FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2014

Contact: Eva Green
Marketing and Media Representative
Cell: 773-814-1189
eva@lacasanorte.org

Homeless youth to advocate in Springfield for housing support, services

Springfield, IL April 30, 2014—A busload of nearly 60 clients and staff from La Casa Norte, the city’s largest provider of services to homeless youth, are traveling to the state capital to advocate for increased housing support in Illinois. La Casa Norte is based in the Humboldt Park community and provides bi-lingual case management, an array of housing options, and supportive services to youth and families throughout 43 zip codes in the Chicago metropolitan area. La Casa Norte is Chicago’s largest provider of housing and services to homeless youth.

La Casa Norte has participated in annual housing advocacy events since being founded 12 years ago. The events have traditionally been part of an effort to empower clients and support them in sharing personal testimonies with elected officials, funders and other key stakeholders.

“Housing Advocacy Day is a great opportunity for La Casa Norte and the clients we serve,” says Executive Director Sol Flores. “It is critical in a democracy that everyone has the chance to be involved in the policies and legislation that directly impacts their lives.”

“For many of our clients, this is the first, and only opportunity they have ever been given to do so,” says Flores.

Recent attention has been given to the FY15 State budget and line items that will afford to support areas that are a primary focus for La Casa Norte including Emergency and Transitional Housing, Supportive Services, Homeless Prevention, and other programs that serve populations experiencing homelessness.

This year, La Casa Norte’s Casa Corazon Program expanded to include 45 emergency shelter beds for youth confronting homelessness in Chicago. The agencies’ programs also offer permanent and transitional supportive housing to youth and families along with support geared towards employment, education, and food security. La Casa Norte has been recognized by the White House as a Champion of Change recipient and was awarded the Bank of America Community Builder Award in recent years as well.

###