



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Martinez Foundation Raises \$433,000 at Its Inaugural Gala

Donations will Fund Scholarships to Increase Diversity in Higher Education

SEATTLE, Oct. 29, 2008 – The Martinez Foundation (www.themartinezfoundation.org), founded by former Major League All-Star Edgar Martinez and his wife Holli, announced today it has raised \$433,000 at its inaugural gala last Saturday evening, surpassing the Foundation's goal for the event by more than \$70,000.

The funds raised from the gala will support scholarship grants for graduate students of color pursuing a teaching degree from the University of Washington or Washington State University. In addition to the Masters in Teaching program, the Foundation is also providing ten undergraduate scholarships annually worth \$20,000 each for Latino students to attend any public university in Washington State.

"We are extremely grateful for the tremendous support we have received from the community," said Edgar Martinez. "Thanks to the generous support of our donors we shattered our fundraising goal and will be able to use the funds to help improve higher-educational opportunities for students of color in Washington State."

The event, held on Saturday, October 18 at the Fairmont Olympic hotel in Seattle featured a live auction with a host of exciting and 'priceless' packages. The items that drew the highest bids included:

- Texas Hold 'em with members of the 1995 Mariners - \$19,400
- Winemaker's party featuring Leonetti Cellar at the Martinez home - \$12,750
- Quilceda Creek Cabernet Sauvignon - \$15,000
- Week in a Tuscan Hillside Farmhouse - \$11,000
- Chicago Cubs experience with Lou Piniella - \$10,000

The Foundation also raised more than \$130,000 for scholarships during its Raise the Paddle portion of the evening. With the money raised the Foundation will support 10 Latino student and 10 Masters in Teaching scholarships.

"Edgar and I started this Foundation because there are very few organizations that support diversity in higher-education," said Holli Martinez. "The need to close the achievement gap has never been greater so we are honored and humbled by the outpouring of support from our community. By providing higher-education opportunities to students of color in Washington, our hope is to help close the achievement gap in our state."

About The Martinez Foundation

Founded in early 2008 by Edgar and Holli Martinez, The Martinez Foundation strives to strengthen communities by providing underserved populations with educational opportunities. Based in Bellevue, Washington, the Foundation provides scholarships to students of color in Washington State. Additional information on The Martinez Foundation can be found at www.themartinezfoundation.org.

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