

Celebrating Heroes of the Hemisphere during Miami Gala Event

Washington, D.C., July 27, 2009 – Four amazing people who have changed the lives of the least fortunate in Latin America and the Caribbean will be honored at a gala event in Miami on Saturday, October 24, the Pan American Development Foundation announced today.

The marquee event – called Heroes of the Hemisphere – will celebrate the accomplishments of ordinary people who have overcome major obstacles in an effort to improve the lives of people in their communities.

PADF's Heroes of the Hemisphere gala luncheon will be held on the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines' Liberty of the Seas, which will be docked at the Port of Miami.

Tickets are available for \$350 each and may be purchased online at www.HeroesoftheHemisphere.org or by calling (877) 909-HERO (4376). The October 24 event begins at 11:30 a.m. and concludes at 3:30 p.m.

PADF will announce the 2009 honorees, which are from Cuba, Haiti, Colombia and El Salvador, in August. They will be listed on www.HeroesoftheHemisphere.org

“Thanks to Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines' generosity in hosting the event, the money raised from the gala will be used for programs and beneficiaries,” says Amy Coughenour, PADF's Deputy Executive Director of the non-profit organization.

Proceeds from the 2009 Heroes of the Hemisphere gala will be used in Haiti, where PADF works on economic development, strengthening civil society, protecting human rights and mitigating the effects of natural disasters. The gala will also provide attendees with opportunities to support programs and people in other countries.

In addition to the recognition of the 2009 Heroes, the event will feature an auction, live entertainment by MTV and more.

More than 350 leaders in business, government, diplomacy and entertainment will celebrate the accomplishments of the 2009 Heroes of the Hemisphere. Among the celebrities who have confirmed are Jimmy Jean-Louis, who plays the Haitian on NBC's “Heroes,” and Miami chef Ron Duprat, who is a participant on Bravo's Top Chef's sixth season.

About PADF

PADF is an independent, non-profit organization that creates public-private partnerships to assist the least advantaged people in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Through these partnerships and as a unique affiliate of the Organization of American States (OAS), PADF creates economic opportunities, strengthens communities and prepares for and responds to natural disasters.

Having worked in every country in the region, PADF engages community-based groups, governments and the private sector in the process of implementing appropriate solutions for sustainable development.

In the past year, more than 4.5 million people in 17 countries benefited from PADF and its programs. www.padf.org

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