispanic nonprofit economic development organization in Florida specializing in providing free and bilingual business development to entrepreneurs trying to establish or expand their business. Since 1991, HBIF has promoted the Hispanic entrepreneur, offering programs and creating partnerships to advance economic development and foster job creation. HBIF was founded in Tampa and has offices in Central, South and the West Coast of Florida. For more information, visit www.HBIFFlorida.org.

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