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PRESS ADVISORY

Operation HOPE and ACCESS Miami Team Up to Provide Financial Literacy Services in the City's Parks and Recreation Centers

Financial counseling initiative offered to help Miami residents understand the 'language of money'

(Miami, FL – October 23, 2009) – City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz and Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones joined America's "silver rights" leader, and Operation HOPE Founder, Chairman and CEO John Hope Bryant today to announce **Access HOPE**, a youth and adult financial literacy counseling service program that will deliver free services through the City's Parks and Recreation centers and schools.

"Financial literacy is an integral component in the fight against poverty," said Mayor Diaz, "and Access HOPE represents a special hybrid of our existing efforts to combat poverty in our city. This is great example of how we are investing in our city's residents and our shared future."

ACCESS Miami and the City of Miami partnered with financial literacy and empowerment nonprofit, Operation HOPE, developing a program that will help Miamians make the most of their money. The following services are being offered:

- Youth and Adult Financial Literacy (Online),
- Credit Seminars,
- Foreclosure Prevention Seminars,
- Home Buyer Seminars,
- Consumer Credit Counseling,
- Foreclosure Prevention Counseling,
- Home Buyer Counseling,
- Earn Income Tax Credit Assistance.

In addition to the Parks and Recreation centers, the initiative will provide its award-winning youth financial literacy program, **Banking on Our Future**, to schools in the city.

Theodore Carter, HOPE Board Member and Director, Managing Executive Public Institutions and Education Solutions – The Americas and HOPE EVP and Chief of HOPE Banking Center Network, Lance Triggs, were among the community, education, business, and government leaders who came out to support the initiative.

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About ACCESS Miami

ACCESS Miami is a citywide, comprehensive empowerment strategy aimed at increasing residents' access to the financial tools and education that are fundamental to economic prosperity and success. The ACCESS model aspires to equip the entire community with the wealth-building tools necessary for economic self-sufficiency. To learn more, please visit www.ACCESSMiamiJobs.com.

About Operation HOPE, Inc.

Operation HOPE is America's leading nonprofit social investment banking and financial literacy empowerment organization. With more than 400 private sector partners, 1500 nonprofit organizations and schools, and 100 government partners in 68 major U.S. cities as well as South Africa, HOPE has raised more than \$500 million in its pursuit of educating, assisting and inspiring the next generation of global stakeholders. Through international initiatives and its three principal programs, Banking on Our Future (teaching school children about money), HOPE Coalition America (Mortgage HOPE Crisis Hotline, 1-888-388-HOPE, financial emergency preparedness and disaster relief), and Walk-In HOPE Centers (loans, bill pay, computer literacy, understanding banking principles), Operation HOPE has delivered services to more than one million low-wealth individuals and assumed the responsibility of piloting the Silver Rights Movement towards making free enterprise and capitalism relevant to all underserved communities. To learn more about HOPE, visit www.operationhope.org. or read our blog at www.operationhope.org/blog.