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Houlihan's of Columbia Hosts First Focus Night; Raises Funds for Westminster's Haiti Relief Project

Columbia, MO (March 9, 2010) – Houlihan's of Columbia galvanized their local community to host their first Houlihan's Focus Night, an event hosted on behalf of Westminster's Haiti Relief Semester Project to increase awareness of the plight of people in Haiti and to assist in raising funds for relief efforts.

Houlihan's invited the local community and the Westminster campus community to come together at Houlihan's to eat, drink and raise money for Haiti Relief. Houlihan's then donated 10 percent off all sales from the night to the cause.

"Houlihan's prides themselves on being active in the community and raising awareness to issues that effect people in all walks of life," said Diamond Tabron, Houlihan's General Manager, "What easier way to raise money for a great cause than by doing something everyone loves to do...eat! Focus Nights allow us to share our wonderful food and atmosphere with the community, while also gathering together to raise money for a good cause. It is always a gratifying experience."

In an effort to support the relief efforts for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti, Westminster College started a fundraising initiative to benefit the "Doctors Without Borders" organization.

Jill Olson, Assistant Director to Emerson Center for Leadership & Service and Social Justice/Service-Learning Office Instructor of Leadership Studies, commended Houlihan's for banding together to help raise money for the cause, "With the generosity of our local Houlihan's restaurant in Columbia, we will be able to move closer to our fundraising goal this semester to help the people of Haiti."

Houlihan's Focus Nights were created to help local non-profit organizations raise money for their cause in a fun and simple way. In addition to the Westminster Haiti Relief Project, Houlihan's of Columbia plans to host regular Houlihan's Focus Nights in which they will allow an approved non-profit organization to bring a group into the restaurant for

dinner, and then donate 10 percent of the night's sales to the organization. They invite all local non-profits to apply to be considered for a Houlihan's Focus Night.

About Houlihan's

Established in 1972, Houlihan's is a progressive concept that bridges the gap between fine dining and what people have come to expect from casual dining, priding itself on style and quality appropriate for any occasion, any day of the week. Houlihan's offers guests an inviting atmosphere, eclectic menu and energetic bar environment with creative, diverse drink offerings. Inspired by fare around the globe, Houlihan's crafts dishes made from scratch with assertive flavors, offering a unique culinary experience. Currently, 102 Houlihan's restaurants operate throughout the country, 65 of which are franchised. Houlihan's is owned by Houlihan's Restaurants, Inc. of Leawood, Kansas, a pioneer in the full-service, casual dining industry that developed and owns several restaurant concepts comprising of approximately 116 locations from coast to coast, including Bristol Seafood Grill and Bar/ J. Gilbert's Wood-Fired Steaks.

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