



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care Hosts its Largest Fundraising Gala, Noche Tropical, to Commemorate its 20 Years of Service!**

**Washington DC**—Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care will celebrate their 20th Anniversary at their annual *Noche Tropical Gala* on Friday, September 26, 2008, at the world renowned Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, DC. *Noche Tropical* is the largest annual fundraising effort for Mary's Center, and an occasion to celebrate together and recognize the corporations, organizations and individuals who are committed to advancing the work and mission of Mary's Center.

This year's theme, *Celebrating our Past and Embracing our Future*, highlights how far Mary's Center has come in its mission to build better futures through the delivery of health care, education and social services and to embrace culturally diverse communities to provide them with the highest quality of care, regardless of their ability to pay. In the past 20 years, Mary's Center has grown from a small clinic providing prenatal and postpartum care to immigrant Latina mothers to a multi-site, multi-cultural and multi-service organization serving more than 10,000 participants a year. The impact Mary's Center has had on the lives of its participants, staff and community is the focus of the new "What Mary's Center Means to Me" campaign, which will be launched at *Noche Tropical*.

"This is such an exciting time for us and we are thrilled to be able to celebrate our 20 years with our supporters and community," said Maria Gomez, President and CEO of Mary's Center. "Our experience has taught us that a healthy, well supported family with strong literacy skills will be civically engaged, striving to live in a safe and peaceful community, and we look forward to many more years of working toward our vision."

The evening will begin with a cocktail reception at 6:30, followed by the ceremony, silent auction, dinner and dancing until midnight. Mary's Center is honored to have Lesli Foster, Emmy Award-winning journalist and anchor of Channel 9NEWS NOW, serve as Master of Ceremonies and to recognize this year's honorees: U.S. Representatives Xavier Becerra of California and Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, The M&T Charitable Foundation, Julie Rogers of the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, and Janet Murguía of National Council of La Raza.

For more information and to purchase tickets to *Noche Tropical*, please contact Jessica Arendal at (202) 420-7052, or visit the Mary's Center website at [www.maryscenter.org](http://www.maryscenter.org).

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Noche Tropical Gala

*Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care was founded in 1988 and became a Federally Qualified Health Center in 2005. As we celebrate our twenty years of service, we continue to hold true to our mission of building better futures through the delivery of health care, education and social services while embracing culturally diverse communities. Mary's Center strives to save lives and create stronger communities, one family at a time.*