



# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, September 14, 2012**

**Contact:**

Lyda Vanegas  
Director Advocacy and Communications  
202-420-7051 (w) 202-607-6110 (c)  
[lvanegas@maryscenter.org](mailto:lvanegas@maryscenter.org)

Amy Bruno  
Dev. and Comm. Associate  
202-420-7049  
[abruno@maryscenter.org](mailto:abruno@maryscenter.org)

## **Mary's Center Announces 2012 Noche Tropical Gala Co-Chairs**

**Washington, D.C.** – Mary's Center is proud to announce that Debbi Jarvis, Vice President of Social Responsibility for Pepco Holdings, and Pinkie Mayfield, Vice President of Corporate Solutions and Assistant Treasurer of The Washington Post Company, have enthusiastically committed to serve as co-chairs of the Center's Noche Tropical annual gala.

*Noche Tropical*, held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, celebrates Mary's Center's twenty-four years providing health care, education, and social services to 24,000 residents in the DC metropolitan area.

"The Mary's Center model is unique to the city," said Ms. Mayfield. "I am blown away by the number of programs Mary's Center offers, serving a diverse population according to their needs."

Ms. Jarvis cited Mary's Center's impressive wellness outcomes as her motivation for co-chairing the Gala. "Pepco is proud to partner with a community-based organization delivering high-quality care. Supporting Mary's Center is a wise investment given its outcomes, which surpass national averages despite its urban, low-income program participants," said Ms. Jarvis.

*Noche Tropical* is Mary's Center's largest fundraiser. Last year's Gala raised over \$440,000 and the Mary's Center team hopes to reach the half million dollar mark with the help of the two enthusiastic co-chairs. While federal funding for community health centers wanes, events like *Noche Tropical* are crucial for closing the gap in Mary's Center's annual budget.

"Over 41% of our participants are uninsured so private and corporate funding is essential to enable us to advance our mission," said Mary's Center Chief Development Officer Rebecca Diamond. "For twenty-four years, Mary's Center has served each person that has walked through its doors – regardless of their ability to pay."

Ms. Mayfield and Ms. Jarvis share the belief that health care is a human right. "Health care should be available to everyone, and Mary's Center makes that possible," said Ms. Mayfield. "Mary's Center takes a tremendous burden off the city. And, its services are culturally and linguistically relevant." *Noche Tropical* will celebrate the past while ensuring that Mary's Center is able to offer effective, high-quality services in the community as long as there is need.

"Supporting Mary's Center is a wise investment in the future of our city and the greater Washington, DC area – not to mention the countless lives saved," said Ms. Jarvis.

Tickets for *Noche Tropical* are available for purchase online and by contacting Rebecca Diamond (202) 420-7071, [rdiamond@maryscenter.org](mailto:rdiamond@maryscenter.org).

###

### **About Mary's Center**

Founded in 1988, Mary's Center is a federally qualified health center that provides health care, family literacy and social services to 24,000 individuals whose needs too often go unmet by the public and private systems. Mary's Center uses a holistic, multipronged approach to help each participant access individualized services that set them on the path toward good health, stable families, and economic independence. The Center offers high-quality, professional care in a safe and trusting environment to residents from the entire DC metropolitan region, including individuals from over 90 countries.

[www.maryscenter.org](http://www.maryscenter.org).