

Hilda Rossi's biography

"10 influential Hispanic Canadians" program
Tuesday Nov. 18, 6:00 to 9:30 pm
Spirale Banquet Hall (www.spirale.net)

Hilda Rossi was born in Guatemala and at early age dreamed of helping others. She has dedicated herself to humanitarian work in Central America and ethnic communities in Canada. In 1964 Hilda immigrated to Canada, married four years later and has 2 sons. When her youngest son was diagnosed as hard of hearing, she devoted herself to assisting him and sensitizing the educational system to children with special needs. While working at Oakville Hospital, from where she recently retired after 17 years, she shared the idea to create the "Accent Reduction Program" in the Speech Language Pathology Department; it was not successful because of its cost. As well she helped Hispanic patients with translations.

In October, 1998 Hurricane Mitch devastated Central America, particularly the impoverished natives Mayan Chorti of the Meredon Mountains of Guatemala. Since then, Hilda has worked tirelessly to help these Guatemalans. Hilda created CCARE-Canadian Central American Relief Effort- a NGO for humanitarian work in Guatemala. CCARE is a group of dedicated volunteers attempting to make a difference in the lives of people devastated by the forces of nature while also teaching self sufficiency. Hilda has fundraised and directed 9 humanitarian journeys to Guatemala. She has received numerous awards from the Halton Multicultural Council and the Mayan Chorti communities. She was also awarded the Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Rotary Foundation in 2003 and nominated for the Halton Woman of the Year Award by the Halton Women's Center in 2005.

Hilda continues to inspire and to influence people of all nationalities to work for those who are in so much need outside of Canada.

October 21, 2008

Congratulations on being nominated to the second edition of the "10 most influential Hispanic Canadians". The event takes place the evening of Tuesday, November 18 (6:00 to 9:30 pm) in Toronto. Specific details will be provided in a few days.

Please note that this event is not a competition, but rather a celebration on the achievements of our community. The program motivates our community to reach its potential and showcases our talent to the Canadian society. There are 37 approved nominees (a total of 41 submissions) coming in from as far as British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, Ontario and even Mexico, representing 15 countries. Last night, the profiles of all 37 nominees were submitted to the 12 judges who will rank and select 20 finalists. The names of the 20 finalists will be revealed at the awards ceremony on Nov. 18.

The judges will rank all nominees on a scale of 1 to 100% (100 being the highest) based on the following five criteria:

- Entrepreneurship
- Influence in the Canadian mainstream
- Education
- Achievements & Awards
- Support of the Hispanic community and Volunteerism

Attendees to the awards ceremony will select their top 10 choices. The ten winners will be determined using a weighted average: half of the weight comes from the combined percentages of the judges and half from the combined rankings of all attendees. The winners will be announced the same evening.

Attendance

We have reserved one complimentary ticket for you. We encourage you to bring more guests and to help this program grow. Tickets cost \$50 per person and include tapas dinner. There will be plenty of networking. **Only pre-registered guests will be allowed.** To date, we have sold 540 tickets and only 160 remain available.

Each nominee can bring up to nine guests. Should you want to bring any guests, please indicate their full names and titles so we can place you in the same table and create nametags. One single invoice will be sent to you for processing.

Regards, Mauricio Ospina mauricio.ospina@HispanicBusiness.ca T. 416 434 8545