In New York City, on Friday, March 23, 2012, more than 150 guests gathered at the New York Athletic Club for the Gabriela Mistral Foundation’s Annual Dinner “Humanitarians to the World.” A special tribute and award was presented to President Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women for her leadership and humanitarian work on behalf of the women of the world. Special recognitions were presented to the Walkabout Foundation for their humanitarian work on behalf of the people of the world with “limited mobility,” and to Mrs. Maria Grasso for her generous and continued support of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation. On this occasion the Gabriela Mistral Foundation also celebrated its fifth anniversary.
Gabriela Mistral Foundation

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About the Gabriela Mistral Foundation

Founded in the City of New York in 2007, the Gabriela Mistral Foundation carries on the legacy of Gabriela Mistral, particularly her love and care for the children and the aged of her native country, Chile. For this purpose, the Foundation awards monetary grants to qualifying institutions that make an impact on the quality of life and/or education of Chilean children and the aged. The Gabriela Mistral Foundation also promotes the life, thought and work of Gabriela Mistral by holding special programs and events.

Program

Opening Remarks
Mario J. Paredes

Introduction and tribute to President Michelle Bachelet
Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz

Remarks
President Michelle Bachelet

Documentary
“Gabriela Mistral: Her Life, Her Legacy”

Award Presentation and Recognition of the Walkabout Foundation
Gloria Garafulich-Grabois

Remarks
Carolina Gonzalez-Bunster, Walkabout Foundation

Award Presentation and Recognition to Maria Grasso
Mario J. Paredes

Reading of Official Proclamations
Mario J. Paredes

Special Performance
Claudia Acuña

Closing Remarks
Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz

Cocktail Hour Special Performance
Patricio Molina
Pianist, Composer and Director
Kala Maxym, Soprano
Emanuel Cruz, Tenor
MS. MICHELLE BACHELET IS THE FIRST UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN WOMEN, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN JULY 2010 BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.


THE WALKABOUT FOUNDATION WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HONOR A VERY SPECIAL WOMAN. A PERSON WHO HAS SERVED THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOR 10 YEARS, AND HAS DEDICATED HER TIME TO THE MOST DISADVANTAGED. A NATIVE OF CHILE, SHE MIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES, WHERE SHE HAS BEEN MOST FORTUNATE. SHE HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH WEALTH, A WEALTH SHE HAS USED TO SERVE THE MOST NEEDY. MS. GRASSO FOUNDED THE ELQUI VALLEY FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN IN THE LAND OF GABRIELA MISTRAL. HER GENEROSITY AND PHILANTHROPIC WORK MAKE HER AN ADMIRABLE WOMAN FULL OF LOVE AND COMPASSION. THE GABRIELA MISTRAL FOUNDATION IS GRATEFUL FOR HER GENEROUS AND CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR WORK.
President Michelle Bachelet’s remarks

Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you very much for this honor.
Five years ago as the President of Chile I inaugurated the
Gabriela Mistral Foundation. Today as the Executive Director
of UN Women I receive this honor on behalf of all the women who
stood up before me and continue to stand up for what they believe in.
Tonight we stand in good company as we celebrate the fifth anniversary
of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation.

Gabriela Mistral was much more than a woman of words. She was a
woman who took sides. Famous and beloved during her lifetime all over
Latin America and Europe, she was a woman who was led by her ideals;
she believed in the power of women, in freedom, in social justice, and the
independence of peoples. She stood up for what she believed in.

Today women in all parts of the world continue to rise up and speak out
for freedom, democracy and equality. I have had the privilege to meet
many of them as I lead the newest agency of the United Nations, UN
Women. From high school students in Morocco speaking with hope
about their future, to women in Libya organizing to chart the future of
their country for the first time after 30 years of authoritarian rule, to the
young people in Uruguay organizing to end violence against women, to
the women police in Liberia working to end impunity and bring justice to
women, families and communities.

UN Women was created to deliver on a promise inscribed more than 60 years ago in the United Nations Charter, to ensure
the equal rights of men and women. To do this we have so many wonderful partners around the world. We move forward
together on the path of those who walked before us, women like Gabriela Mistral. She was a school teacher, a college
professor, a poet, a winner of the Nobel Prize, a member of the cultural committee of the League of Nations, and Chilean
consul to Madrid, Lisbon, Nice, and Naples. She was as vast as the ocean. As an educator and advocate, she strongly believed
in education as a tool for change, for children and for women. She believed in liberty, literacy and literature, as a way to
connect to each other as human beings and to advance our common humanity.

Gabriela Mistral put her stamp on several Latin American countries. She always stood up for those who were powerless.
Through her example, she gave hope, and opened opportunities for many women—women who were discriminated against,
women who were marginalized in decision-making, women who were denied the world of work and even control over their
own lives. As she campaigned for justice, Gabriela combined her educational ministry with her poetic talent to influence those
she visited. She was a crusader for social and educational reform and for mandatory primary education in Chile. In 1922 she
was able to further her influence in Mexico, where upon the invitation of Jose Vasconcelos, she helped enhance the Mexican
government’s attempts at reform of their educational system.

As a writer, as an educator, as a diplomat, Gabriela Mistral gave much thought and worked hard for equality. Before her death
she continued to call for ”equality of wages from the city to the last mountain hiding place of the earth.” One can imagine her
saying that from here in New York City to the small Andean village where she was raised in Montegrande, Chile.

I have visited her home and it was so modest, so small with just two or three rooms. And yet from this humble background
emerged a woman leader who was fully engaged in work that needed to be done at the moment, and also very much ahead
of her time. Gabriela emerged from hardship but she was fortunate because she had family members who supported her and
encouraged her to grow to reach her potential. Just imagine how many Gabrielas there are in our world today. Gabrielas who
live in rural areas with few resources, Gabrielas who live in urban slums with little support, Gabielas who dream of a better
future but whose dreams are never nurtured, never acknowledged, whose dreams remain in the shadows and darkness of the
night.
Today, as I receive this honor, I pledge that I will continue to stand up for all Gabrielas, for all women and girls so their dreams can come to light. I will stand up for universal education, for democracy, for human rights, and for justice and equality. On behalf of UN Women, I will continue to stand up for women’s equal rights, opportunity and participation, for women’s leadership in politics and peace building and for economic empowerment, and for ending the horrible violence that is committed against women and girls.

I believe, as did Gabriela, that the social, educational and economic development of a nation, and that democracy and peace grow stronger with the full and equal participation of women.

I will now leave you with the words of Gabriela, words that were spoken nearly 100 years ago:

“Las mujeres formamos un hemisferio humano. Toda Ley, todo movimiento de libertad o de cultura, nos ha dejado por largo tiempo en la sombra. Mas sabia en su inconsciencia, la naturaleza pone su luz sobre los dos flancos del planeta. Y es Ley infecunda toda ley encaminada a transformar pueblos y que no toma en cuenta a las mujeres”.

"The women form a human hemisphere. Every law, every movement for freedom or culture, has left us for a long time in the shade. Wiser in her unconsciousness, nature puts light on both sides of the planet. And it is an infertile law every law that tries to move and transform people without taking into account women."

The Gabriela Mistral Foundation is grateful to Mrs. Maria Grasso for her generosity in making this event possible.

We would also like to thank our friends with whose support and encouragement we continue to grow and bring more projects to Chile.

We recognize our Corporate Sponsors of 2011
Banco Estado, New York - Lan - ProChile - TurBus - Derco - Agricola Dalbosco

Individual Sponsors:
Juan Cappello, Alejandro Castro, Maria Grasso, Gaston Ormazabal, Caterina Oneto, Mario J. Paredes

Organizing Committee
Francisco Aguirre - Deborah - Goldzweig - Caterina Oneto - Manuel Santelices - Pola Schijman - Jackie Teplitzky
AMBASSADOR HERALDO MUÑOZ PRESENTS PRESIDENT MICHELLE BACHELET WITH THE GABRIELA MISTRAL FOUNDATION AWARD "HUMANITARIANS TO THE WORLD."
WALKABOUT FOUNDATION

GLORIA GARAFULICH-GRABOIS, DIRECTOR OF THE GABRIELA MISTRAL FOUNDATION PRESENTED A SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO THE WALKABOUT FOUNDATION FOR THEIR HUMANITARIAN WORK ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WITH “LIMITED MOBILITY.” THE WARD WAS ACCEPTED BY CAROLINA GONZALEZ-BUNSTER, CO-FOUNDER OF THE WALKABOUT FOUNDATION.
MARIO PAREDES, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE GABRIELA MISTRAL FOUNDATION PRESENTED A SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO MS. MARIA GRASSO FOR HER GENEROUS AND CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE GABRIELA MISTRAL FOUNDATION.
CLOCKWISE: PRESIDENT BACHELET, AMBASSADOR OCTAVIO ERRAZURIZ & MRS. CRISTINA T. DE ERRAZURIZ -- JUAN CAPPELLO, DENIC CATALAN & ERNIE ANASTOS -- PRESIDENT BACHELET & DORIS ATKINSON -- PRESIDENT BACHELET, MRS. JOYCE HORMAN AND FRIENDS -- PRESIDENT BACHELET, MRS. MARIA E. CUADRA AND DAUGHTERS -- ERNIE ANASTOS
THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS FOR THE GABRIELA MISTRAL FOUNDATION, PRESIDENT BACHELET AND THE WALKABOUT FOUNDATION WERE RECEIVED FROM:

NEW YORK US SENATOR KIRSTEN GILLEBRAND
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES RANGEL
CONGRESSMAN JOSE SERRANO
NEW YORK STATE SENATOR ANDRIANO ESPAILLAR
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER GUILLERMO LINARES
NEW YORK CITY COUNCILMAN YDANIS RODRIGUEZ
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT, THE HONORABLE SCOTT STRINGER

WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SPECIAL THANKS FOR MR. ALEX CASTRO FOR FACILITATING THESE SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS.
PERFORMERS

DURING THE COCKTAIL HOUR THERE WAS A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY PATRICIO MOLINA, PIANIST, COMPOSER AND DIRECTOR; KALA MAXYM, SOPRANO AND EMANUEL CRUZ, TENOR.

THE SONGS PERFORMED ARE FROM MR. MOLINA’S NEW PRODUCTION “LA SARGENTO DE LA CONCEPCION.” MR. MOLINA HAS COMPOSED AND DIRECTED THE OPERA WHICH WILL PREMIERE IN NEW YORK IN THE FALL 2012. THE GABRIELA MISTRAL FOUNDATION IS GRATEFUL FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION.
CLAUDIA ACUÑA, THE WORLD RENOWNED CHILEAN JAZZ SINGER PERFORMED A SELECTION OF GABRELA MISTRAL POEMS AS WELL AS “GRACIAS A LA VIDA.”

THE GABRIELA MISTRAL FOUNDATION IS GRATEFUL TO MS. ACUÑA FOR HER GENEROSITY.
A message from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation is grateful to all of you for your friendship and support of our mission and programs. It is our goal to continue to bring projects and programs to benefit and enrich the lives and opportunities of children and the aged in Chile as well as continuing to promote Gabriela Mistral’s life and work. Her ideas and causes are as relevant today as they were 100 years ago. She was a woman, a teacher, a diplomat and a poet who transcends generations and she continues to make an impact around the world. We are honoured to continue her legacy.

March 2012
The Executive Board of Directors of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation would like to express our deep appreciation for your friendship and it is with your support that we can continue the legacy of Gabriela Mistral to bring projects and programs to the children and seniors in need in her beloved Chile. It is also our mission to promote the life, work and legacy of Gabriela Mistral in the world.

We invite you to:
* visit our website: [www.gabrielamistralfoundation.org](http://www.gabrielamistralfoundation.org)
* and to be our friend on Facebook

"We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, and his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer ‘tomorrow,’ his name is ‘today.’"

GABRIELA MISTRAL

Gabriela Mistral Foundation
100 Park Avenue, Suite 1600
New York, New York 10017

TO THE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE GABRIELA MISTRAL FOUNDATION