

INSIDE Report

A Mi Casa E-Newsletter

MI CASA
RESOURCE CENTER®

Advancing Economic Prosperity of the Latino Community



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Inside Mi Casa

Spring has sprung at Mi Casa Resource Center®! As the weather changes from snow to sun, Mi Casa is opening up for new programs. The past few months have been busy with outreach events, partner connections, and trainings that change people’s lives.

Just this past month, Mi Casa graduated our first cohort of Digital Skills for Life, a training that helps participants learn essential skills on computers, email, and video conferencing. We saw participants take their first steps toward typing, allowing them to send emails to their families. We saw people ask questions about Word to work on their resumes, and about internet safety to avoid scams. We even had one employer send seven of their employees through the training to have a better shot at promotion – proving that Mi Casa builds ecosystems of support across jobseekers and companies.

We’re looking forward to a summer of even more impact. In Career Pathways, we’re launching our first Medical Administration and Human Resources trainings to help jobseekers find careers in new industries. In Business Pathways, our trainings are connecting to higher education certificates at Community College of Denver. We’ll be at outreach events and community festivals, and we’ll even be hosting a few open houses of our own.

As always, I am grateful for all that you give to Mi Casa as a supporter and partner. We could not do our work without you. On behalf of the whole Mi Casa team, thank you for advancing economic prosperity alongside us!

Gracias,

CEO, Mi Casa Resource Center®



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Coming Soon

2023: May - June Programming at Mi Casa

Sign up for these opportunities at: www.micasaresourcecenter.org



- May 9:** What is a Patent?, : Business Success® PLAN & Éxito Para Negocios® PLANEAR, Business Legal Night, and ESL
- May 11:** Job Searching Workshop, Resume Building Workshop, and Interviewing Workshop
- May 16:** Career Readiness®
- May 18:** Job Searching Workshop, Resume Building Workshop, and Conflict Resolution Workshop
- May 25:** Job Searching Workshop, Resume Building Workshop, and Networking and Elevator Pitch Workshop



- June 1:** Job Searching Workshop, Resume Building Workshop, and Resume Tailoring Workshop
- June 6:** Professional Services Training
- June 7:** Considering a New Career?
- June 8:** Job Searching Workshop, Resume Building Workshop, and Presentations 101: Google Slides and Presentation Skills Workshop
- June 15:** Job Searching Workshop, Resume Building Workshop, and Interviewing Workshop
- June 20:** Medical Office Administration Training
- June 22:** Job Searching Workshop, Resume Building Workshop, and Cover Letters Workshop
- June 24:** Citizenship Preparation Classes
- June 29:** Job Searching Workshop, Resume Building Workshop, and Professional Communication Workshop



Volunteer with Us!

Looking to support Mi Casa's programs? Consider volunteering! Our Medical Administration and Human Resources trainings are new to Mi Casa, and we are looking for employers to provide feedback, make sure the curriculum is the best it can be, and hire qualified candidates from our programs. We also love volunteers to serve as guest speakers, support mock interviews, and act as mentors across Career and Business Pathways. Contact volunteer@micasaresourcecenter.org for more information.

Community Success

Career Participant Story

Summer is an excellent time to explore new things. For Deanna, a summer at Mi Casa at age 14 changed her direction. Motivated by purchasing her first car, she was ready to work. But not able to officially work till 16, the program was appealing.

It takes a hero, sometimes a counselor, to provide the guidance we all seek when we enter adulthood and the workforce. For Deanna, that would be Jovita Martinez, a Mi Casa counselor in a 1987 outreach summer program. Martinez was there for Deanna and about six other group participants to provide one-on-one support, and she was there to help encourage Deanna to finish strong in high school.

Throughout the summer program, Deanna met other Latina women in the workforce at a time when Denver was developing into what it is today. Mi Casa's program helped her secure a job with the Auraria Child Care Center. Afterward, she got a job with Answer America, then the City and County of Denver. And she would not stop there. After several roles and 15 years later, from a clinic clerk to a police department radio systems budget manager, she developed enough skills to enter the insurance world and open her own business. DV Agency, dvaconnect.com helps people in the community navigate the world of insurance market rates to help match people with the right amount of coverage.

Deanna now hopes to grow her clientele to reach more of the community. She jokes that if she could go back in time, she would tell herself to invest in Google and Apple stock, but in reality, she would encourage her younger self to study more. And she did get her first car at 16, thanks to her older brother and Mi Casa for putting her on the path of economic independence. "I desire to give back to the program that was the steppingstone to my professional life today," Deanna said. "Now, I can recruit from Mi Casa candidates for my own business. Without Mi Casa, I'm not sure where I would be today."



Digital Skills Graduation

On April 8, Mi Casa graduated the first cohort from our Digital Skills for Life training, a course designed to build fundamental digital literacy skills for members of the Denver community. We know that digital skills are the foundation of success in today's world, whether for online business or searching for a new job. Thanks to UnidosUS, Mi Casa can offer this class to help people build better opportunities for themselves and their families.



The first cohort of Digital Skills for Life was conducted entirely in Spanish and saw a huge response from the community. The class was completely full, and Mi Casa was even recognized by UnidosUS for having the strongest enrollment of all Affiliates operating this program across the country! We even partnered with a local business, DesignScapes, to enroll seven of their employees in the training. "We hope to instill confidence in our Spanish speaking employees that we support their journey in improving their skills and furthering their careers," Cora, a representative from DesignScapes, said. "We look forward to working on that goal with Mi Casa."

Mi Casa en la Comunidad

Action Center Volunteer Day



This Cesar Chavez Day, Mi Casa staff celebrated by volunteering with the Action Center. The Action Center, established in 1968, provides direct assistance to community members with resources such as free groceries, clothing, and short-term Rental & Utility Assistance. In honor of Cesar Chavez's legacy as a leader and organizer dedicated to building stronger communities, the Mi Casa team helped give back to our Denver community.

Staff overwhelmingly described the volunteer opportunity as fulfilling. Despite the cold and harsh winds, the smiles we saw from the people we served throughout the day gave staff a warm feeling of joy from seeing the direct impact of giving out supplies to our local community. We filled people's cars with delicious fresh produce, bread, sweets, and plants. Also, the Action Center staff has some of the funniest food puns. It was grate! The volunteers and staff welcomed us with open arms, and we are all grateful for their work.

Outreach Events



Our Outreach & Enrollment team has been busy! To spread the word about Mi Casa's programs, our team spends time at local schools, community events, and festivals. In just the past few months, we have had tables at the New American Career and Education Fair, a Bricks & Mortar Business Gathering at Pato's Tacos, a Small Business Resource Panel at Red Rocks Community College, and the Florence Crittenton Career Fair. We'll be at even more events this summer. Keep an eye out for the purple table!

Also starting this summer, Mi Casa will host a series of open houses for the community. All partners and participants are welcome to join us, explore our building, and learn more about what's coming for the rest of the year at Mi Casa. The first open house is planned for June 21st. We hope to see you there!

Meet Our Staff

Roxana Burciaga

What is your role at Mi Casa?

I am the Resource Navigator at Mi Casa Resource Center®. My role is to connect our participants with outside resources and services not offered at MCRC.

How did you come to work here?

During the pandemic I didn't have any childcare, so I was forced to leave my job. Once my son started school, I was able to start working again. I saw that Mi Casa had an opening and since I have always been passionate about helping my community, I thought it would be a great place to work. It required me to own different skills, but I love seeing the impact MCRC has on families and individuals.

What is your favorite Mi Casa memory?

My favorite memory so far has been the first day of ESL class. We had a full class, and it was so inspiring to see so many people attend the class, from all ages and backgrounds. Mi Casa is full of individuals wanting to better their lives and build a better future for themselves and their families.

What does being part of Mi Casa mean to you?

It means being a part of change and courage. It requires so much courage to step out of your comfort zone and try to learn a new skill/build your own business. It is truly an honor to be a small lining of people's dreams.

Please share a fun fact about yourself.

I am currently in the process of learning Korean. My dream vacation would be to travel through South Korea with my son for an extended vacation.

What do you wish every person knew about Mi Casa?

I wish they knew how much the coaches, trainers, and staff care. Everyone here truly wants to see everyone that walks through our doors achieve their dreams, financial stability, and prosperity.

Sonya's 20 Year Tribute

If you have known Mi Casa for a long time, then you know Sonya Rodriguez. Sonya is our Accounting Specialist II, and truly the heart and soul of the Mi Casa team. She processes payroll, manages invoicing, and makes sure all our financial processes are in top shape. And, in April, Sonya celebrated her 20 year anniversary at Mi Casa! We were lucky to be joined by previous CEOs, Directors of Finance, and other staff who Sonya has supported over the years. She is dedicated, reliable, and a ray of sunshine in the office. Thank you, Sonya, for all you do!



Spotlight on our Board

An Introduction to Murugan Palani, Mi Casa Board Member

Murugan Palani is the Director of the Office of Business Diversity at Denver Public Schools. He is a native of Denver and a graduate of the University of Colorado. Murugan is a former Officer in the United States Army with one deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he served as a Tank Platoon Leader and Civil Affairs Officer. During his tour of duty he was awarded two Bronze Star Medals, one for heroic actions in intense close quarter combat.



Murugan is honored to serve on the Board of Mi Casa because he is a strong proponent of MWBE's (Minority/Women owned businesses) and small businesses and believes that helping these businesses grow and succeed are the keys to growing our economy and our community.

In March of 2012, The Denver Business Journal named Murugan to its Top 40 Under 40 list of Business Leaders in Colorado and in 2014 The Colorado Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission awarded Murugan both its Humanitarian of the Year and Business Social Responsibility Awards. In 2015 COBiz Magazine named him to its list of the Top 25 most influential young professionals in Colorado.



Join the Mi Casa Familia!



We're hiring professionals who are passionate about our work. Current open opportunities:

- Senior Career Coach
- Development Manager
- Senior Bilingual Business Advisor and Instructor
- Director Career Pathways
- Business Pathways Manager

To apply, visit www.micasaresourcecenter.org



2023 Events



Events are here! If you're looking to have fun, celebrate our diverse Denver community, and support Mi Casa, you have lots of opportunities this spring and summer.

Just a few days ago, we hosted Taste of La Receta®, a food-filled event to celebrate the success of graduates from Mi Casa's food business accelerator program. It was an incredible evening of food and festivity. Eight graduates shared their recipes, from Bhutanese dumplings to Venezuelan tequeños to down-home comfort food and snacks. All proceeds from the event allow Mi Casa to continue supporting businesses like the amazing caterers at the event. Thank you to all who attended and supported the graduates and Mi Casa's mission!

Other upcoming events for Mi Casa include our Golf Classic on August 5th, featuring our title sponsor Comcast! Break out your clubs and get ready to play for a great cause. It may have been rainy last year, but spirits were undampened and the event was a huge success. You don't want to miss it this time around! Purchase foursomes and sponsorships at: <https://micasaresourcecenter.org/special-events/golf-classic/>

We're also hosting Las Jefas & Jefes in the Making on September 21st at a local Denver brewery! Come join Mi Casa and partners to network and learn how to grow in your professional career. Our Founding Mothers will present a panel on their experience of Latina leadership in Denver. Tickets on sale soon.

Mi Casa Es Su Casa. Connect with us!



There are many ways to donate to Mi Casa. For more information, visit: <https://micasaresourcecenter.org/donate>

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