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MEDIA RELEASE

South Florida Leaders Gathered to Celebrate HBIF Mission and Clients

MIAMI, FL (October 2, 2012) – As its first full year of operations in South Florida ended and a new fiscal year began, the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida (HBIF) held a private cocktail reception in downtown Miami for nearly 100 government, business and civic local leaders to celebrate accomplishments, recognize supporters and showcase local Hispanic business owners who received HBIF services. The cocktail was sponsored by AT&T and Darden Restaurants.

“Thank you for helping us increase the number of entrepreneurs who benefit from the services that HBIF is able to offer for free thanks to the community’s support,” said Christina Pinto, HBIF of Florida’s Board Chair. “It is wonderful to see what we have accomplished already but we know this is only the beginning of our growth in South Florida, that there are thousands of local Hispanics who own or wish to establish businesses and with HBIF’s guidance and support can increase their likelihood of succeeding.”

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Giménez and City of Doral Mayor Juan Carlos Bermúdez attended and addressed the government, business and community leaders present. HBIF recognized Board of Directors, South Florida Regional Council members and clients present. The clients who showcased their products and services at the event included specialty foods, cigars, apparel, accessories and professional services.

“During the 2012-2013 fiscal year our local HBIF staff will work to triple the number of local clients who receive one-on-one counseling and quadruple the number of participants in our free educational programs offered in Spanish throughout the region,” announced Myrna Sonora, HBIF Vice President in South Florida. “To achieve these goals we will be calling on South Florida companies, partner organizations and our talented pool of volunteers for support.”

About HBIF of Florida, Inc.

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 Miami, Tampa and Kissimmee. For more information, visit www.HBIFFlorida.org.

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****EVENT PHOTOS ATTACHED****