



February 9, 2007

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Entertainment

Stars Shine For Gloria Estefan's Home Gala

Event Date: Feb. 9, 2007

\$5,000 Per Person

Primary Benefactor: Brain Institute at Miami Children's Hospital

(CBS4) MIAMI Entertainer Gloria Estefan has reached the top of the music charts and now she's reaching out for charity, hosting the first-ever Gloria Estefan Foundation Gala at her mansion Friday night. Gloria and her husband, Emilio established the Foundation more than ten years ago to further their commitment towards helping others. She is quickly becoming one of South Florida's top philanthropists. Rosie O'Donnell, Romero Britto and several other local celebrities attended the event.

Last month, Gloria Estefan announced plans to open her ultra-exclusive Star Island home on February 9th for a gala and benefit concert being presented by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida called "En Casa Con Gloria: An Intimate Evening...An Unforgettable Performance." It's the first time the Estefans' have opened their home for a fundraising event for the Foundation. "Up until now, the Estefans have personally funded the Foundation through songwriter royalties, concert proceeds, merchandise sales and various other channels of personal resources. This is the very first time, in the 10 years the foundation has been established, that we are reaching out to the community to raise money," said Frank Amadeo, President of Estefan Enterprises, and Vice-President of the Foundation.

The "En Casa Con Gloria" event, which cost \$5,000 a person, featured a VIP cocktail reception, an elegantly catered dinner, dancing, and a live acoustic concert performance by Gloria and the Miami Sound Machine for an intimate crowd of 300 people. There was also a live auction and her good friend and Star Island neighbor, Rosie O'Donnell was the auctioneer. "It has always been my dream in life to help as many people as possible. That dream and many more have come true for me and my family and I find my greatest rewards come from sharing what I have received with others. Emilio and I established this foundation to expand our charitable work in an effort to help those less fortunate. Our focus with the foundation has always been to help the many individuals whose challenges have fallen through the cracks of the traditional charitable organizations," said Estefan.

The primary benefactor of this fundraising event is the Brain Institute at Miami Children's Hospital. "It was a truly remarkable and inspiring experience to meet some of the courageous young patients suffering from neurological disorders at Miami Children's Hospital," said Estefan. The children and their families now have new hope for the future thanks to the very special care and pioneering research taking place at the Miami Children's Hospital Brain Institute. "Gloria Estefan is known around the world for her musical achievements, and her humanitarian achievements are equally impressive", says Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's market president George Foyo. "We are excited to be the title sponsor for this one-of-a-kind benefit, and we are very pleased to have established a long term partnership with the Estefans and the Gloria Estefan Foundation to support humanitarian causes in our community."

Other Star Sponsors that have agreed to participate in the evening are Target, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, Bacardi, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and Bank of America. The Gloria Estefan Foundation has benefited many organizations. Most recently a \$1 million dollar donation was given to the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis to launch a Human Clinical Trials program. Gloria served as the Chairperson for the Capital Campaign that raised \$40 million to build the Lois Pope LIFE Center, the home of The Miami Project, which opened in 2000. In addition, the Foundation has made generous donations to the American Red Cross, Amigos for Kids, UNICEF and Save the Children among others. To date, the foundation has donated almost \$3 million dollars to people and charities in need.