



CONTACTS:

Event Contact:
Bianca Fernandez
bfernandez@kristihouse.org
(305)-547-6826

Media Contact:
Etain E Connor
econnor@kristihouse.org
(305) 547-6802

March 21, 2007

MEDIA RELEASE

MIAMI-DADE STATE ATTORNEY KATHY FERNANDEZ RUNDLE AND KRISTI HOUSE RAISE OVER \$15,000 FOR SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN

April 3, 2007 (Miami) Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, together with Kristi House and Cielo Garden & Supper Club, launched a successful Hispanic Initiative raising over \$15,000 for sexually abused children and their families, and introducing the agency to many new friends on March 22, 2007 at Cielo in Coconut Grove.

"As Kristi House continues to increase awareness in our multicultural community and to spread the word that we are here to help children recover from the trauma of sexual abuse, the Hispanic Initiative is reaching out to all members of the Miami-Dade community to raise awareness about the organization," Executive Director Trudy Novicki said.

As the Child Advocacy Center for all of Miami-Dade, Kristi House is charged with coordinating the multidisciplinary approach to the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of sexually abused children, working closely with the State Attorney.

"One of the most painful parts of a prosecutor's job is looking into the eyes of a child victim as you work to find justice for their fear and their pain," Ms. Rundle said. "Kristi House works like a guardian angel aiding young victims as their cases travel through our court system."

Last year 819 children and their families received case coordination services from Kristi House.

The event included tapas from Cielo, music, dancing, plus a special performance by Miami's own Nestor Torres.

Along with State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, other special guests included Janet Reno, Sergio Mendez, Jorge & Rosa Maria Plasencia, and Carlos de Cespedes, of Pharmed.

A special thanks to our event sponsors: Cielo Garden & Supper Club, Dr. Maribel Santa-Cruz, Miami Monthly Magazine, Azteca America, Iberla, LLC, Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office, Revista Mujer, International Wine & Spirits, Efron Foundation, Leon Medical Centers, The Nogueras Consulting Group, The Honorable Rebeca Sosa, Wine Consultant Max Staats, The Law Offices of Mark Eglarsh, City of Sweetwater Commissioner Manuel Duasso, Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius and Tate Enterprises.

Kristi House's mission is to provide a healing environment for sexually abused children and their families at no cost. Kristi House services include case management, therapy, referral, transportation, advocacy and emergency assistance. The organization receives a little over half of its program budget from public sources; the remainder is raised through the private sector to provide critical services that government funds do not fully cover.

Visit www.kristihouse.org for more information about Kristi House.

Kristi House is centrally located on the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital campus at 1265 NW 12th Avenue. Founded in 1996, Kristi House has served more than 5,200 victims of child sexual abuse and their families. Thousands more are reached every year with education and prevention outreach programs. Services include case management, therapy, referral, transportation, advocacy and emergency assistance. For more information visit www.kristihouse.org.

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