



AVANCE Houston hosts annual celebration

Love was all around during AVANCE Houston's 2010 Annual Celebration held Feb. 12, at the Houston Hilton Post Oak.

AVANCE Houston has an office in *Leader County* located at 4281 Dacoma. The agency was celebrating another successful year of service to the community, while honoring the award-winning entrepreneur and executive chef Michael J. Cordúa and his wife Lucia.

Cordúa stepped up to receive his award as nearly 400 guests applauded his triumphs as a restaurateur and

his numerous contributions to the community.

Cordúa's determination to help those in need is not only reflected through his contributions and support of programs like AVANCE, but also through how he encourages his employees to achieve.

"Our restaurants do the same thing AVANCE does; we help our hard-working employees and encourage them to pursue the goal of the American Dream, and that's what AVANCE does for the economically challenged families in the community,"

said Cordúa.

Guests in attendance included Mayor Annise Parker, AVANCE Inc. President/CEO Rick Noriega and Councilmember Melissa Noriega, Amegy Bank Board member Paul B. Murphy Jr., Rice University Professor Dr. Stephen Klineberg and General Counsel of Mexico Carlos Ignacio Gonzales-Magallon.

"Education is the key to our dreams, and it is the gift to give to the future," said Parker, "AVANCE educates the entire family and that's what distinguishes it from other programs, and that's

why I support AVANCE and we all should support AVANCE."

She concluded her message by recognizing the efforts made by all supporters who made the celebration possible.

"Thank you for shaping the future for all us," she said.

The event broke records by becoming the most productive celebration in the history of AVANCE.

All proceeds raised from this event will be used for the agency's Parent and Child education program which includes classes in parenting, adult literacy, GED, English and computer training.

The evening began with a silent auction followed by a live runway performance by the Houston Texans cheerleaders and community leaders' recognitions. KPRC Channel 2's traffic anchor/reporter Jennifer Reyna emceed this celebration, which also featured casino and dancing.

Since 1988, AVANCE-Houston has served more than 30,000 children and their parents through comprehensive, community-based education programs.