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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE UNVEILING OF THE INAUGURAL RAVEN MARIA BLANCO FOUNDATION, INC. MASQUERADE BALL

*Join us in support of a most worthwhile cause amidst mystery and intrigue!*

VIRGINIA BEACH, Virginia (August 31, 2010) – The Raven Maria Blanco Foundation, Inc. [RMBF] is hosting its Inaugural Charity Masquerade Ball on October 24<sup>th</sup> at The Contemporary Arts Center of Virginia. The event, MasqueRaven, aims to enhance community awareness and generate support for a number of RMBF initiatives. This black tie affair is set amidst an atmosphere of art, performance, discussion, and magic.

RMBF plans to announce a number of initiatives, including increasing the awareness of medical emergency preparedness in dental offices across the United States, supply collection, distribution, and assistance of at-risk, orphaned children overseas. The Masquerade Ball is the first step towards celebrating changing lives – one child at a time. Entertainment includes pianist Joshua Guzman and Neo soul singer Javon Maye. DJ Rodney Charles of Arch Entertainment will be spinning sweet sounds accompanied by the lighting effects of Blue Steel Lighting Design. Artist Aunia Kahn has donated a signed piece commemorating the event; the piece will be available for purchase via a silent auction. In addition, APRO/USRA certified instructor Malia Kamahoahoa Bailey and her daughter Kelani Bailey have donated a one-hour private racquetball lesson guaranteed to take your game to the next level. Dr. Ellie Phillips, D.D.S. and author, has donated 100 copies of her book about maintaining a truly healthy mouth through preventive care, which was dedicated to Raven. Dr. Phillips' book will be on sale for \$10 at the event. All proceeds of these sales go directly to RMBF. Ellie is teaming up with RMBF to promote fun healthy alternatives to help keep children smiling. Professional award-winning photographers Scott and Adina Hayne of Scott Hayne Photography will capture the night through flashes of brilliance, while Sweetwater Cuisine, one of Hampton Roads premier caterers will be tantalizing your taste buds with scrumptious southern inspired cuisine. And for the children, delights and illusion as a magician dazzles the mind. Black tie/Venetian Masquerade Ball attire and mask is required for entry. Children are encouraged to attend in costume for a night of having fun and raising funds.

Founded in 2009 two years after the death of eight year old Raven, RMBF's first annual ball honors the 19 children that have passed away due to medical emergencies with complications during their dental procedures. RMBF also honors the families of these 19 children for what they have endured and will dedicate the pursuit of medical emergency preparedness reform in dental offices to them. RMBF is partnering with Dr. Larry Sangrik to bring a Continuing Education Memorial Lecture to the Hampton Roads dental community in hopes of reducing the amount of unprepared reactions to medical emergencies. Dr. Sangrik, a nationally renowned speaker who has lectured to over 7500 dental professionals on this topic, has joined the RMBF team as the National Director of Medical Emergency Preparedness. Dr. Sangrik will be a guest speaker at the ball, introducing the Six Links of Survival concept developed by the Institute of Medical Emergency Preparedness [IMEP].

It is the music, the art, and the magic of charity that will transform the lives of thousands of children in need of protection, compassion, hope, and understanding.

For more information and to purchase tickets to the event, visit <http://www.rmbfinc.org>. For donation or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Nicole Cunha at 757.222.8676.

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