

INSIDE Report

A Bi-Monthly E-Newsletter



45 Years of Creating Pathways to Opportunity



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Inside Mi Casa

Looking Back, Looking Forward

In 1976, seven mothers and a father living in West Denver launched what would become Mi Casa Resource Center®. They envisioned a place where Latinas could come for support to complete their education and find job-training programs to help them fulfill their potential. This was a time when women were struggling to develop skills to break into higher wage jobs.

Over time, Mi Casa added bilingual business development services to help low-income, female, and minority business owners fulfill their business dreams. They created academic and enrichment programs for middle and high school youth. Then, Mi Casa began to focus on resources to advance economic self-sufficiency for underserved Latino families with limited opportunities.

Today, Mi Casa remains committed to providing programs that create business and career pathways in a respectful, innovative, and technology-rich learning environment in Denver’s Westwood neighborhood. We are especially proud of the continued success of our program participants, 74% of whom are women. They mirror the long lasting vision and legacy of our founders.

As we celebrate our 45th anniversary, Mi Casa looks forward to serving the community for the next 45 years by educating and supporting youth and adults on their path to economic success.

In solidarity,

CEO, Mi Casa Resource Center®



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Coming Soon

2021: July - August Programs at Mi Casa

Time to sign up for these opportunities at: <https://bit.ly/3gu5u4E>



July 12: Zoom 2.0 Boot Camp: Hosting A Zoom Meeting

July 12: QuickBooks Workshop - Part 1

July 13: Virtual Legal Clinic

July 14: Brown Bagged Lunch Session: Small Mentor-Protégé Program

July 12: QuickBooks Workshop - Part 2

July 20: Financial Services Training

July 21: Considering a Business?SM

July 21: Considering a Food Business?



August 4: Brown Bagged Lunch Session: How to Work with the Federal Government

August 10: Virtual Legal Clinic

August 18: Considering a Business?SM

August 18: Considering a Food Business?

August 23: Pricing and Costing Bootcamp Part 1

August 25: Pricing and Costing Bootcamp Part 2

August 24: Business Success – MANAGE

August 24: Business Success – PLAN

Community Stories

Mariela's Story

While learning English at Swan Lake Middle School in 2015, Mariela met Andy, a Mi Casa team member. She never forgot their conversation about Mi Casa Resource Center's programs. In 2020, she responded to a Facebook ad for La Receta, Mi Casa's mobile-food business accelerator. Mariela knew this was an opportunity to get help in developing her dream project: Grandma's Mobile Kitchen. She worked alongside Daniela, a Business Pathways team member, to enroll in Fundamentals of a Food Business, the first module of the program. She then enrolled in La Receta PRE, a module focused on food business planning. This prepared her to navigate her startup, develop her menu, and secure access to capital. Mariela was energized by this process and said, "Todos los días me gusta aprender una cosa nueva." ("I like to learn something new every day.")

Mi Casa Business Consultant, Ana, worked with her as she applied for her licenses through the Denver Department of Excise and Licenses. As a new food entrepreneur graduate of La Receta, Ana remarked, "Mariela is the kind of person who is an inspiration! Everything she does, she does with joy." And she is now open for business in Denver!

Mariela appreciates the support of Mi Casa in making her vision a reality. What she loves about Mi Casa is "que siempre están allí, que siempre están ayudando a la gente hispana como yo." ("They are always there, helping Hispanic people like me.")



MI CASA
RESOURCE CENTER®
Creating Pathways to Opportunity

1976 **45** Years 2021

Spotlight on our Board Members

A Personal Note from Shannon Corcoran, Board President

To better understand my personal connection to Mi Casa, you have to know a little about me and the connection I have to our community.

I grew up in a very large household (5 full, 5 half, 10 foster siblings over the years) in the suburbs of Southern California. From the time I was born, through my adult years, my parents took in a number of kids from all walks of life. In fact, what most people don't know about me is that my mom named me after a foster baby that she took in after a local teen mother abandoned her. To say the least, I grew up with a lens on life that has molded me into the person I am today - someone that cares deeply about my community and is vested in the potential of ALL people.

My decision to join Mi Casa's board of directors is rooted in that upbringing and drive to create pathways to opportunity for underrepresented communities. In September of last year, I joined Guild Education as the VP of Operations Strategy and Tooling for a very similar reason - they too believe in unlocking opportunities for America's workforce.

The pandemic has exacerbated the problem. A recent McKinsey report on the Future of Work After COVID highlights "The pandemic accelerated existing trends in remote work, ecommerce and automation, with up to 25 percent more (from 7.9% to 10.1% in the US) workers than previously estimated potentially needing to switch occupations." The need for upskilling, reskilling, and finishing post secondary education is critical to today's workforce to land jobs not only in Denver but across the country.

The time to act is now and Mi Casa is at the forefront of being able to help the community. The work we do matters. We create those pathways to opportunity for those that wouldn't otherwise have the ability to do so. As an example, Colorado's economy is primarily driven by small businesses (99.5% of CO businesses, 48.1% of jobs) and the work Mi Casa is doing in this space helps to diversify the population of small business owners but also creates jobs in our community.

I look forward to seeing what all Mi Casa will accomplish in the coming years with continued focus and dedication to those they serve. I'm proud to be on this journey together with such an amazing organization.





Meet Our Staff

Sonya Rodriguez

We recently caught up with Sonya at Mi Casa for a quick conversation.

What is your role at Mi Casa?

I am Mi Casa's Accounting Specialist. I help keep financials organized and up to date.

How did you come to work here?

In January of 2003, I was a temporary employee working in Accounts Payable. The same year, I joined Mi Casa full time.

What is your favorite Mi Casa memory?

The new building opening. Seeing it had cutting edge technology to better serve the community.

What does being part of Mi Casa mean to you?

Being a part of Mi Casa means I am helping the community. I love hearing the success stories!

Please share a fun fact about yourself.

My favorite season is spring.

What do you wish every person knew about Mi Casa?

It is a great place to begin to make your dreams a reality.

The Living Room

Join Us!

It seems like every time we talk to someone about Mi Casa, they'll say something like "Wow! What can I do to help?" Whether you want to sponsor, volunteer, donate, Facebook fundraise, or just spread the word, we are grateful for your support! **To learn more, call (303) 573-1302 or email us at development@micasaresourcecenter.org**

Mi Casa Es Su Casa. It has been for 45 years!

Connect with us and stay up to date on our latest news!

