

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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English contact: Melanie Cawthon

melanie@rmihomes.org

656-6674 (o) | 508-8429 (c)

Spanish contact: Ariana Bocanegra

arianabocanegra@gmail.com

389-2663(c)

Fiesta Especial® is an official Fiesta® event created for individuals with disabilities & families. | April 19 & 20 | 10a – 4p | FiestaEspecial.com

RMI Announces the 2013 Fiesta Especial® Royal Court

Nine children and adults with disabilities to be crowned in special celebration, raising \$16,600 for programs and services benefiting individuals with special needs. These individuals will represent Fiesta Especial®, an official Fiesta® event created for children and adults with disabilities and families.

Sat., Feb. 16 | 5 – 7p.m. | Ceremony @ 6:15p.m. | Event Center, Morgan's Wonderland | 5223 David Edward Dr.

On Saturday, Feb. 16, nine individuals with disabilities, ranging in age from 2 years to 18 years of age, will be crowned in a special coronation ceremony as the 2013 Fiesta Especial® Royal Court .

The ceremony is scheduled to take place at 6:15 p.m., following the Hand-in-Hand Runway Show event to benefit Monarch Academy and Morgan's Wonderland. Fiesta® San Antonio Commission CEO John Melleky and the 2012 Miss Fiesta will crown the 2013 Fiesta Especial® Royal Court with the assistance of Kory Davison, Mr. Teen San Antonio and Melissa Cochran, 2012 Fiesta Especial® Queen. Just like many other Fiesta® dignitaries, these nine individuals have earned their positions on the court by raising funds in support of programs and services that benefit children and adults with disabilities in the San Antonio community. **Together, these nine individuals raised over \$16,600 to help other people in need!**

This year's Fiesta Especial® Royal Court members represent five organizations that will benefit from their fundraising efforts: Converse Elementary Special Education Department, Monarch Academy, Clark High School Friends Having Fun, Down Syndrome Association, Alliance for Pediatric Providers and Fiesta Especial®, an official Fiesta® event provided by Reaching Maximum Independence, Inc. (RMI). Fiesta Especial®, held April 19 & 20, became an official Fiesta® event in 2006. The event was started by the students of River City Christian School and is continued today by RMI.

Reaching Maximum Independence, Inc. (RMI) is a local nonprofit assisting adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach their maximum level of independence through residential and vocational supports. RMI supports the disability community at large by playing a key leadership role in community events such as Fiesta Especial® and AccessAbility Fest.

Tickets to the runway show and Coronation are available for purchase online at <http://tinyurl.com/ahhn9u9> for \$50/person. Proceeds benefit Morgan's Wonderland and Monarch Academy.

"We're breaking new ground for inclusion in the community to have a royal court experience for people with disabilities. It is a very important step in a wonderful direction." said Melanie Cawthon, lead planning coordinator for the Fiesta Especial® and Director of Marketing and Resource Development for Reaching Maximum Independence, Inc. This is the second year for the Fiesta Especial® Royal Court. Over the two years combined, children and adults with disabilities have raised a total of \$ 38,968 for other individuals in need.

Fiesta Especial® King & Queen, representing Clark H.S. Friends Having Fun Club: Tristan Gentry, age 16, raised \$7,980 and Chelsea Figueroa, age 16, raised \$1,930

Fiesta Especial® Prince & Princess, representing Alliance of Pediatric Providers of SA: Damian Perry, age 7, raised \$835 and Jolene Martin, age 2, raised \$956

Fiesta Especial® Duke & Duchess, representing Monarch Academy: Gabriel "Gabe" Hey, age 18, raised \$1,322 and Elizabeth "Lizzy" Oveland, age 17, raised \$1,522

Fiesta Especial® Pages: Amir Merrill, age 8, Representing Converse Elementary Special Ed., raised \$482; Destiney Tavera, age 9, Representing Converse Elementary Special Ed., raised \$482 and Gabriela Martinez, age 10, representing Down Syndrome Association of South Texas, raised \$1,099

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