

For Immediate Release

**CITY ACCESS NEW YORK HONORS LATIN MUSIC BAND LOS CIEGOS DEL BARRIO  
FOR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS WITH FIRST ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**New York's "Blind Boys from the Hood" Will Be Honored on October 14 in Brooklyn, New York**

(NEW YORK, July 28, 2016) - **City Access New York**, a non-for-profit organization serving developmentally disabled and visually impaired communities of New York City, announces its first Annual Achievement Award honoring **Los Ciegos Del Barrio**, an all blind, multi-genre, bilingual Latin music group from New York City. City Access New York chose Los Ciegos Del Barrio (English translation: "The Blind Boys from the Hood") for their achievements and generosity to communities both locally and worldwide, and for their ability to bring together and infuse pride into the challenged community, the Latin community, and beyond. City Access New York's first Annual Achievement Award dinner honoring Los Ciegos Del Barrio will be held on Friday, October 14 in Brooklyn, NY at Knights of Columbus, 1305 86th Street at 6pm.

Los Ciegos Del Barrio performs most types of Latin music – Salsa, Merengue, Bachata, Cumbia, Bolero -- in both English and Spanish for audiences of all ages. Three of the band members were born in and around a small sector of East Harlem – "El Barrio" -- also known as Spanish Harlem. They have traveled extensively, not only in the United States and Russia, but also to Dominican Republic and Cuba. Los Ciegos Del Barrio have assisted many grassroots organizations in and out of the challenged community, with global oriented movements such as AIDS education, literacy programs, and victims of domestic violence in the Latin community.

Los Ciegos Del Barrio helped raise funds to assist earthquake victims in Haiti and Ecuador, as well as hurricane victims in New Orleans and New York. They have donated money to various causes and organizations including tsunami victims in Southeast Asia, victims of the Harlem building collapse, and the NFB and ACB (organizations for the blind).

Los Ciegos Del Barrio band members:

- **Alvin Suarez:** Director, co-executive producer, percussionist, guitarist writer and singer.
- **Derek Suarez:** Alvin's twin brother, keyboardist, bassist, percussionist, writer and lead singer
- **Arnold Vargas** (aka Machéte): Keyboardist, accordionist, harmonica player and singer.
- **Jimmy Fontanez:** co-executive producer, percussionist drummer and singer.
- **Jaime Diaz:** bassist, guitarist, writer and singer.

**About City Access New York**

**City Access New York** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works with young adults of all abilities throughout the five boroughs of New York. City Access New York identifies barriers to participation, in schools and in the community, and adapts the content and delivery of programs to the diverse needs of people with disabilities. City Access New York promotes lifelong access to information, programs and services for New Yorkers of all abilities. The organization assists individuals with Developmental and Sensory Disabilities to reach a maximum level of independence and integration into their communities and society at large through prevocational training, internships, supported and competitive employment, and social/recreational activities.

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