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MCW Communications Team  
+1.212.453.5811 / +1.646.262.2123  
info@miraclecorners.org



**MIRACLE CORNERS TO HOST FIFTH GALA FUNDRAISER IN NEW YORK**

**Ali Velshi, the Rwandan People, and Leading Dental Equipment Companies to Receive Top Honors**

**NEW YORK, March 5, 2009** – Miracle Corners of the World (MCW) today announced that Ali Velshi, CNN's chief business correspondent, will be honored at its 2009 annual gala dinner. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 1st, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Kimmel Center for University Life at New York University, beginning with a silent auction, followed by dinner and a program.

Ali Velshi, co host of CNN's weekly business show *Your \$\$\$\$*, will be presented with MCW's Leadership Award, in recognition of his efforts to educate viewers around the world on the basics of international and national finance, markets and economics. The timing of the award corresponds with the recent publication of *Gimme My Money Back: Your Guide to Beating the Financial Crisis*, one of the first books out on the current financial crisis.

With Rwanda's 15-year commemoration of the genocide, MCW will present an award to the people of Rwanda in recognition of their commitment to build a peaceful, stable and reconciled country after one of this century's most tragic events. The award also highlights MCW's appreciation to the Rwandan people for supporting the non-profit's efforts to build its fourth community center outside Kigali, Rwanda. The center—made possible by the generous support of MCW's supporters—is expected to open its doors in later this year.

MCW will also present the MCW Leadership Award to Anne Eiting Klamar, President and CEO of Midmark Corporation, and John Spencer, President of Dental Components International (DCI), in recognition of their efforts to advance Tanzania's oral healthcare services and treatment.

Jacqueline Murekatete, the founder of Jacqueline's Human Rights Corner, an MCW program devoted to raising awareness of the crime of genocide and improving the lives of survivors in Rwanda, will also be recognized for her work. The gala will also celebrate the work of a number of young leaders, who have volunteered on MCW community building projects in Rwanda, Tanzania and Sierra Leone during the last year.

Brooklyn chef and restaurateur Pierre Thiam, who was born and raised in Senegal, will contribute one of his recipes for popular African street food, to the evening's menu.

More than 400 guests, from the diplomatic corps, non profit world, and corporate and business communities, are expected to attend the 2009 gala, alongside educators, activists, media and community leaders interested in youth empowerment, community development, and Africa.

Reservations can be made by email at [info@miraclecorners.org](mailto:info@miraclecorners.org) or by telephone at +1-212-453-5811.

Admission for the gala is \$350 per person. Tables for 8 range from \$5,000 to \$25,000; two premier tables for 16 guests total go for \$100,000. Proceeds benefit MCW and its work worldwide.

**About Miracle Corners of the World (MCW)**

Miracle Corners of the World (MCW) is a non-profit organization that empowers youth to become positive agents of change, to improve their lives and contribute to their communities. Based in New York, MCW serves youth worldwide through leadership training, community development, oral healthcare, and partner initiative programs. For more information on MCW, visit [www.miraclecorners.org](http://www.miraclecorners.org).

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