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State Treasurer Cary Kennedy and Secretary of State Bernie Buescher Headline Event and Help Mi Casa Raise \$41,000

DENVER (May 4, 2009) – On Thursday, April 30, Mi Casa Resource Center raised over \$41,000 to support opportunities for low-income families in Colorado to advance their economic success. Proceeds from the luncheon will support Mi Casa’s business, career, and youth and family development programs in metro Denver and southern Colorado. State Treasurer **Cary Kennedy** and Colorado Secretary of State **Bernie Buescher** were on hand to welcome the more than 230 guests in attendance in the West Club Lounge at Invesco Field at Mile High.

With **Hope Hernandez Salazar** and **Irene Ibarra** among the guests, the event was a grand success. Ms. Salazar is the wife of U.S. Secretary of the Interior **Ken Salazar**; the couple has long been personal supporters of Mi Casa. Ms. Ibarra is the CEO of The Colorado Trust, one of the region’s most prominent foundation funders. Other notable guests included **Toya Nelson**, Executive Director of the Governor’s Commission on Community Service; **Lucia Guzman**, Mayor’s Office of Human Rights; Dean **Lynn Gangone**, Women’s College at the University of Denver; City Councilman **Paul Lopez**; **Charles R. Smith**, CEO of Monument Constructors; **Dr. Timothy J. Standing**, Gates Foundation Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Denver Art Museum; **Marcela Paiz** of I.D.E.A.; **Marcelina Rivera** of the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado; and **Elsa Holguin**, Senior Program Officer at Rose Community Foundation.

In opening the event, State Treasurer Cary Kennedy had this to say: “Last year, Mi Casa undertook a strategic planning process that resulted in a new mission that now formally encompasses families. But the truth is, for more than 30 years, Mi Casa has been serving adults and children in the context of their families. This new mission statement simply gives voice to what Mi Casa has known all along...everyone is part of a family. Today families in Colorado are facing unprecedented economic challenges, as we all know all too well. Mi Casa is addressing these challenges through its three focus areas: career, small business and youth and family development activities.”

Colorado Secretary of State Buescher remarked, “The part of this new luncheon event that really struck me was the theme: ‘Be Anything’. I like this because it is consistent with the values Mi Casa has reflected since its inception in 1976 when eight Head Start mothers got together to establish this organization in Denver. These women understood that education and employment were vital for women to become successful on both a personal and economic level.”

Career consultant Andrew Hudson, founder of Andrew Hudson’s Jobs List, was next in the program with an inspiring keynote speech, titled appropriately: “Be Anything!” Hudson was followed by a spotlight recognition of **Juana Bordas**, one of the founding mothers of Mi Casa and its very first executive director.

Mi Casa career program participant Missy Delara brought the audience to their feet with her emotional account of how Mi Casa helped her find her professional calling in highway repair and construction – a field she had never considered. Remarks from Executive Director **Christine Marquez-Hudson** and Board Chair **Theresa M. Solano**, a member of the Mayor’s Latino Commission, concluded the afternoon’s program.

Throughout the event, the silent auction promised bidders the chance to experience exciting jobs that many of us dreamed of as youngsters. Among the dream-job packages were Be a House Speaker for a Day with **Representative Terrance Carroll**; Chef for a Day with Tony Zarlinga at Café Brazil; Zookeeper for a Day at the Denver Zoo; Jazz Musician for an Evening with the Freddy Rodriguez, Jr. Band; Extreme Avalanche Fan for a Day (including two home game tickets and a VIP tour of the Pepsi Center); TV Reporter for a Day with Lance Hernandez; Denver Art Museum Curator for a Day with Dr. Timothy Standing; and Radio DJ for a Day with Mikey of Alice 105.9 FM.

The event's Gold Sponsor was **MegaStar Financial Corporation** and its CEO, **Anita Padilla-Fitzgerald**. Bronze Sponsors included **CESCO Linguistic Services, Pinnacol Assurance, Colorado Lending Source** and **the Denver Transit Construction Group**. Among the Contributing Sponsors were **Holland & Hart, Lockheed Martin, Public Service Credit Union, The Colorado Trust, State Farm Insurance** and **Xcel Energy**. **The Center for Multicultural Excellence at the University of Denver, the Women's College at the University of Denver** and **ARC Thrift Stores** were the proud Nonprofit Sponsors of the luncheon. Other key sponsors included **1st Bank of Colorado** and **Entravision**.

To learn more about Mi Casa's programs or how to volunteer, please contact Laura Gabbay at lgabbay@MiCasaResourceCenter.org or call 303-573-1302.

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About Mi Casa Resource Center

The mission of Mi Casa Resource Center is to advance the economic success of Latino families. Mi Casa was founded in 1976 by eight Head Start mothers in Denver. These women understood that education and employment were vital for women to become successful on both a personal and economic level. As a result, Mi Casa was established to create these opportunities for adults and youth to become successful. For more than 30 years, Mi Casa has been committed to pursuing its mission through business, career and youth and family development strategies. www.MiCasaResourceCenter.org