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### **Valentine's Day Fashion Show Raises Much Needed Funds to Benefit Miami-Dade's Abused, Abandoned, And Neglected Children**

**February 9, 2009-Miami, FL-** With over two hundred enthusiastic supporters in attendance, the First Annual *Diamonds And Lace* Valentine's lingerie and fashion show raised over \$200,000 to benefit Voices For Children Foundation and the Miami-Dade's abused, abandoned, and neglected children served by the Guardian Ad Litem Program. Held on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, at Mandarin Oriental, Miami, the first edition of what is expected to be an annual fundraiser celebrating Valentine's Day fashion made its debut with a resounding success, entertaining guests with glamour and great humor.

The First Annual *Diamonds And Lace* promised its guests the perfect confluence of fun, entertainment, and philanthropy. With a magnificent lingerie and jewelry fashion show produced by Neiman Marcus, Coral Gables, an exquisite lunch, and with the opening remarks left to the wit of the incomparable Dave Barry, those who attended the event left eager for more, already enquiring about plans for a second edition. The event's guests not only enjoyed a great program, but were also given the opportunity to purchase some of the showcased jewelry, with ten percent of the proceeds benefiting Voices For Children Foundation.

The event was conceptualized and orchestrated by Miami business leader Jeff Berkowitz, whose involvement with Voices For Children Foundation was inspired by his wife Yolanda, immediate past Chair of the organization's Board of Directors and long-time child advocate. Berkowitz said "I was looking for a unique approach to expand the donor base and to attract critical funds at this difficult time as the organization looks for ways to offset the impact of the current recession in a bid to continue its successful representation of abused, abandoned, and neglected children."

This Valentine's Day fashion show also opened the year-long celebrations of Voices For Children's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of being the one, big difference in the lives of abused, abandoned, and neglected children in the community, as guests were greeted with a banner enumerating 25 different ways to Be A Voice, part of the institutional anniversary campaign.

**In 2009, Voices celebrates 25 years of being the one, big difference in the lives of abused, abandoned, and neglected children. Be a part of it, visit [www.voices4.org](http://www.voices4.org).**

Voices For Children Foundation raises funds to support the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Guardian Ad Litem Program in their efforts to provide abused, abandoned and neglected children in Miami-Dade with a voice in dependency court. Additionally, the Foundation raises funds to ensure that financial assistance and other resources are available to meet the children's educational, health and social needs. For more information visit, [www.voices4.org](http://www.voices4.org). Be a Voice.

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