FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 19, 2013

Bank of America Award Tackles Housing and Homelessness in Chicago

Chicago, IL- La Casa Norte, a non-profit serving homeless youth and families in Chicago will be awarded with Bank of America's Neighborhood Builders® Award, on Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 4pm. The awards reception will be held at Prairie Productions located at 1314 W. Randolph St. Chicago, IL. As part of the award, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Inc. will be providing La Casa Norte with $200,000 in funding to be used towards comprehensive housing services that address issues of homelessness. In addition, the agency’s staff will be engaging in a series of national leadership trainings to develop programming at the organization.

“This award really is an acknowledgement of the impact that such a small organization can have in the community,” says Sol Flores, Executive Director of La Casa Norte. “It is really exciting to know that with this support, we can continue to sustain and enhance our work for people experiencing homelessness, particularly among youth, families, and the underserved Latino community.”

La Casa Norte was founded 10 years ago and offers a continuum of care to address the needs of clients regardless of their current circumstances. Throughout the years, the agencies’ programs have expanded to include street outreach services, homeless youth drop-in centers, an emergency shelter, transitional supportive housing, and permanent supportive housing units throughout the city. In addition, La Casa Norte has been able to sustain a food pantry, nutrition education programming, and an employment readiness program that addresses the needs of its diverse clients. Recently, the City of Chicago awarded the agency with funding as part of Mayor Emmanuel’s Homeless Plan 2.0, making it one of the largest providers of services to youth experiencing homelessness in the city.

The Bank of America’s Neighborhood Builders® program aims to support high-performing nonprofits that address peoples’ needs through housing, hunger, employment, education, and other community development areas. The award has been identified as the country’s most extensive philanthropic source of support to leadership development in the nonprofit sector. In the past, the program has recognized close to 700 organizations, offering the opportunity for professional development training to almost 1,200 leaders working at nonprofits.

“The Bank of America award represents both a monetary and infrastructure investment for La Casa Norte,” says Joe Hankey, Director of Youth Services at La Casa Norte who has already begun his participation in the program’s Emerging Leaders training sessions. “Being able to learn more about leadership development from the experts and to learn from the 59 other awardees across the country has already been extremely rewarding and impactful to our work.”

###

Media Contact: Sol Flores
Cell: 773.562.9873
Office: 773.276.4900 x208
sol@lacasanorte.org