

# Gloria Estefan

## Leaders turn personal tragedy into public triumph.

- Born: September 1st, 1957 in Havana, Cuba.
- Family fled from Cuba to Miami, Florida during the Cuban Revolution (July 26, 1953-January 1, 1959).
- Apart of the very successful music group "Miami Sound Machine" during the 1980s.
- Suffered a life threatening accident to her spinal cord that required two titanium bars to repair while on tour in March, 1990.
- Has written two children's books.
- Winner of seven Grammy Awards during her career as a singer and humanitarian.
- Received the Ellis Island Congressional Medal of Honor in May 1993; the highest award that can be given to a naturalized citizen.
- Received the 1993 National Music Foundation's Humanitarian of the Year Award.
- Winner of the Hispanic Heritage Award.
- Winner of the American Music Award for Lifetime Achievement.



<http://blogs.miamiherald.com/crossfade/GloriaEstefanResized.jpg>

"Having felt people's support firsthand through difficult moments in my life makes me feel it's our responsibility to help one another."

Gloria Estefan is touted as one of the most successful crossover performers in Latin music to date; but her accomplishments do not end there. After tragically suffering her own life-threatening injury to her spinal cord during one of her tours, she made it a personal mission to help those afflicted by the same trauma. Estefan embodies **transformational leadership** through her actions by establishing the Gloria Estefan Foundation to help those afflicted by spinal cord injuries. She spent valuable resources during the recovery after Hurricane Andrew in 1992, collaborated with American Idol in 2008 on the episode "Idol Gives Back", performed at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino to raise funds for the Education of South Florida, as well as performing to benefit the New York Restoration Project.



<http://www.prevention.com/>