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***MUJERES GIVING BACK RECOGNITION LUNCHEON MAKES SOUTH FLORIDA HISTORY***  
*The Women's Fund Celebrates Ten Hispanic Women Philanthropists*

**MIAMI, Florida** – The Women's Fund Miami-Dade honored ten outstanding Hispanic women philanthropists at their inaugural *Mujeres Giving Back* recognition luncheon on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Colonnade Coral Gables. *Mujeres Giving Back* is the first event of its kind in South Florida, to highlight the philanthropic impact of Hispanic women leaders who use their power and influence to give back and make our community stronger.

After a fabulous reception with mojitos, an incredible silent auction and live music, Master of Ceremonies Myriam Marquez, Executive Editor of El Nuevo Herald, opened a dynamic program. "The words Hispanics and philanthropy do belong together," said Ms. Marquez as she set the tone for an emotional, inspiring and groundbreaking afternoon in South Florida.

Nominated by South Florida residents and selected by an independent judging panel of community leaders, the celebrated women who give back through time, talent or treasure. Honorees were: Isabel C. Diaz, Kristy Nuñez, Jocelyn Cortez-Young, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Lourdes Castillo de la Peña, Maria Figueroa Byrd, Marile Lopez, Lilliam Lopez, Lilliam Machado and Roymi V. Membiela.

"The energy and excitement in the ballroom were palpable. We cried, laughed, even danced at this unique celebration. It was historic!" said BB&T Vice President Small Business Development Officer and Women's Fund board member Leticia Carrazana, who sponsored and co-chaired the event committee. "We were proud to recognize these powerhouse Latinas who have made Miami better through their commitment to serve," said co-chair Carmen Gonzalez-Sanfeliu, Vice President of Latam Sales at Intelsat.

“Our Director of Philanthropy and Creative Strategies, Ana Martinez, was the visionary behind this event. More and more, we are seeing Hispanics give in our community and as an organization we saw the need to celebrate this reality,” said Executive Director Marilyn March.

With 54 million in the US population, Hispanics have an impressive buying power of \$1.2 trillion; Miami-Dade’s 65% Hispanic population represents a powerful economic and philanthropic force.

Sponsors were: ALO Diamonds, Baptist Health South Florida, Miami Herald/El Nuevo Herald, BB&T, Hogan Lovells, AXA Advisors, South Florida Luxury Guide, Elevate Consult LLC, I’m Not Your Boring Newspaper, Passion XO.

More information regarding the Women’s Fund, please visit [www.womensfundmiami.org](http://www.womensfundmiami.org).

### **About The Women’s Fund Miami-Dade**

The Women’s Fund Miami-Dade empowers women and girls through advocacy and funding for innovative initiatives that build equality, foster social change and create community partners. Founded in 1993, The Women’s Fund is Miami-Dade’s only organization directing all of its energy toward creating equal opportunity, access and influence for women and girls. Through research, collaboration, and grant-making we expose the issues, give voice to the silent majority, and pool our collective giving power to provide grassroots solutions. We believe that by pooling our resources we can create a just and safe Miami-Dade, where power and possibility aren’t limited by gender. The Women’s Fund Miami-Dade improves the lives of women and girls through grant making, research, advocacy and education.