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Making a world of difference in a world of facial differences

Contact: Debbie Oliver, Executive Director

Phone: (888) 486-1209

E-Mail: debbie@ameriface.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERIFACE PROGRAM DIRECTOR ROBIN REMELE HONORED IN CHICAGO

Maven|Promotions Presents the Diva Series: Angels - Women in Philanthropy

Chicago, IL – Sarah Vargo, founder and president of Maven|Promotions, announced today the company’s partnership with Today’s Chicago Woman and the Aparecio Foundation to honor influential and successful women involved with local non-profit organizations and philanthropic activities in the Chicagoland area.

“The Diva Series honors exceptional women in media, public relations, fashion, fitness, performing arts and the non-profit sector,” said Vargo, whose name has been synonymous with A-list events since she began her career with some of the nation’s top talent and promotion agencies.

“My real passion is for philanthropy,” she said, “and Maven|Promotions allows me to successfully unite both worlds.”

On December 2, the firm and their partners will recognize Robin Remele, program director for AmeriFace, a national organization supporting children and adults born with craniofacial conditions like cleft lip and palate. Clefts are the most common birth defect in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“Robin represents the very best Chicago has to offer,” related Vargo. “She has taken her own experience as the mother of a child with a cleft and turned it into a life-long commitment to helping others – not just in Chicago, but across the nation and around the world.”

“I’m simply doing what comes naturally,” said Remele, overwhelmed by the honor. “I’m not used to the spotlight,” she added. “I’m more interested in shedding light on our cause.”

Remele’s youngest of three sons was born with a cleft and has received ongoing treatment, including reconstructive surgery, at the Craniofacial Center at University of Illinois Chicago under the direction of Dr. David Reisberg.

“The medical team is outstanding and has always been extremely supportive. I’m proud to say that Dr. Reisberg is also the president of our organization,” said Remele. AmeriFace will celebrate 20 years of service to the craniofacial community in 2011, she added.

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November 19, 2010

Page 2

Vargo noted that while Remele is an AmeriFace staff member, she is a volunteer, as are all staff members at the non-profit. "It's amazing that an organization of this size and prominence is run by a 100% volunteer staff," she said.

Debbie Oliver, executive director of AmeriFace, isn't surprised her colleague will be recognized for her achievements.

"Robin's commitment to patients and families runs deep," she said. "Her enthusiasm and her varied talents are a vital part of what makes AmeriFace tick."

Oliver noted that all staff members have a direct connection to the cleft/craniofacial community; they are either parents of children with facial differences or they themselves have a facial difference. Board members include medical and other professionals who are dedicated to cleft/craniofacial care and advocacy issues.

"It's their direct connection that makes the difference," she said. "Who better to help a family in need of support than someone who has themselves made the journey?"

Remele is also is a full-time employee of Westdale Park, where she works with pre-school children and assists in developing community events. She looks forward to meeting other distinguished guests at the event slated for 6:00 PM at JBar, neighboring the trendy James Hotel. The establishment will feature specialty cocktails and half-price appetizers in celebration of the honorees. Photography will be provided by Kristine Campbell of Strange Bird. RSVPs should be made to sarah@maven-chicago.com.

Additional honorees at the this Diva Series event include Janaeth Markaj, development director for One Hope United, philanthropist and civic leaderCarolynn DiAntino, and Kelly O'Brien, Vice President Corporate Partnerships and Marketing of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago.

"I'm proud to be in the company of these vibrant, incredible women," beamed Remele. "It's a powerful reminder that great things can happen when we look beyond ourselves and make the effort to pay it forward."

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About AmeriFace

EDUCATE | INSPIRE | SERVE | LEAD

The mission of AmeriFace is to provide information and emotional support to individuals with facial differences and their families and increase public understanding through awareness programs and education on behalf of those we serve. We support individuals whose facial differences are present at birth, as well as those who have acquired facial differences as a result of illness, disease or trauma, such as stroke, cancer, accident and burns. Learn more at www.AmeriFace.org or call toll-free (888) 486-1209. **AmeriFace is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public charity (#32-0085490).**

About Sarah Vargo and Maven|Promotions

Sarah Vargo developed Maven|Promotions (www.maven-chicago.com) after working at some of the nation's top talent agencies and promotional companies. She started her career at International Creative Management (ICM) as an Assistant to a Talent Agent in Concerts. After gaining experience at ICM, she worked for boutique agencies where she was able to put her skills to test through talent buying, concert promotion and media planning. As the Marketing Director of Le Passage, she worked closely with Rockit Ranch Productions who currently owns and operates The Underground and Rockit Bar and Grill. Sarah was a contributor to the NBC 5 Street Team and was the Promotions Director for "24/7 Chicago. Maven is a one-stop agency for clients who seek a company that can provide brand- and value-driven events aimed at their target audience, and the media savvy to support these events through publicity and outreach.

Documents and photos are available for this release.