



International Year of Microcredit 2005

For Immediate Release

Tim Robbins Hosts and Marc Anthony Performs at the United Nations Gala Awards Dinner That Honors Unsung Heroes of Poverty Eradication on November 8, 2005

Celebrity Presenters Include Alyssa Milano, Chelsea Clinton, Walter Cronkite, Judith Light, Rebecca DeMornay, and Rory Kennedy

Additional Performances by Anoushka Shankar, Roberta Flack, Ben Jelen, among others

October 28, 2005- On November 8, the United Nations will honor the unsung heroes of poverty eradication at a Gala Awards Dinner. Hosting the event is Academy Award winner Tim Robbins, with a performance by singing sensation Marc Anthony, who will be coming with his wife Jennifer Lopez. Other A-list celebrities will join over 400 distinguished world and business leaders, dignitaries, and the nine honorees at the gala awards dinner to be held at the United Nations, 7:45PM, with red carpet arrivals at 7:00PM.

The celebrities will present awards to the nine entrepreneurs who have traveled from poor countries worldwide. These low-income individuals have successfully used microfinance services to fight poverty and build a better future for their families. As part of the UN's International Year of Microcredit, the 2005 awards will celebrate the tremendous achievements of the recipients. The nine men and women will be flown to New York from Afghanistan, South Africa, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Peru, China, India, Bangladesh, and Malawi for this unprecedented event.

Microfinance has changed the lives of people and revitalized communities in the world's poorest and also the richest countries. Poor people have proven time and again that by accessing microcredit loans as small as \$50, they can provide better housing, education, nutrition and healthcare for their children.

"The International Year of Microcredit offers a pivotal opportunity for the international community to engage in a shared commitment to meet this challenge," said United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan.

For more information on the International Year of Microcredit, please visit www.yearofmicrocredit.org.

For more information on the Gala Awards Dinner, please contact Jennifer Litt (jlitt@pfamedia.net) at PFA, 212.334.6116 or write to: forum2005@uncdf.org. For more information about the year, visit: www.yearofmicrocredit.org