

# 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

The best thing about the holidays is the coming together around the table to share success and happy stories. Mi Casa Resource Center® shares this enthusiasm, which fuels our commitment to comunidad this holiday season. [Our new programs](#) funded by the Economic Development Administration successfully graduated cohorts entering both the medical and human resource fields. Meanwhile, our existing programs continue to remain at a steady enrollment. Our graduates are walking away with skill development, support, and a story to share with their families.

As Denver continues to grow, Mi Casa seeks to create pathways for economic advancement through innovative efforts that lead to opportunities. Programs launched this summer aim to upskill and reskill low-income job seekers into promising positions through a combination of work experience and continued education. Our programs are inclusive, and the majority are conducted with hybrid technology so that our instructors can increase Mi Casa’s accessibility and visibility in the community.

We are thrilled to welcome change seekers through our door each day - someone who wants to launch their dream, secure a job offer or working to complete a degree; Mi Casa is a first step for the Latino community. Thank you for helping us pave the way for brighter futures, for generations to come.

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CEO, Mi Casa Resource Center®



Coming Soon!



*Our team is hard at work planning our programming calendar for 2024. Check out our website in a few weeks to see our exciting programming for 2024!*



## Volunteer with Us!

Volunteers needed for the new year! Help members of our community build their language skills in Mi Casa Resource Center®'s English as a Second Language course. The ESL course is 11 weeks – our next session begins January 16th and finishes on March 23rd.

Contact [volunteer@micasaresourcecenter.org](mailto:volunteer@micasaresourcecenter.org) for more information.



## Community Success

### Business Participant Story

Alycia Campbell just concluded her time as an instructor for the Women's Leadership Program, which celebrated its graduation on November 28th. As a busy entrepreneur, Alycia was looking for guidance on the next steps toward growing her small boutique virtual assistant business, Creative PlanHer. Her relationship with Mi Casa Resource Center began in the Fall of 2020 when she was a participant in the Business Success MANAGE class. Upon completion of the program, Creative PlanHer has continued to grow and specialize in giving business owners the freedom to work on their business versus in their business by taking administrative tasks off their plates.



Our Women's Leadership Program provides BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color) communities a space to learn, grow and build confidence as leaders in their respective industries. Alycia led a cohort through the three pillars of the curriculum: "changing the mindset, building sustainable behavior, and execution" which are necessary skills to successful leadership. Throughout this 12-week cohort they explored leadership styles, effective communication, establishing healthy boundaries and creating attainable goals. They also learned from esteemed colleagues, stakeholders, and decision makers, including Councilwoman Shontel Lewis.

Mi Casa would like to extend its best wishes and gratitude to our instructor, Alycia. The cohort will be able to add completing this coursework to their list of earned credentials, giving these candidates a competitive advantage against their peers and strengthening their abilities as entrepreneurs.

## Graduations

At the conclusion of each quarter, Mi Casa's program instructors welcome a new generation of individuals into our local community. These ambitious individuals learn effective strategies to launch their business, and, more importantly, connect with industry leaders from the Denver community. Our Career Pathways graduates learn new skills to reach to new and better employment opportunities.

Our instructors led new cohorts to graduation this season from the following courses and programs: Medical Administration Training, Financial Services Training, Human Resources Essentials Training, La Receta® Lanzar, and Women's Leadership Program. Graduates have now received the skills, connections, and opportunity to continue with their path toward economic prosperity. We hope that graduates and Mi Casa supporters will celebrate the success of our community's work in 2023 this holiday season. Thank you for being part of this community, and we look forward to seeing you in 2024!



**Financial Services Training Graduates**



**Human Resources Essentials Training Graduates**

# Mi Casa en la Comunidad

## Outreach Events



As the year winds down, Mi Casa has been bustling with activity, deeply engaged in nuestra comunidad. Our commitment to systems navigation and our drive to mobilize essential resources remains unwavering. Throughout the year, dedicated staff members actively participate and lead outreach events, as we work to embody Mi Casa's mission and build generational wealth with families across Colorado.

2023 outreach events include:

- AEOC National Night Out
- Westwood & Jobs Plus Community Cookout
- EC3 International Market
- City of Aurora Global Fest
- Westwood Chile Fest
- Clinica Tepeyac Block Party
- CHOW in the Park
- Front Range Community College Viva la Cultura Hispanic Heritage Month
- Latinas in Tech Denver , CU Denver Noche Latina
- Thornton High School 3E Fair
- Elevating Diversity Job Fair



# Mi Casa en la Comunidad

## Seeds for Growth



Mi Casa Resource Center®, in collaboration with Huntington National Bank, hosted the impactful "Seeds for Growth for Small Businesses" event. Despite the cold weather, we came together at Mi Casa, where small business owners connected with essential resources to elevate their ventures. The day featured sessions on Access to Capital, Marketing and Sales, and Calculating Growth and Costs, presented by the enthusiastic Huntington National Bank team. Attendees were inspired by a keynote address from Amanda Gordon, CEO of GoJo Auto, who shared her entrepreneurial journey. The event also included a Small Business Marketplace, providing a platform for Mi Casa alums to showcase their products. A heartfelt thanks to Huntington for their continuous support in making this event a success.



*Thank you to*



# Huntington



## Meet Our Staff

### Cris Cardenas

#### What is your role at Mi Casa?

I am the Director of Finance.

#### How did you come to work here?

I have long admired the work done at Mi Casa Resource Center® and jumped at the opportunity to apply for the position when it opened in 2022.

#### What is your favorite Mi Casa memory?

I have a few, but I enjoy attending the graduations of our participants. These events are where you see the culmination of their hard work and what the accomplishment means to them. My recent favorite memory was our staff retreat. After a year of high turnover, it felt good to have us all together, getting to know each other and discussing our values and the future of Mi Casa.

#### What does being part of Mi Casa mean to you?

I have a long history of volunteering and working for non-profits, and I do this because of the focus on mission/vision. This is meaningful work, and what I do for Mi Casa is essential and part of a long tradition of ensuring the financial stability of this organization. I am very proud of the work I and others do for this organization and the participants we serve.

#### Please share a fun fact about yourself.

I'm a big fan of professional cycling and have traveled domestically and internationally to watch some big races. I have a trip planned to the beginning stages of the 2024 Tour de France!

#### What do you wish every person knew about Mi Casa?

The staff cares deeply about our participants. We plan our programming and other services around what is best for them. Their needs are at the forefront of all we do.





## Spotlight on our Board

### **An Introduction to Arnulfo Hernandez, Mi Casa Board Member**

*Arnulfo D. Hernández, Esq., is the founding and managing partner of Hernández & Associates, P.C., the largest immigration law firm in Denver, Colorado, and surrounding states. He and his wife, Christine, have three kids. They made Denver their home twenty-one years ago. Arnulfo began participating in the Mi Casa legal nights in the summer of 2007, he joined the Mi Casa Board in November of 2021 and served as a member of the executive committee.*



“As a fourth-generation business owner, I believe that entrepreneurship empowers individuals & their communities by providing pathways toward financial success and independence. Small business entrepreneurs are the heart of the U.S. economy. Small businesses create jobs, foster wealth, promote innovation in our economy and improve the standard of living for our entire community.

I am involved with Mi Casa, because I share in Mi Casa’s mission and belief that our Colorado Latina/o community can achieve economic success by realizing their educational, professional, and entrepreneurial goals through education, training, and support. Mi Casa is an invaluable resource in our Denver community.

I greatly admire and appreciate this organization and the support it provides for our growing Latina/o community. I am excited to see the profound impact our graduates will have in our community in the years to come.”



# CO Gives Day 2023



With gratitude - generous Mi Casa donors, supporters, and networks!

Together, we raised over \$18K this Colorado Gives Day, as part of our End-of-Year Giving. Your support fuels Mi Casa Resource Center® work year-round. YOU make a difference for our participants as they embark on their entrepreneurial journeys to enhance career skills, achieve digital literacy, and more.

Join us in finishing 2023 strong as Mi Casa is poised for collective impact in 2024.

★ [Donate for Growth](#) 🌱



## Mi Casa Es Su Casa. Connect with us!



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

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