



# Verizon Foundation Community Champions

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## Victor Rivas Rivers

Victor Rivas Rivers – actor, athlete, activist and now author – is the national spokesperson for the National Network to End Domestic Violence and the first Verizon Foundation Community Champion to focus on the issue of domestic violence.

In 2006, Rivers was named by Women’s E News as one of the 21 Leaders for the 21st century – the second man ever so named by the organization. He recently joined the advisory board of the Child Welfare League of America and is the honorary spokesperson for the National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence (ALIANZA).

A veteran film star of more than two dozen movies, Rivers may be best known for such roles as Antonio Banderas’ ill-fated brother in “The Mask of Zorro,” the prison warlord Magic Mike in the cult favorite, “Blood In/Blood Out,” and as Eddie Murphy’s sidekick in “The Distinguished Gentleman.” You can see him in his recurring role on the hit NBC series “Life.”

As a child, Rivers was a victim of domestic violence. When Rivers grew up, there were no hotlines to call for help. “Even when I went to the police and showed them my scars, they told me there was nothing they could do, that it was a private matter. But violence in the home should never be a private matter,” says Rivers.

Rivers shares his harrowing experiences in his memoir, *A Private Family Matter: a Memoir* – published by Atria/Simon in hardcover, paperback and in Spanish.



## VICTOR RIVAS RIVERS

Actor

Author

Verizon Foundation Domestic Violence Prevention Champion

## About Verizon Foundation Community Champions

Verizon Foundation Community Champions are celebrities who volunteer their time and talents to join the Verizon Foundation in its efforts to raise awareness and support initiatives in literacy and education as well as domestic violence prevention.

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