



# City of Miami— Community Relations

Written & Edited by Yarenis DeFalco, OCR

## Marjorie Weber: Model Citizen

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Marjorie Weber’s commitment to her community is far from ordinary. Ms. Weber is a member of numerous organizations and boards. One of them is the Community Relations Board, in which Ms. Weber co-chairs the Programs and Community Outreach Committee. Through the CRB, Ms. Weber has provided foreclosure counseling in Little Haiti and Little Havana, served on the CRB student member selection panel, worked actively on the Hope for Haiti initiative and participated in a delegation to Washington D.C. in support of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Haitians, among other things. Aside from the CRB, she also serves as a member of the Haitian American Emergency Relief Committee (HAERC), which she helped create.

The HAERC is an organization that provides assistance for the people in Haiti and serves as a resource center for the collection and distribution of monies, foods, medicines, and other supplies needed to assist individuals in Haiti. The process begins by reaching out to donors and communities in order to collect goods/donations that can then be organized into container shipments to Haiti. Once the shipments are delivered, the HAERC makes certain that the appropriate regions and persons (i.e. those in most need) receive the donations. Thanks to individuals like Marjorie, who recognized the immediate as well as long-term needs of Haiti, this organization was created.

In addition to the CRB and the HAERC, Ms. Weber also serves as Vice Chair of SCORE Chapter 29, and through SCORE she has established a partnership with ACCION USA. These organizations provide workshops for new entrepreneurs and aide those with limited funding.

The City of Miami is honored to have such an active and devoted resident serving our community.



Marjorie Weber, CRB Member

**The Community Relations Board is currently accepting applications. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Office of Community Relations at (305)416-1351 or e-mail us at [arojas@miamigov.com](mailto:arojas@miamigov.com).**



Community Relations Board Members

**Barbara Bisno, CRB Chair**

Appointed by: Comm. Marc Sarnoff  
District 2

**Roudy Thomas, CRB Vice Chair**

Appointed by: Mayor M. Diaz

**Mary Coombs, CRB Secretary**

Appointed by: Comm. Marc Sarnoff  
District 2

**Lyse Cuellar-Vidal**

Appointed by: Comm. Tomas Regalado  
District 4

**Anthony Jennings**

Appointed by: Comm. Michelle Spence-Jones  
District 5

**Patricia Maldonado**

Appointed by: Mayor M. Diaz

**Milton Pizarro**

Appointed by Mayor M. Diaz

**Marlene Casar-Sanchez**

Appointed by: Comm. Joe Sanchez  
District 3

**Marjorie Weber**

Appointed by: Comm. Michelle Spence-Jones  
District 5

**Haydee Wheeler**

Appointed by: Comm. Tomas Regalado  
District 4

**Teresa Zorrilla-Clark**

Appointed by: Comm. Joe Sanchez  
District 3

**Brenda Shapiro**

Ex-Officio

**Jack Blumenfeld**

Ex-Officio

Office of Community Relations—Staff

**Ada Rojas, Coordinator**

[arojas@miamigov.com](mailto:arojas@miamigov.com)

305-416-1351

**Natasha Colebrook-Williams,**

Community Outreach Specialist

[ncolebrook-williams@miamigov.com](mailto:ncolebrook-williams@miamigov.com)

305-416-1035

**Yarenis DeFalco, Administrative Aide II**

[ydefalco@miamigov.com](mailto:ydefalco@miamigov.com)

305-416-1034

## Hate Comes Home

This past fall, the City of Miami Community Relations Board teamed up with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in order to implement a program geared toward diminishing tensions in regard to ethnic, racial, sexual preference, religion, and/or other differences in schools. The CRB sponsored the *Hate Comes Home* workshop at two schools in City of Miami.

The first workshop was held on Wednesday, September 17th, 2008 at Dade Marine Institute. Dade Marine Institute is a member of the Associated Marine Institutes, which is a non-profit organization that provides rehabilitative services for young offenders. The ADL workshop provided at Dade Marine is in tune with the schools goal: to make a positive change in attitude and behavior. Through the *Hate Comes Home* workshop, students develop the necessary critical-thinking and problem-solving skills needed to prevent hate-motivated behavior.

The second *Hate Comes Home* workshop was done at Booker T. Washington Senior High School on Thursday, October 23rd, 2008. The students at Booker T. Washington received the same lessons that in turn will help them make the right decisions concerning discrimination, prejudices, peer pressure, and other biases.

## Hope for Haiti: Caribbean Relief Effort



During the month of September, several Caribbean Islands, including Turks and Caicos, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba, and Haiti were affected by Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, as well as Tropical Storm Hanna. More extensive damage occurred in Cuba and Haiti, which were directly hit by the storms.

Hundreds of people were killed, and many more were left without food, water, and shelter.

Spearheaded by Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones, the City of Miami embarked on a food and clothing drive for hurricane victims. Donations were accepted at the office of Commissioner Spence-Jones, the Miami Riverside Center, Dolphin Stadium, as well as other locations. The Donations at Dolphin Stadium were received by Goodwill Ambassadors, who were activated by the City Manager to assist in this worthy cause.

On September 19, 2008, Commissioner Spence-Jones, as well as twenty other individuals, travelled to Haiti to deliver the 50,000 pounds of food, water, and clothing that were donated.

## CRB Presents Author Mia Kirshner at Miami Book Fair International



The Miami Book Fair International is a street fair that hosts a series of exhibitions, author readings, book signings, theatrical presentations, and of course, hundreds of booksellers. The mission of the fair is to “promote reading, encourage writing, and heighten an awareness of literacy and the literacy arts in our multiethnic community.”

The Community Relations Board had the honor of being a presenter at the 2008 Miami Book Fair International. Barbara Bisno, Chairperson of the CRB,

introduced author Mia Kirshner on Sunday, November 16, 2008. Ms. Kirshner is the author of *I Live Here*, a paper documentary depicting the lives of refugees and displaced people through journals, stories, images, and graphic novellas.

### CRB Mission

*The City of Miami Community Relations Board’s mission is to foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect among the diverse population that resides in the City.*

## The 76th United States Conference of Mayors

The City of Miami served as the host city for the 76<sup>th</sup> United States Conference of Mayors, held on June 19-24, 2008. Extensive planning was necessary to make the conferences and the evening events memorable. To this end, the Office of Community Relations engaged in the recruitment, training and organization of over 200 volunteers. In this capacity, the OCR maintained correspondence with volunteers, organized parking and transportation, produced a training manual and administrated several training sessions, assigned volunteer duties, and provided on-site supervision. Thanks to the Goodwill Ambassadors and the City of Miami employees who volunteered at this event, the U.S. Conference of Mayors was a success!



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For more information on upcoming meetings and/or events please call the Office of Community Relations at 305-416-1034.

*“ Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*

- Margaret Mead

**For Newsletter Inquiries or Letters to the Editor Contact:**

Yarenis DeFalco  
ydefalco@miamigov.com

**Community Relations Board Meeting**

3rd Thursday of each month  
Miami Riverside Center  
444 SW 2nd Avenue, 10th Floor Conference Room  
Miami, Florida 33130  
6:00 PM

**CRB Programs & Community Outreach Committee Meeting**

4th Wednesday of each month  
Location to be Announced  
12:00PM

**CRB Law Enforcement Committee Meeting**

3rd Tuesday of each month  
Location to be announced  
6:00 P.M.

## CRB Calendar for January 2009

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Holiday Party	12	13	14	15	16 MLK Day of Service	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Community Relations Board Meeting	CRB Sponsored Event
Programs & Community Outreach Committee Meeting	CRB Supported Event
Law Enforcement Committee Meeting	Holiday (City Closed)

*For more information on events please contact the Office of Community Relations at 305.416.1351*