

Contact: José Davila, 917-502-6486  
[jdavila@hispanicfederation.org](mailto:jdavila@hispanicfederation.org)



## **HISPANIC FEDERATION CELEBRATES 25 YEARS AT TOP BENEFIT GALA FOR THE LATINO COMMUNITY**

---  
**SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER, HOLLYWOOD LEGEND RITA MORENO, MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO,  
BROADWAY STARS LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA AND KAREN OLIVO, PHILANTHROPIST RICARDO SALINAS,  
COUNCIL SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO AMONG HEADLINERS AT WALDORF ASTORIA NEW YORK**

---  
**EVENT RAISES OVER \$1.5 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF HISPANIC CAUSES**

---  
**TV STAR BENITO MARTINEZ AND ACTRESS/SINGER SHARLENE TAULE SERVE AS MC'S**

---

**New York, NY, April 8, 2015** - Hispanic Federation (HF), the nation's premiere Latino nonprofit membership organization, tonight celebrated its 25th Anniversary at a star-studded Annual Benefit Gala and welcomed more than 800 of the nation's leading public officials, community leaders, media celebrities, and corporate elites to support programs and services for the Latino community. Some notable honorees and supporters included: legendary actress Rita Moreno, Broadway star Lin-Manuel Miranda, representatives from Pfizer, Grupo Salinas Founder Ricardo Salinas, and former HF President and Coca-Cola's Lillian Rodriguez-Lopez.

The event, held at the famous Waldorf Astoria New York, featured Co-Masters of Ceremonies "House of Cards" and "American Crime" star Benito Martinez and actress and singer Sharlene Taule.

The annual gala brings together some of the nation's most influential leaders to support the Hispanic Federation's programs and services, which are geared towards strengthening Hispanic families and a network of 100 Latino nonprofits. The Federation raised \$1.5 million at the event.

"Tonight's 25th Anniversary Gala is a tribute to a Latino community treasure – the Hispanic Federation – which has been a singular force responsible for strengthening Latino nonprofits, serving Hispanic families and winning progressive reforms that improve the lives of families from coast to coast," said José Calderón, President of the Hispanic Federation. "This would not be possible without the many visionary leaders who founded and nurtured the Federation, as well as tonight's honorees and gala supporters."

Ten extraordinary institutions and individuals were honored at this year's benefit event.

Ricardo Salinas, Founder and President of Grupo Salinas, received the Humanitarian Award for his extensive charitable efforts and strong commitment to providing music educational opportunities to aspiring youth.

"I am deeply honored to accept the Hispanic Federation's Humanitarian Award, and to celebrate all the Federation has accomplished in its first 25 years," stated Ricardo Salinas. "Grupo Salinas' philanthropic efforts share much in common with the Hispanic Federation, as we seek to inspire and cultivate future

Hispanic leaders, empowering them to transform society by first helping them to transform their own lives.”

Hollywood legend Rita Moreno accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award for her pioneering film career and exceptional commitment to empowering Latinos.

“To be recognized by the Hispanic Federation is indeed an honor,” stated Rosita Dolores Alverio AKA Rita Moreno. “For me to be associated with an organization which advocates for those at the edges lifts a smile, fosters hope and warms the heart of this long-ago immigrant.”

Pfizer received the Corporate Leadership Award for their outstanding contributions to health reforms benefitting the Latino community.

“We are thrilled to receive the Corporate Leadership Award from the Hispanic Federation for our work in the Latino community,” said Angelica Wong, Vice President of Operations for Pfizer Global Supply and Executive Director of the Pfizer Latino Colleague Resource Group in NYC. “At Pfizer, we are committed to building a healthier world for all and we have made a dedicated effort to address the health care disparities that affect Latino communities across this country through collaborations and partnerships with trusted community organizations such as the Hispanic Federation. We congratulate the Federation on their 25th anniversary and look forward to our work ahead to continue improving access to health care for Latinos.”

Lillian Rodriguez-Lopez, Vice President for Sustainability and Stakeholder Relations at The Coca-Cola Company, received the Legacy Award for her decades of advocacy as a national Latina leader and distinguished career serving the nation’s 55 million Latinos.

“I am so proud of the Hispanic Federation’s accomplishments and contributions over the past 25 years,” stated Lillian Rodriguez-Lopez. “Under Jose Calderon’s leadership, the organization continues its growth and many successes. I am privileged to have been part of the Federation and congratulate my fellow honorees.”

Broadway star Lin-Manuel Miranda accepted the Premio Orgullo (Pride Award) for his groundbreaking theatrical accomplishments and for inspiring so many young Latinos to pursue the arts.

“Receiving the Premio Orgullo Award from an organization like Hispanic Federation is an unbelievable honor for me,” stated Lin-Manuel Miranda. “The Hispanic Federation has been in my life since I was 10 years old. To see the Federation continuing to thrive as a vital presence in New York City, and to be a part of its 25th anniversary celebration in this way, fills me with pride and gratitude. I could never have imagined it all those years ago, while running through the halls of the Hispanic Federation offices with my dad. I share this honor with my family and with our community and I wish the Federation another very successful 25 years.”

The Community Service Award was given to five HF member agencies that were among the founding organizations of the Hispanic Federation 25 years ago including ASPIRA of New York, Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Puerto Rican Family Institute, and LatinoJustice PRLDEF.

“The founding organizational members of the Hispanic Federation are proud to have played a role in strengthening the fabric of Latino nonprofits and we expect continued success from the Hispanic Federation,” stated Juan Cartagena, President and General Counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF.

Several dozen government officials also attended the Hispanic Federation's gala, including:

- Consul General of Mexico Sandra Fuentes-Berain and Consul General of Colombia Maria Isabel Nieto Jaramillo
- US Senator Charles Schumer, NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli and NYS Secretary of State Cesar Perales
- NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
- Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr and Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino
- NYS Senators Jose Peralta and Gustavo Rivera
- Puerto Rico Senator Carmelo Rios Santiago
- NYS Assembly Members Marcos Crespo, Francisco Moya, Guillermo Linares, Luis Sepulveda and Victor Pichardo
- Pennsylvania State Representative Angel Cruz
- NYC Council Members Julissa Ferreras, Ydanis Rodriguez, Carlos Menchaca and Mark Levine

###

*The mission of the Hispanic Federation is to empower and advance the Hispanic community. The Federation works closely with Latino health and human services agencies to promote the social, political and economic well-being of the Latino community. The Federation's seven strategic action areas include education, health, economic empowerment, immigration and civic engagement, the environment and organizational development assistance. For more information, please visit [www.hispanicfederation.org](http://www.hispanicfederation.org) and join the conversation by following us on Twitter @HispanicFed.*