

## Club Omni Latin dance to benefit HELP International

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On Friday night, hundreds of Latin dance fans will file into Club Omni for Latin night, where they will enjoy a touch of the Latin culture through music and dancing.

Meanwhile, thousands of miles away, a Latin woman living in the poverty-ridden country of Honduras will benefit. In a country where most live on less than a dollar a day, the seven dollars needed to get into Omni's Latin night would seem like a fortune.

In a small act of irony, that seven dollars, needed to simply enjoy a night of Latin music in America, can help change lives in Latin America.

At Club Omni, Latin dancing and Latin service go hand in hand. On Friday, the dance club will donate a portion of the admission fee to a humanitarian service group called HELP International.

The service group is primarily made up of BYU students who will spend parts of their summer helping to eliminate poverty through micro-credit in the Latin American countries of Honduras, El Salvador, Venezuela and Peru.

Micro-credit is a program of lending to those poor who cannot receive loans from commercial banks. The recipients then invest the money in a small enterprise of their choosing in order to generate more income and raise themselves from poverty.

For those club-goers who mention the service group HELP at the door Friday night, Club Omni will donate half of that person's admission price, \$3.50, to the micro-credit service group. If students go before 9:30, the cost is four dollars.

"We understand that there are many students interested in Latin dancing but who have a misperception about Club Omni," said Ken Merena, manager of Club Omni. "We want to change that misperception. It will cost us money, but it's for a good cause. We want people to know that the Club has church standards, but with better equipment and a more relaxed atmosphere than a church dance."

Through fundraisers and other charitable activities, Club Omni is hoping to associate their name with a good cause.

"The only way to correct a misperception is by giving a dose of reality," Merena said.

"We want to associate Club Omni with some of the good student service groups both at BYU and UVSC," said Jared Bybee, a Club Omni employee.

In addition to the Latin night donations, Club Omni will be hosting Ryan Shoupe and the Rubber Bands on Friday, April 14, at 7 p.m. before Latin night begins.

Omni will donate 100 percent of the admission price from the band to HELP, and those in attendance can stay for Latin night for no additional charge.