



# Save the Dates

## Miami-Dade County Sister Cities Program Goodwill Mission to Tenerife, Canary Islands January 19th through 24th, 2008

The Miami-Dade County Sister Cities Program is planning a Goodwill mission to Tenerife, located in Spain's Canary Islands, to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sister Cities affiliation between the Cabildo of Tenerife and Miami-Dade County. Led by Miami-Dade County Commissioners Natacha Seijas, the ITC Chair, and Rebeca Sosa, Honorary Chair of the Tenerife Committee, the purpose of the January 19<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup> visit to the Cabildo of Tenerife is to further strengthen the government, cultural and educational ties between the two communities, and to discuss plans for future joint undertakings. The mission to Tenerife takes place following November's "Canary Island Week 2007 in Miami", the second annual exhibition that highlights the strong cultural, trade, and historical ties that have long existed between Miami-Dade County and the Canary Islands.

Located off of the northwest coast of Africa, Tenerife consists of roughly the western half of the seven island archipelago that makes up the Canary Islands. The 971,000 people who live in Tenerife are among the youngest in Spain and the European Union, and nearly 75% of them live outside the capital city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife in one of the Cabildo's 53 municipalities. The name "Tenerife" is

said to mean "snow-capped" in the language of the Canary Island's earliest inhabitants, the Guanche. The name is also most likely a reference to Mount Teide, the 12,200 foot mountain, Spain's tallest, whose snowy top can be seen for miles.

With moderate year round temperatures, modern transportation and telecommunication infrastructures, and a unique natural beauty borne of the islands' volcanic beginnings, it is no wonder that, like Miami-Dade County, Tenerife is visited by tourists from all over the world. The islands' strategic location along a trade route from the Mediterranean to the Americas has long made it a favored transshipment point for destinations in Europe and Africa, which makes the importance of international trade another similarity with Miami-Dade County.

We hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate the past fifteen years of friendship and cooperation, and as we look forward to a bright future of working together for the benefit of the residents of Tenerife and of Miami-Dade County. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Adam Peters at 305 375-5280, or by email at [apeters@miamidade.gov](mailto:apeters@miamidade.gov)