Chicago’s largest service provider to homeless youth celebrates 11th Annual Gala Tomorrow at the Harold Washington Library

Chicago—October 17, 2013—La Casa Norte (LCN) will celebrate its 11th annual Gala in the Winter Garden Room at the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State Street, Chicago, IL on Friday, October 18th at 7pm to raise money for youth and families experiencing homelessness in Chicago. LCN is based in Humboldt Park, and provides bi-lingual case management, housing and comprehensive services throughout 43 different zip codes in the Chicago metropolitan area.

The theme of this year’s Gala is “Because Every Child Deserves a Bed of Their Own” and will feature client speakers, along with a video presentation highlighting the agency’s efforts. The program will also feature Honorary Chair Kathleen M. Deveny who has been a longtime supporter of LCN and services aimed at supporting youth who confront issues of poverty and homelessness.

According to data released in July 2013 by the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, homelessness has risen by 10 percent in Chicago within the last year and there are approximately 116,042 people living in the city who experienced homelessness during the 2012-2013 school year. During this time, Chicago Public Schools have also concluded a record high 18,669 students who have been identified as being homeless, an 8.2 percent increase from the year prior.

“We know there are many different factors that influence those living in poverty and experiencing homelessness,” says LCN Executive Director Sol Flores. “While our goal is to provide services to various populations, we also know that it is critical to provide the necessary resources, relevant to youth and families in the Latino community.”

This year, LCN’s Casa Corazon Program expanded to include 10 emergency shelter beds for youth confronting homelessness in Chicago. The agencies’ programs also provide permanent and transitional supportive housing to youth and families along with support geared towards employment, education, and food security.

Last year, LCN celebrated its 10 year anniversary, received the Bank of America Community Builder Award for its work, and was recognized last year by the White House as a Champion for Change Award recipient.

Tickets to this year’s Gala can be purchased online at www.lacasanorte.org/events or by calling 773-276-4900 x212.

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