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Join Mi Casa for the Be Anything Luncheon & Silent Auction

May 19, 2010 (DENVER) – It has been an exciting year of growth and development for Mi Casa Resource Center, and we are looking forward to celebrating our success at the Second Annual Be Anything Luncheon and Silent Auction on Friday, May 21, 2010 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Denver Athletic Club. We would be delighted if you would join us as our guest. Contact Cheryl at cbalchunas@MiCasaResourceCenter.org or 303-539-5609 for details.

The Be Anything Luncheon is a celebration of the new opportunities and new possibilities that Mi Casa provides low-income families in our community. Elizabeth Suarez, nationally recognized speaker and author, Latina entrepreneur and DU faculty member, will join us as our keynote speaker. The silent auction will feature opportunities to "be anything" for the day - a zookeeper, a race car driver, an Olympic swim coach, a TV reporter, a radio DJ, and much more! Luncheon guests will have the chance to bid on these dream job packages in order to experience what its like to have jobs that many of us only dreamed of as children. Ana Cabrera, Anchor/Reporter with The Denver Channel 7 News, will emcee.

Mi Casa worked throughout 2009 to revamp curricula, solidify partnerships, and secure diverse resources for our core programs and supportive services. "Mi Casa overhauled every aspect of our business, career, and youth and family development programs to align with best practice program models, community needs, and changing economic trends," said Christine Marquez-Hudson, Executive Director. "As a result, we had great success in attracting corporate sponsors and government contracts to support our programs, and we were able to end 2009 in strong financial position despite the recession and sharp decrease in foundation funding."

After two challenging years, Mi Casa ended 2009 with an operating surplus of nearly \$100,000 – the result of dogged efforts on the part of staff to cut costs, diversify revenues, and increase donations from individual and corporate donors. Mi Casa trained 65 low-income workers in our Career Development programs in 2009 and despite the recession and "jobless" recovery, more than 65% of 2009 graduates have been placed in full-time jobs with benefits. Mi Casa trained 170 aspiring entrepreneurs in 2009, provided consulting services to nearly 300 businesses in need of targeted help, and helped launch 80 small businesses, creating more than 120 jobs. Mi Casa also served 375 youth in afterschool and summer programs focused on academic success and provided intensive case management to 17 students at high risk for academic failure, delinquency and/or substance abuse.

As you can see, we have a lot to celebrate at this year's Be Anything Luncheon. We hope you can join us to learn more about how Mi Casa is helping low-income families trade poverty for lasting economic stability.

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About Mi Casa Resource Center: 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.