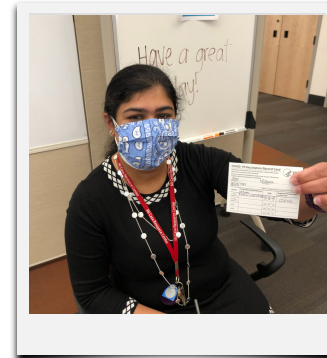
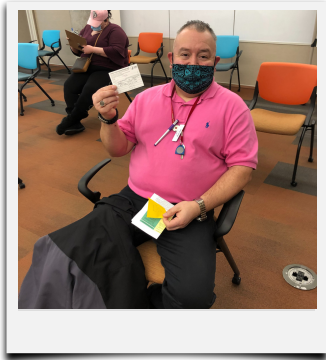


# INSIDE Report

A Mi Casa E-Newsletter



## 45 Years of Creating Pathways to Opportunity



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### Inside Mi Casa

## The Fight to Increase Equity and Access to Vaccination

It doesn't need to be said that we are living in unprecedented times, yet here we are. A year and 6 months after the world shut down, the pandemic continues to impact our way of life. While the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines has given us hope and a certain sense of normalcy, there continues to be inequity among communities of color when it comes to vaccination.

Across the country and in Denver, communities of color have received vaccines at much slower rates—despite the fact that these communities have felt the spread of COVID-19 and its disastrous effects more acutely. Out of all the vaccinated people in Colorado as of September 14, 2021, Hispanics represent 11.6% and Black people only 3.2%, while White (non-Hispanics) make up 68.2% of the immunized group (2021, Colorado.gov).

Mi Casa is committed to equity through our services. An important aspect of vaccine equity is ensuring everyone has access to accurate information and support for getting the vaccine. This is why our community vaccination events at Mi Casa represent an important step forward in the fight against COVID-19. This past spring, Mi Casa held two vaccine clinics where we served 220 individuals and some of our staff has volunteered at other community vaccination events. Mi Casa is looking forward to hosting new vaccination clinics on September 28th and October 19th, with the hope of increasing the vaccination rate in the Westwood neighborhood area and beyond.

In solidarity,  
CEO, Mi Casa Resource Center®



**Mi Casa Resource Center®**  
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Coming Soon

## 2021: October - November Programs at Mi Casa

Time to sign up for these opportunities at: <https://bit.ly/38vGsgy>



October 11: La Receta® Launch  
October 12: Virtual Legal Clinic  
October 12: Business Success® LAUNCH  
October 12: Business Success® GROW  
October 20: Considering a Business?SM



November 9: Virtual Legal Clinic  
November 9: Google Account Basics & Gmail  
November 11: Google Docs  
November 16: Google Slides  
November 17: Considering a Business?®  
November 18: Google Sheets

### Community Success

## Fatima Boylen's Story

When Fatima Boylen's friend invited her to the 2017 opening of Mi Casa Resource Center's new building on Grove Street, she would never have imagined the impact that this nonprofit would have on her life in the years to come. She started her business in 2013, deciding that owning her own business would allow her to earn an income for her family and to also be a present mom for her daughter. "One of the challenges I faced when I started the business was the lack of information on the Internet in Spanish. I also I didn't know which entities to go to, or what resources were available" Fatima explained. Despite her fear and lack of resources and information, Fatima still created her own small business. Right away, her residential cleaning business took off and as her number of clients increased, she expanded into commercial cleaning.

At the inauguration of Mi Casa's new campus, Fatima met a Mi Casa staff member who suggested she learn about Mi Casa's business offerings. She enrolled in *Exito Para Negocios*. During the class, the instructors helped her identify aspects of her business that needed improvement and connected her with additional resources and mentors. "I remember every speaker would say something interesting about Mi Casa and about the classes and I thought, "Yes, I want to put all of this into practice. I want to switch from being the cleaning lady to being the business owner. Little by little, the classes at Mi Casa started making changes in my business".

After graduating from *Exito Para Negocios*, Fatima saw her business flourish with a clearer business structure, more clients, and employees. Fatima has gone from being a program participant to being an active advocate for Mi Casa, from sharing her story on a Zoom call with Dr. Jill Biden to participating in Mi Casa's Virtual Panel series last year on the cleaning services industry. "Mi Casa provided me with the resources I needed to be happy and to make things happen. I am now able to be with my daughter, provide for my family, and provide jobs for other people".



MI CASA  
RESOURCE CENTER®

Creating Pathways to Opportunity

1976 **45** Years 2021

## Spotlight on our Board

### A Personal Note from Jessica Acosta, Mi Casa Board Member

A serial entrepreneur and accomplished community-minded leader, Jessica Acosta is the founder and CEO of Environmental Consulting Services, LLC (ECS), Acosta Group, & her latest project, EDIFICE2120. Ms. Acosta serves as a mentor for the Stanford Latino Entrepreneur Leaders Program to provide guidance and advice on businesses scaling up.

I was born in Mexico and came to the United States as an English language learner. My American dream was to have my own business. I attained my degree in Communications from the University of Denver and then started working in the construction industry as an entry-level employee. I worked my way up to Project Manager, leading my company on many high scale construction projects.

As I started my own business, a former supervisor told me that I had three things working against me – being female, young, and Latina. My response was, “Wait and see; I’m going to make those things work for me, instead of against me.”

Since 2011, my company, Environmental Consulting Services, LLC (ECS) has addressed the environmental compliance needs of private, federal, state, and local clients. Though I had technical expertise, I faced the hurdles many women-owned small businesses encounter. I decided to pursue entrepreneurial training at Mi Casa Resource Center® and went through the *Business Success* and the next-level entrepreneurial training, *Business Breakthrough*, programs in 2010. The Women’s Business Center offers entrepreneurial training, individual business counseling, technology training and networking opportunities to help aspiring entrepreneurs and emerging businesses achieve their goals."

Further to this, she said, "As I look to the future, I continue to challenge myself and strive to inspire and be inspired - I hope my example empowers other Latina women in their professional endeavors. Through determination, hard work, and taking advantage of available resources, every woman can succeed. And when business challenges arise, my advice is, “Don’t let challenges be a roadblock, let them make you more determined to be successful. It doesn’t matter what the stereotypes are - what matters is how you see yourself".



## Mi Casa en la Comunidad



The past two months, the Mi Casa team members have been attending events in the neighborhood to connect with people across the Denver community and to inform them of how Mi Casa can help them achieve their dreams. Events include the: *Westwood National Night Out*, *West Colfax Neighborhood Festival*, *Compass Academy Block Party*, *Backpack Delivery Project*, and the *Westwood Chile Fest*.

## Meet Our Staff

### Javier Martinez

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

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

I recently accepted the role as Bilingual Business Advisor and Instructor on our Business Pathways Team, after serving as the Career Pathways Recruiter at Mi Casa for two years.

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

I wanted to change careers and was having a hard time writing my resume. I did a Google search and found a resume writing workshop at Mi Casa that I signed up for. As soon as I walked into the building that evening, I knew that Mi Casa was where I belonged.

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

The “Welcome Breakfast” for new staff was a big surprise for me. I thought it was cool that an organization did this for new staff members. I couldn’t believe all the staff that had gathered around to meet the new person. And as a bonus, there was the great food that morning!

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

It means I get to work in the community I live in. I can continue to learn about my colleagues, the work we do, and the individuals in the community we serve. Mi Casa gives me the opportunity to feel like I am part of something bigger than myself.

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

I made two game winning free throws when I was on the junior high basketball team.

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

The staff at Mi Casa are committed and honored to be working with the individuals we serve in Colorado. The people at Mi Casa care about your success.



## The Living Room

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



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



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