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MIRACLE CORNERS OF THE WORLD HOSTS 2008 GALA DINNER

NEW YORK, N.Y., April 8, 2008 – Miracle Corners of the World (MCW) held its 4th Annual Gala Dinner on Monday, April 7, 2008 at the Kimmel Center for University Life at New York University in Manhattan. The 2008 gala paid tribute to the People of Sierra Leone, with Honorable Vice President Sam Sumana accepting the MCW Award on behalf of the nation. MCW also honored Donald and Shelly Rubin, founders of the Rubin Museum of Art in New York, with the MCW Leadership Award. The late Professor Dr. George Sideris received the MCW Lifetime Achievement Award.

"The event was such a festive evening," said Eddie Bergman, MCW Co-Founder and Executive Director. "We were extremely proud to honor the people of Sierra Leone for their efforts to bring peace, stability, and democracy to the country following ten years of civil war. The Rubins were recognized for their amazing ability to change how people of all faiths, backgrounds, and cultures see, understand, and interact with each other; and the late Professor Sideris received MCW's highest honor, the MCW Lifetime Achievement award, for serving as an inspirational mentor for thousands of youth worldwide. These honorees embody the spirit, vision, and work of MCW."

The sold-out event attracted more than 400 guests from the international diplomatic corps, the education, arts, and non-profits communities, and the business and healthcare sectors. Guests included Honorable L.B.A. Koroma (Sierra Leone State Minister), Ambassador Joe Robert Pemagbi (Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the U.N.) Ambassador Bockari Stevens (Ambassador to the U.S. of Sierra Leone), Ambassador Dr. Augustine Mahiga (Permanent Representative of Tanzania to the U.N.), Ambassador Ombeni Sefue (Ambassador to the U.S. of Tanzania), Consul General Fikile Magubane (Consulate General of South Africa in New York), Ambassador Riyad Mansour (Palestine Observer Mission to the U.N.) Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago (Former Special Representative of the Secretary General of the U.N. to Sierra Leone and former Tanzanian Ambassador to the U.N.) New York Council members, Robert Jackson and Mathieu Eugene, Dr. John Brademas (President Emeritus, New York University), and sports legend Cal Ramsey, among others. CNN Senior Correspondent Ali Velshi opened the event and Fox Business Network Anchor Liz Claman served as co-emcee.

MCW also organized a silent auction, auctioning off more than thirty items. The two round-trip American Airlines business class tickets from U.S. to Europe received the highest bid of the evening.

Amma Agyapon, a former MCW Youth Leadership Retreat participant, provided the evening's musical entertainment. Amma was most recently seen in the movie *August Rush*, and at the Oscars, performing the Academy Award Nominated Song "Raise it Up."

The gala raised nearly \$500,000, the highest amount raised in MCW's history, to support MCW's youth empowerment, community development, and healthcare programs in the U.S. and across Africa, as well as the new genocide prevention education initiative.

In past years, honorees have included former NYC Mayor David Dinkins; CNN Senior Correspondent Christiane Amanpour and CNN; Microsoft; sports legend Billie Jean King and South African tennis star Ilana Kloss; the NFL and two-time MVP Ray Lewis.

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About Miracle Corners of the World

MCW was founded in 1999 as a non-profit organization serving youth around the world, primarily through programs of Youth Leadership, Community Development, and Healthcare, as well as Genocide Prevention Education. MCW's mission is to empower youth worldwide to become positive agents of change in order to help improve their own lives and contribute to their communities. For more information, visit us at www.miraclecorners.org.