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Governor Crist Names Ana Laura Bolaños of Seville as Point of Light for Hispanic Heritage Month

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist today recognized Ana Laura Bolaños of Seville as this week's Point of Light in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"Ana's love for her community is evident in the joy and service she continues to bring to her neighbors each and every day," said Governor Crist. "Her active leadership has helped improve the livelihood and health of countless Hispanic families."

Ana has continued to be a generous role model for the Hispanic community since moving to the United States with her family six years ago. Recognizing a lack of programs for her Hispanic coworkers shortly after arriving in the United States, Ana began educating farm workers about their rights and protecting their health. She also helped families displaced during the 2004 hurricane season by organizing the delivery of food and water.

In 2006, Ana opened her home as an information center for the Hispanic community, leading to the creation of the Alliance for Active Women (Alianza de Mujeres Activas Inc., referred to as AMA, meaning "love" or "caring" in Spanish). Through AMA, Ana has served Hispanic and farm-working communities by providing referrals assistance to agencies such as Red Cross, FEMA and health care professionals to assist women in her community. AMA also recruits English interpreters who volunteer to attend hospital and doctor's visits with women in the community. AMA has also been a participant in an annual health fair where health screenings are available. In addition, AMA encourages activities to celebrate both American and Hispanic traditions and culture.

"Mrs. Bolaños serves as a true inspiration for those less fortunate and a beacon for those of us who humbly desire to give of our resources to better serve," said Janet Martinez, Deland attorney and pro-bono legal counsel to the AMA.

AAA Auto Club South is the supporting sponsor of the Governor's Points of Light Award. This program recognizes Florida residents who demonstrate 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 submit a nomination, go to www.VolunteerFloridaFoundation.org.

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