



## ***Hands On Miami and MetLife Serve Miami Through Two Simultaneous Community Service Events***

MIAMI, April 3, 2009 -- Hands on Miami and MetLife held two simultaneous community service events today. Roots in the City and the Linda Ray Center were the benefactors of the work of approximately 150 MetLife volunteers.

MetLife added new garden beds, laid sod in the garden and planted vegetables in partnership with Roots in the City, which the local residents may freely utilize. The location is on NW 3rd Avenue and NW 10th Street in Miami. Roots In The City seeks to use ecology improvements to positively change the quality of life for city residents, not only through beautification projects, but also through employment in ecologically oriented activities.

For the Linda Ray Children's Center, MetLife gave the site a facelift by painting hallways, a community room and several murals in the building, as well as landscaping the children's play area. Located in an inner-city neighborhood, the Linda Ray Center is a multi-service, early intervention program for infants and toddlers with identified developmental delays coupled with prenatal exposure to cocaine, and associated family risk factors.

"We are excited to have worked with MetLife on these two projects. As community needs rise, I applaud MetLife for working with HOM to provide resources to both Roots in the City and the Linda Ray Center," said Mia Batlle, development director, Hands On Miami.

MetLife and its local sales office Cypress Financial Group, was the host of the two community service events, in partnership with the MetLife Employee Volunteer Program.

"MetLife has always been committed to making a positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities. Today, more than ever, many people and organizations are in need of a helping hand," said Gil D. Cohen, managing director, Cypress Financial Group, an office of MetLife. "We are honored to serve our community in this way.

### ***About Hands On Miami***

Since 1993, Hands On Miami, in partnership with United Way, is Miami-Dade's premier resource for volunteering. HOM provides flexibly scheduled, meaningful, direct service volunteer opportunities. In partnership with schools, social service and environmental

organizations, HOM organizes more than 85 service events each month.  
[www.handsonmiami.org](http://www.handsonmiami.org).

***Hands On Miami's Corporate Social Responsibility Consulting Group:*** At a fee for service, Hands On Miami lends its experience and expertise in developing an employee volunteer program, organizing and leading group employee volunteer projects, and providing on-site orientations to enable employees to participate individually in Hands On Miami's other programs.

***About MetLife and Cypress Financial Group***

MetLife, Inc. is a leading provider of insurance, employee benefits and financial services with operations throughout the United States and the Latin America, Europe and Asia Pacific regions. Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, MetLife, Inc. reaches more than 70 million customers around the world and MetLife is the largest life insurer in the United States (based on life insurance in-force). The MetLife companies offer life insurance, annuities, auto and home insurance, retail banking and other financial services to individuals, as well as group insurance and retirement & savings products and services to corporations and other institutions. For more information, visit [www.metlife.com](http://www.metlife.com).

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