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**3rd International Conference on Travelers' Philanthropy
San Jose and Monteverde, Costa Rica
July 20-23 2011**

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Workshops, Schedule, Hotels Announced for Travelers' Philanthropy Conference

~ Call for Speakers ~

The Center for Responsible Travel (CREST) and the Montverde Institute, co-hosts of the 3rd International Travelers' Philanthropy Conference in Costa Rica, are pleased to announce that the list of workshops are now available on the conference website: www.travelersphilanthropy.org/conference. Also posted are details regarding registration, sponsorships, scholarships, schedule, and hotels.

The conference, entitled “**Travelers Philanthropy: A Core Component of Responsible Travel**”, features 21 workshops divided in three concurrent streams of seven workshops each. Those interested in presenting or moderating panels are invited to apply via the [website](http://www.travelersphilanthropy.org/conference). The conference’s Advisory Committee will review and select the speakers on a rolling basis.

Online registration is available [by clicking here](#). Early Bird Registration of \$395 runs until May 1, 2011. After May 1, registration will be \$495. Registration covers all programmed activities, lunches, dinners, receptions, and local transportation. Please note: International airfare and accommodations are not included.

The July 20-23, 2011 conference is also offering a range of sponsorship opportunities for businesses, international agencies, governments, and private foundations and philanthropists who are interested in helping to underwrite its costs. For details, [click here](#).

The conference will also provide a limited number of scholarships. To learn more, [click here](#).

The four day conference will begin in San Jose, Costa Rica on Wednesday July 20. The afternoon will feature a half-day “Short Course” and documentary film designed to give an overview of travelers’ philanthropy. The Short Course, taught by leading experts from around the world, is open to all conference participants, plus others who wish to register only for this afternoon session.

The conference will officially open Wednesday evening with a reception, dinner, and keynote speaker attended by all participants and honored guests. Among the luminaries confirmed is hitmaker **Chris Blackwell**, owner of Island Outpost resorts and founder of Island Records in Jamaica.

On Thursday, July 21, conference participants will be transported to Monteverde, a beautiful mountain top community renowned for both its cloud forest reserve and small-scale, nature-based ecotourism. The 3-day program in Monteverde will include, in addition to workshops and plenary sessions, guided rainforest tours and social service and cultural activities.

Available separately will be special pre- and post- conference trips showcasing ecotourism and travelers’ philanthropy in Costa Rica. Check back soon for details.

Travelers’ philanthropy is a relatively new concept, but it is rapidly growing into a worldwide movement and becoming part of the definition of responsible travel. At its core, travelers’ philanthropy is about tourism businesses and travelers ‘giving back’ to tourism destinations by providing financial support, volunteer expertise, and material contributions to local projects and community initiatives. CREST hosted previous International Travelers’ Philanthropy Conferences at Stanford University, California, USA in 2004 and in Arusha, Tanzania in 2008.

All conference details and updates are posted at www.travelersphilanthropy.org/conference.

