



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate publication

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HISPANIC BUSINESS INITIATIVE FUND HOSTS SMALL BUSINESS RECOGNITION EVENT IN TAMPA

(TAMPA, FL) October 24, 2012 – Three local Hispanic-owned companies were honored today at the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida’s (HBIF) 2012 Success Stories luncheon. The event is the organization’s yearly fundraiser to recognize successful entrepreneurs who have received assistance from the nonprofit organization.

The theme of this year’s event was “Faces of Progress,” focused on the small business owners HBIF helps year-round. Nearly 300 Tampa Bay area government, business and community leaders joined the volunteers and clients of HBIF for the event. City of Tampa Councilman Mike Suarez and Hillsborough County Administrator Mike Merrill spoke during the event, as did Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Francisco Sanchez and representatives from event sponsors Bank of America, AT&T and Florida Blue.

The businesses honored at the event were selected based on business growth and economic impact. “Small businesses and Hispanic-owned businesses contribute significantly to our economy. We applaud our clients; they have been able to overcome challenges and succeed despite the challenging economic climate in recent years,” said HBIF Board Vice-Chair Jan Aspuru. “Assisting Hispanic entrepreneurs in becoming successful business owners is what HBIF is all about.”

These were the three local Hispanic-owned businesses recognized:

- **GOLDEN SUN LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR (Owners: Luis Valencia and Ana Lopez)** - Specializing in commercial and residential landscape design and maintenance (based out of Valrico).
- **BLACK & DENIM APPAREL CO. (Owners: Roberto Torres, Luis Montañez and Christopher Findeisen)** - American-made and owned men’s apparel company and brand of casual clothing and accessories inspired by Americana, Music and the American lifestyle (based in Tampa).
- **GLOBAL BEAUTY IMAGE (Owners: Juan Angarita and Marcela Negrete)**- Exclusive distributor of environmentally friendly product lines for professional hair salons and licensed cosmetologists (based in Tampa).

The 2012 Success Stories Luncheon was made possible thanks to these sponsors. Host Sponsors: Bank of America, Florida Blue and Wells Fargo. Champion Sponsors: AT&T, CHASE and Fifth Third Bank. Honorary Sponsor: Progress Energy.

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 trying to establish or expand their businesses in the state of Florida. For more than 20 years HBIF has promoted the Hispanic entrepreneur, offering programs and creating partnerships to advance economic development and foster job creation. HBIF is headquartered in Orlando and has offices in Tampa, Miami and Kissimmee. For more information, visit www.HBIFFlorida.org.

PHOTOS ATTACHED, ADDITIONAL PHOTOS & VIDEOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST*