

MetLife[®]

Contacts: Zoraya E. Lee-Hamlin, 973-332-4381, Zoraya@rayzo.com
Mary Marzano, 908-497-2613, mmarzano@metlife.com



Bellaria Jaramillo, Managing Director, MetLife, Earns Central Jersey Women in Business Rising Star of the Year

New Jersey, February 2, 2011 ~ Bellaria Jaramillo, Managing Director of the Wealth Financial Group, an office of MetLife in Cranford, NJ, was recently recognized by a local radio station, Magic 98.3 FM, for her work in shaping the economic growth of Central New Jersey. Bellaria was chosen for her strong business leadership, motivational ability and commitment to her community.

Mentoring women and inspiring them to reach their full potential has always been a passion for Bellaria. Within MetLife, she created a women's networking group that offers support to women pursuing their business goals. This group motivates its members to build their careers while improving their networking skills.

"I want to allow women an opportunity to voice the concerns and challenges they face in work-life balance," she said. "Women need support and encouragement to step out of their comfort zone and embrace opportunity."

Bellaria's community work in Central New Jersey focuses on educating Latinos, minorities and the underprivileged about the importance of planning for their financial future. A component of her outreach is to work with local community leaders in developing programs that will improve the community's financial literacy.

But her work in improving the careers of women and financial literacy programs doesn't stop there.

In 2008, Bellaria spearheaded a partnership with neighboring city, the City of Elizabeth, to establish a children's financial literacy program. Her mission is to educate young adults in the community about money matters in order to set the footprint for smart money decisions they will face as adults. Currently, she is working toward enhancing the 2012 New Jersey state curriculum by providing