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## ‘Citizen Diplomat’ Honored For Work In Rehabilitating Glue Sniffing Nicaraguan Youth

### *As Featured in ‘CAFE CHAVALOS: Overcoming the Streets’*

Documentary Film Available on DVD March 17, 2009

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LOS ANGELES, CA (February 5, 2009) – Donna Tabor, a former Pittsburgh television producer and Peace Corps volunteer has been honored by the US Center for Citizen Diplomacy for her work in establishing a restaurant and rehabilitation center, Café Chavalos, in Nicaragua. Tabor and the café are the focus of a heart-wrenching, yet inspiring documentary which follows four Nicaraguan teens who are battling addiction to glue-sniffing to dull the desperation of poverty. ***CAFE CHAVALOS: Overcoming the Streets*** will be available on DVD March 17, 2009 at an SRP of \$19.95.

Tabor joined the Peace Corps, after fifteen years as a television producer in Pennsylvania and was assigned to Granada in 1998. After her service term was finished, she became a full-time volunteer and founding member of a small non-profit non-governmental organization, Building New Hope (BNH). With her creative guidance, the organization has developed alternative education and skills training programs for young children and at-risk youth. Café Chavalos is one of the programs created by BNH to help troubled teens find a new direction in life by learning the restaurant trade.

Nicaragua’s oldest city, Granada, has been struggling with unemployment, poverty and violence since the revolution in the 1980s. The once strikingly beautiful streets of Granada are now littered with street kids, also known as ‘*chavalos*,’ who are addicted to sniffing glue. Due to its affordability and accessibility, a shocking 70% of the town’s youth are believed to be users. First-time director and Nicaraguan native, Alberto Chamorro, crafts a moving and compassionate story of four young men who overcome the streets and their addiction through the power of hope. ***CAFE CHAVALOS: Overcoming the Streets*** is a painstaking observation of transformation of the troubled youth, as well as the changing city that has been defined by its circumstances and not by its beauty. The soundtrack features local Nicaraguan reggaeton artist, Perrozompo.

#### **SYNOPSIS:**

***CAFE CHAVALOS: Overcoming the Streets*** follows Orlando, Oscar, Juan Carlos and Moises as they attempt to rehabilitate their lives through a program called Café Chavalos – a culinary school, restaurant and rehabilitation center in Granada, Nicaragua. In their young lives, they have endured drug use, gang violence, abuse and family suicides, but have miraculously found hope through this program. They learn to cook, wait tables and run a business. However, during the course of their rehabilitation, the café runs into financial problems, loses its head chef and is forced to close.

Can the boys use what they have learned to help bring a new and better Café Chavalos to life?

-More-



For downloadable images visit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cinematlibre/sets/72157613539670889/>

To view the trailer visit: <http://flickr.com/photos/cinematlibre/3289027018/>

And to learn more about the non-profit, Building New Hope, visit the official website here:  
<http://www.buildingnewhope.org/>

**About Cinema Libre Studio:**

Cinema Libre Studio is a haven for independent filmmakers with one-stop shopping for production and distribution. The company has been a leader in distributing social issue films with a full array of offerings including: acquisitions, theatrical distribution, international & television sales, grassroots outreach, digital download and post-production services. Headquartered in Los Angeles, the company is best known for distributing award-winning films that include: 'Outfoxed', 'Uncovered: The War on Iraq', 'The Empire in Africa,' and Participant Media's 'Angels In The Dust.' The company will release 'The End of Poverty?' in select US theatres in September 2009. For more information, please visit [www.cinematlibrestudio.com](http://www.cinematlibrestudio.com).

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