



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**First Annual Country Hoedown Corrals the Community**

Southwest Ranches, Florida – February 5, 2010 – Over 200 guests attended the South Florida Urban Ministries First Annual Country Hoedown Fundraiser last Friday at New Horizon United Methodist Church in Southwest Ranches, Florida. Despite warnings of rain from the clouds above, guests arrived en masse and flooded the New Horizon grounds, excited about the fundraiser and the festivities.

Guests enjoyed the delicious BBQ served by Char Hut as well as the fantastic live country music by The Ramblers, who entertained the crowd. An impressive Patsy Kline impersonator wowed the audience as people took a double take, and danced to her arrangements. The mechanical bull was a huge hit among the children and youth, while even some adults dared to ride the bucking bull. Later in the evening, it began to pour as people ran for cover, yet the fun could not be washed out. Guests continued to line dance in the rain and many stayed until the end of the event to mingle with friends, family and fellow church members.

A huge thank you goes out to the generous anonymous sponsor who helped underwrite a portion of the event, as well as the Florida Turnpike who provided fun 511 goodie bags which were handed out as guests left the event to return home.

*“We appreciate the many stakeholders who support our mission throughout the community. The Hoedown Benefit is one way we sustain our work,” said Brent McLaughlin, Executive Director of South Florida Urban Ministries. “We are grateful to our sponsors and to everyone who came out to support our Broward focused initiatives. We are especially excited to be able to serve through providing life-changing ministries to our neighbors in need.”*

Recently, South Florida Urban Ministries celebrated the opening of the United Way Center for Financial Stability which is located on its North Miami property. South Florida Urban Ministries runs and operates the Center and is very proud of its partnership with United Way which brings together more than 14 local agencies under one roof to offer a wide array of tools and resources that can help families achieve greater financial stability and independence.

To learn more about South Florida Urban Ministries, please visit [www.sflum.org](http://www.sflum.org) or contact Isabelle Benditte at 305-442-8306.

**About South Florida Urban Ministries**

South Florida Urban Ministries (SFLUM) empowers people to move from poverty to prosperity. SFLUM partners with local organizations, including churches, to create and expand ministries of compassion and justice in neighborhoods throughout Southeast Florida. SFLUM provides child & youth development through its Branches after-school mentoring and tutoring programs, as well as small business development training, hunger relief and financial assistance services.



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