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LIMITED EDITION FLIP FLOPS RAISE FUNDS FOR CASA VALENTINA



MIAMI (April 23, 2008) – As part of Casa Valentina’s year-long *Walk A Mile In Her Shoes* campaign to shed light on the hardships and challenges young women face when they turn 18 and age out of foster care, the non-profit organization is promoting limited-edition Casa Valentina *Walk A Mile in Her Shoes* Flip Flops for the cause.

The black Havaianas-style flip flops feature a recurring Casa Valentina logo on the sole and a pink strap with the signature Casa Valentina heart in a house emblem. Each pair comes in a black drawstring bag featuring the Casa Valentina logo. The flip flops come in three sizes (Small 5-6, Medium 7-8, Large 9-10). They can be purchased online at www.casavalentina.org for a \$30 donation per pair (a \$5 shipping & handling fee will be added to each order). All profits benefit Casa Valentina.

“The *Walk A Mile In Her Shoes* campaign is a valuable opportunity to educate the community about the crisis young people face when they age out of foster care and about what we do at Casa Valentina, and the flip flops are a fun way for us to communicate the message,” said Chelsea Wilkerson, executive director of Casa Valentina. “From a fashion standpoint, the flip flops are an essential summer accessory and a great Mother’s Day or graduation gift. From a campaign perspective, we can all play a role in helping these young women walk on the right path towards a bright and successful future.”

Casa Valentina was formed in 2004 by a group of concerned women who acknowledged the immense challenges faced by young women who age out of foster care without the life experience, financial stability and support they need to survive on their own. Facing numerous transitional challenges, these young women are vulnerable to prostitution, incarceration, pregnancy, domestic violence, sexual abuse and homelessness. Casa Valentina’s mission is to provide young women in Miami-Dade County who age out of foster care at age 18 with safe, affordable housing and the support services they need to become successful, independent adults. Visit Casa Valentina online at www.casavalentina.org.

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