

NEWS RELEASE
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Warwick's Melissa Morales named as 'Real Rhode Islander'

(Providence & Warwick Rhode Island, USA) Melissa Morales of Warwick was officially named Saturday night as a winner of the first annual "Real Rhode Islander" contest in front of a packed crowd of onlookers and finalists at Monet Lounge in Providence.

Melissa won from a field of several hundred initial nominees, nearly a hundred of which were personally interviewed by a panel of official judges at three locations over three weeks time. As one of nearly sixty (60) finalists, she is now officially one of the 15 women to appear on the official 2009 calendar. A similar calendar with 15 men is also being produced.

Thirty winning contestants judged to be "Real Rhode Islanders" will be featured on two distinct calendars, sales of which will benefit the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation.

Contestants between the ages of 21 and 60 were judged during live interviews on the successes they portrayed, the goodness of their "inner being," their positive impact on the community and their photogenic qualities. They had to live in Rhode Island to qualify, and many contestants were also either cancer survivors or had family members that suffered from the disease.

'Real Rhode Islander' charity calendar concept originator Stacey Caputi announced that the calendars will be released in time for Breast Cancer awareness month in October 2008 and will be available at all Tim Hortons, Curves, Gloria Gemma Foundation events, Brown book store, online and numerous other store locations to be announced. The calendar will sell for \$19.99 and proceeds raised will benefit the Gloria Gemma Cancer Research Foundation.

According to the cancer society, one out of every eight women will be affected by breast cancer at some point in their lives. Chances of developing breast cancer increase with age and eighty percent (80%) of women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of the disease.

This annual event is being sponsored by Tim Hortons, Monet Lounge, Sentinel Limousine, The 1149 Restaurant, Omnia Agency, Martinelli Caputi Ltd, Roba Dolce, Newport Storm Beer, Ruths Chris Steak House, Rum Jungle, RI Sports Review, Belmont Market and Curves Fitness.

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