

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Honored for Contributions to Saving Sight Ambassador Guillermo Castillo, Former Ambassador to the United States from Guatemala

Washington, DC, May 8, 2008—Ambassador Guillermo Castillo, former Ambassador to the United States from Guatemala was honored by the International Eye Foundation (IEF) at the annual *Promotion of Peace and Vision Awards* reception in Washington, DC on Thursday evening, May 8, 2008.

The Executive Committee of the International Eye Foundation selected Ambassador Castillo to receive the 2007 *Promotion of Peace and Vision Award* for a Community Member. The ceremony was held at the beautiful and historic Twin Oaks Estate in Northwest Washington, hosted and sponsored by the Representative to the United States from Taiwan and Mrs. Joseph Wu.

The *Promotion of Peace and Vision Awards* were created by the Board of Directors in 1997 to recognize individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the IEF's mission of restoring sight and preventing blindness through their active involvement and support. The Awards are dedicated to the vision expressed by IEF founder Dr. John Harry King, Jr. "...the promotion of peace through the prevention of blindness."

Ambassador Castillo has demonstrated his dedication to IEF since his arrival in Washington, DC to take up the ambassadorial post in 2004. Ambassador Castillo and his wife have graciously hosted IEF events in their home and supported program efforts in collaboration with government ministries of health and donors. His expertise in business has provided valuable guidance for IEF's financial stability. Recently he personally led a group of IEF Board members on a trip to Guatemala visiting successful IEF partner hospitals and clinics. Ambassador Castillo's support of IEF and his dedication to its mission have been of the highest level.

The International Eye Foundation, based in Kensington, MD, USA prevents blindness and restores sight in the developing world. Founded in 1961 and in "official relations" with the World Health Organization, IEF works at the grassroots and national policy levels focusing on clinical and surgical eye care services, vitamin A deficiency/child survival and 'river blindness' control, and expanding the availability of ophthalmic instruments, supplies and equipment. IEF's major initiative focuses on management and sustainability of eye care institutions to improve the quality, efficiency, and availability of eye care worldwide.

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