

# national **latin@** network

## casa de esperanza



### **Casa de Esperanza Named National Resource Center on Domestic Violence by the Department of Health and Human Services**

October 2011 - The Federal Administration on Children, Youth, and Families – Family and Youth Services Bureau a division of the Department of Health and Human Services, announced that Casa de Esperanza will receive the Family Violence Prevention and Services Discretionary Grant that designates the organization a National Culturally Specific Special Issue Resource Center whose focus will be Latin@ communities.

As a resource center, Casa de Esperanza will become a member of a nationwide network that provides training and technical assistance which supports family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence intervention and prevention efforts across the country. This is the first time that Casa de Esperanza has received the grant, and it provides an opportunity to promote and foster safe and healthy Latin@ families and communities across the country.

“Casa de Esperanza has been working with Latina survivors of domestic violence for nearly 30 years, and our work has included connecting and mobilizing Latinas, Latin@ communities, and allies since 1999. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to bring to the fore the lived realities of Latin@ communities while collaborating with other national leaders in the field,” commented Amy Sánchez, Chief Executive for External Relations of Casa de Esperanza.

The work falls under a division of Casa de Esperanza called the National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities, and is led by three nationally-recognized Latin@s, each with over 20 years experience in the field: Rosie Hidalgo, JD, Julia Perilla, PhD, and Juan Carlos Areán. The National Latin@ Network addresses four primary issues: (1) increasing access for Latinas experiencing domestic violence; (2) producing culturally relevant tools for advocates and practitioners; (3) conducting culturally relevant research that explores the context in which Latin@ families experience violence; and (4) interjecting the lived realities of Latin@s into policy efforts to better support Latin@ families.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 50.5 million Latinos living in the United States, comprising 16.3% of the total population. Research indicates that less than 3 in 10 Latinas has heard of a domestic violence protection order and most do not know about local domestic violence agencies.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, still too often today, Latinas across the nation are denied access to supportive services. Those that do receive support often meet with programs’ lack of understanding of cultural issues and realities. As the National Latino Resource Center, Casa de Esperanza is well positioned to share its wealth of knowledge and experience with Latin@ organizations; local, state, and national domestic violence coalitions; government entities; programs in rural, urban, suburban areas, native communities and in the territories; as well as with policy makers and academia. The organization will maintain its community engagement and direct service initiatives located in the Twin Cities, which include a shelter, 24-hour Spanish/English bilingual crisis line, and two community-based Resource and Information Centers among other prevention and intervention activities.

<sup>1</sup>Moracco, K. E., Hilton, A., Hodges, K.G., & Frasier, P. Y. (2005). Knowledge and attitudes about intimate partner violence among immigrant Latinos in rural North Carolina. *Violence Against Women*, 11(3), 337-352.