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Mi Casa Welcomes Three New Board Members New Leadership Represents K-12 and Higher Education, Broadcast Media

November 2, 2010 (DENVER) – Mi Casa Resource Center is pleased to welcome three distinguished professionals to its Board of Directors:

- **Ana Cabrera**, Weekend Morning Anchor/Reporter at The Denver Channel 7News
- **Benita Duran**, Executive Director of the Denver Public Schools Office of Community Engagement
- **Mary Ricketson**, Dean Emerita and Professor at the University of Denver

Ana Cabrera, a native of the Denver area, joined 7News in July 2009. Ana was previously an anchor and reporter at KHQ-TV in Spokane, Washington, where her work was recognized with awards from organizations including Community Oriented Policing Services and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Ana earned her B.A. in communication from Washington State University and holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish. Throughout her career, Ana has been involved in her community. She has served on the board of the American Cancer Society and volunteered weekly in a Cancer Resource Center. Ana has also served as an ambassador for the Special Olympics.

Benita Duran oversees the community engagement and outreach strategies of Denver Public Schools. Benita has been with DPS since February 2009. Benita has extensive experience in public and private program implementation, constituency services and outreach efforts. Prior to joining Denver Public Schools, Benita was the Vice President for Governmental Affairs for CH2M Hill and oversaw governmental outreach efforts in a five state region. She was an aide to Mayor Federico Peña for eight years, working on city employee initiatives, neighborhood issues and employee recruitment in the building of Denver International Airport. Benita also worked for the City of Boulder for nine years. She is an active community volunteer, presently at her son's school. Benita is a past trustee and chair of the Boulder Community Foundation, and was a member and past chair of the Knight Foundation Boulder Community Advisory Committee.

Mary Ricketson is a lawyer, educator, administrator, fundraiser and advocate. From 2000-2006, she served as the Dean of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. During this time, a \$63.5 million state-of-the-art law school was designed and constructed and the university's U.S. News & World Report ranking jumped 41 points to the highest in its history. Prior to joining the University of Denver, Mary served as the Executive Director of the Colorado Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, assisting 40 law firms in their efforts to advocate on behalf of the state's underserved communities.

Mary has served as a Colorado Assistant Attorney General, an Assistant District Attorney, and as a court appointed mediator and arbitrator. She has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Edwin Wolf Award from the National Lawyers Committee, the Mary Lathrop Award of the Colorado Woman's Bar Association, and the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association. She has served as president of the Colorado Woman's Bar Association, the CWBA Foundation and of the Colorado Association on the Prevention of Child Abuse. Mary currently teaches at The DU Women's College and is involved in leadership and policy projects.

"Mi Casa is delighted to welcome these three strong leaders to our Board of Directors," says Christine Marquez-Hudson, CEO/Executive Director. "At a time when Mi Casa is solidifying programmatic revisions that have earned the agency national recognition, the fresh ideas and insights that Ana, Benita and Mary bring will help Mi Casa harness the necessary financial, human and tangible resources to sustain Mi Casa's best-practice programs well into the future."

In 2010, Mi Casa has received national recognition for programmatic effectiveness. As validation of Mi Casa's work in the field of Green Construction and Energy training for low-income workers, Mi Casa received a \$3.6 million grant from the Department of Labor to offer free "green collar" job training, and job placement assistance for Denver residents. Mi Casa was also honored with the 2010 National Council of La Raza (NCLR) Family Strengthening Award and the agency has worked throughout the year offering technical assistance to other organizations seeking to replicate Mi Casa's evidence-based youth and family programs. Mi Casa's career development staff recently presented at the NCLR Conference on Workforce Development and Mi Casa has been invited to offer technical assistance to other workforce development programs nationally.

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About Mi Casa Resource Center

Mi Casa is among the oldest and largest Latino-serving organizations in Colorado. Mi Casa was founded in 1976 by eight Head Start mothers in west Denver who understood that education and employment were essential for women to achieve personal and economic success. Mi Casa was established to create new opportunities for women and their children to succeed. For more than 30 years, Mi Casa has been committed to advancing the economic success of Latino and low-income families through business, career, and youth and family development strategies. For more information visit www.MiCasaResourceCenter.org.