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Governor Charlie Crist Names Mike Henriquez of Key West as Point of Light for Hispanic Heritage Month

TALLAHASSEE — Governor Charlie Crist today recognized Mike Henriquez as this week's Point of Light for exemplary volunteerism. Mike coordinates volunteers annually to raise funds for the Relay for Life charity in Key West. Mike is the first of four Points of Light selected from Florida's Hispanic community, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"Mike's ability to inspire and motivate members of his community is an indication of outstanding leadership," said Governor Crist. "His willingness to go the extra mile to benefit others exemplifies the qualities of the recipients of the Points of Light Award."

Each year, Mike plans and organizes a fundraiser for his local Relay for Life event to benefit the American Cancer Society. Mike helps raise thousands of dollars to support the local cancer treatment center in Key West. He motivates teachers, administrators and secretaries from the Monroe County School District to volunteer at the event.

"Mike is a one-of-a-kind person," said Dr. Lesley Messier, director of student services for the Monroe County School District. "His positive attitude is contagious, and people are willing to go above and beyond to complete any task he asks of us. He is the kind of person that everyone respects and wants to follow."

During Hispanic Heritage Month, the Points of Light award will recognize outstanding members of the Hispanic community dedicated to public service in Florida. Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated nationwide and runs September 15 through October 15. Additional information about Florida's Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations will be available on the Web site www.FloridaHispanicHeritage.com, which launches this week.

The Governor's Points of Light Award, sponsored by Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises, recognizes a Florida resident or organization that demonstrates exemplary service to the community. Award recipients are announced weekly. A panel of judges comprised of leaders in the areas of volunteerism and service evaluate all nominations and make recommendations to the Governor. The Volunteer Florida Foundation manages the program. For more information, or to nominate, go to www.VolunteerFloridaFoundation.org.

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