

INSIDE Report

A Mi Casa E-Newsletter



Creating Pathways to Opportunity



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Inside Mi Casa

The Impact Of The American Rescue Plan

Last month was not only Women's History Month, but also the one year anniversary of the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Mi Casa celebrated this occasion in the best way possible by welcoming U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, the first woman to be U.S. Treasury Secretary and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, husband of the first female Vice President, to our agency. Mi Casa was awarded American Rescue Plan funds and recognized in this event for our powerful impact in the Denver community. These funds supported expansion of our capacity and the redesign of in-person and virtual services to reach more participants. Our community is strong and resilient and these funds have clearly made a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Each day we see how access to career and business programs can develop self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement for individuals and families.

In her speech, Secretary Yellen noted, "Ultimately, one of the guiding principles [of the ARP] was to preserve the existing economy so that we hit the ground running as we emerge from the pandemic. Just think of what's happened here in Denver. Places like Mi Casa Resource Center are supporting small businesses thanks to ARP funds received from the City of Denver's Economic Development and Opportunity Department. When individuals are supported, communities are supported, and the country is better off. The American economy is historically strong because of the ARP and because of the resilience of the American people."

We are thankful for this investment and for the continued support of our donors, who make our economic development work possible.

In gratitude,
CEO, Mi Casa Resource Center®



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Coming Soon

2022: April - June Programs at Mi Casa

Time to sign up for these opportunities at: <https://tinyurl.com/vpztzpup>



April 6th: SBA Webinar - Brown Bagged Lunch Training: SAM.gov/WOSB Registration/Issues Walk-Through
April 18th: Professional Services Training
April 20th: Considering a Business?® and ¿Considerando un Negocio?®
April 22nd: Accounting Bootcamp
April 23rd: Taller de Contabilidad
April 29th: QuickBooks Bootcamp
April 30th: Taller de QuickBooks



May 3rd: Business Success® GROW and Éxito Para Negocios® CRECER
May 4th: SBA Webinar - Brown Bagged Lunch Training: Woman-Owned Small Businesses
May 10th: Business Success® LAUNCH and Éxito Para Negocios® LANZAR
May 13th: Taller de Redes Sociales
May 17th: Financial Services Training
May 18th: Considering a Business?® and ¿Considerando un Negocio?®



June 1st: SBA Webinar - Brown Bagged Lunch Training: 8(a) Business Development Program Class
June 3rd: Social Media Bootcamp
June 6th: La Receta® LAUNCH and La Receta® LANZAR
June 7th: Business Success® PLAN and Éxito Para Negocios® PLANEAR
June 14th: Professional Services Training
June 15th: Considering a Business?® and ¿Considerando un Negocio?®



Mi Casa 2022 Graduates

- 11 Business Success® PLAN
- 9 Éxito Para Negocios® PLANEAR
- 6 Financial Services Training
- 8 Administrative Services Training

Graduation Spotlight

Paola recently launched a home staging business, *Bee Happy Home Staging, LLC*. Her time in Business Success® PLAN provided her with the tools to conduct her market research, identify a customer avatar, and prepare the elevator pitch she delivered at graduation. Congratulations!



Community Success

Bryan's Story

Bryan Stringham, who is often found designing sensors that report the social impact of products in Africa, found time to pursue another one of his life goals - inventing. As a Ph.D. student and father living in a small apartment, he wanted to get toys off the floor and provide a way for kids and families to have the thrill of building a cool racetrack without creating clutter. Lightning struck one night a few weeks into the pandemic and the idea for MagTrax was born. MagTrax (www.magtrax.co) is a marble run track that uses magnetic track pieces of 26 different varieties to let creators of all ages – from young children to adults – build their own marble runs on walls and refrigerators. With a great deal of drive and help from Denver's Mi Casa Resource Center®, Bryan took an idea in March 2020 and had families throughout the U.S. racing magnetic marbles by November. Mi Casa's ProBoPat program was there to help his vision become a reality. ProBoPat refers qualified low-income inventors to volunteer patent practitioners for patent preparation and prosecution legal services on a pro bono basis. Inventors face many challenges and risks, both of which are heightened without financial backing. Patent costs are a real barrier to low-income inventors. Bryan overcame these obstacles by crowdfunding and using ProBoPat.

Bryan hopes that MagTrax will one day have a positive impact on millions. He wants MagTrax in every home, school, and office, and hopes that this is the first of many ventures. While the challenge of creating this product and his business has pushed his limits, he said the hard work "was all worth it" when he hand-delivered the last 10 MagTrax kit orders to expectant families two days before Christmas Day in 2020. Now, almost two years from its inception as an idea, MagTrax has continued to see exciting growth. Bryan says he can rest easy knowing that the product and business for which he has sacrificed so much to build will have the legal protection it needs to continue to grow thanks to the ProBoPat program at Mi Casa.



Open for Business

Farah-Jane Jean Pierre

Farah is making history! She is the proud owner of the first Haitian food truck in Denver. Born and raised in Haiti, Farah moved to New York and then Colorado. The lack of Haitian culture in Denver inspired Farah to start her own business as she believes that the best way to learn about a culture is through its food. The big question she had was "How do you even start a business?" The internet provides tons of information that can cause confusion, and Farah knew she needed someone to guide her. A coworker recommended Mi Casa and Farah signed up for the "Considering a Business?®" webinar. Blown away by Mi Casa's La Receta® program, specifically designed for food entrepreneurs, she didn't think twice about signing up. "Everything I have learned at Mi Casa was important for running my business. . From learning about food cost to getting knowledge about accounting and QuickBooks, these lessons were definitely a must in order to run a successful food truck business." After graduating from Mi Casa, Farah started with pop up tents during the summer of 2021. In December 2021, she officially inaugurated her food truck. She plans to open a brick-and-mortar restaurant in a few years, while keeping her food truck available to breweries and festivals. Farah even catered Mi Casa's featured panel at Denver Start Up Week in October 2021. "Thank you Mi Casa for doing what you are doing. Without your organization I don't know if I would have had the courage to continue with my goals and be open today. Thanks for encouraging me and always reaching out to support!"



Mi Casa en la Comunidad



Mi Casa and Wholly Kicks make a great pair! We partnered with Wholly Kicks, a non-profit organization that provides new shoes to underserved communities. Our organizations gave away over 100 pairs of shoes and socks to Denver community kids, from toddlers to teenagers, on Saturday, March 12th. In addition to the shoes and socks, kids went home with goody bags with toothbrushes, toothpaste, snacks, and toys. Mi Casa thanks the Wholly Kicks team, our staff, and volunteers for their hard work to make this event possible!

History Made at Mi Casa!



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Friday, March 11th, 2022 marked the first anniversary of the American Rescue Plan and Mi Casa welcomed special visitors **U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen** and **Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff**. Additionally, **Colorado Governor Jared Polis**, **Colorado Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera**, **Councilwoman Jamie Torres**, **Deputy Mayor Brendan Hanlon**, and **Mi Casa Business Pathways Graduate Alycia Campbell** were in attendance and spoke of the impact of the American Rescue Plan and Mi Casa's work in the Denver community.

Meet Our Staff

Gloria Ordonez

What is your role at Mi Casa?

I am the Front Desk Attendant at Mi Casa Resource Center®. I inform people on the awesome services that Mi Casa has to offer, and I help them connect with our Career and Business Pathways staff. I also handle some administrative tasks here.

How did you come to work here?

My auntie had told me a little bit about how Mi Casa could help with my career transition. I ended up updating my resume and participating in the Administrative Services Training program that Mi Casa offers. I came into the office one day to use a room and Wi-Fi for my class. As I was leaving, a staff member told me the Front Desk position was going to be available soon. I've always wanted to work for a nonprofit organization, especially one like Mi Casa, and I applied that same day.

What is your favorite Mi Casa memory?

My favorite memory would have to be one day that we had a vaccine clinic. We helped vaccinate up to 90 people in one day! It was hectic and busy but, in the end, it was rewarding, and many more people found out about Mi Casa Resource Center®. I also really loved when Jared Polis, Janet Yellen and Douglas Emhoff came to visit Mi Casa. It was so inspiring!

What does being part of Mi Casa mean to you?

I lived in Japan for 2 years and while living there, my love for being Hispanic grew so much. I wanted so badly to see more Hispanic people in places like Japan. Being a part of Mi Casa is being part of important change that enables our community to thrive and be more financially prosperous. With more financial stability comes the opportunity to share our culture and values with the world.

Please share a fun fact about yourself.

I love to sing, and I am a great impersonator of many kinds of TV characters.

What do you wish every person knew about Mi Casa?

I wish everyone knew that Mi Casa is here to help. I want them to know that there is amazing staff working for Mi Casa and that they are in great hands.



Events Coming Soon!

1st Annual Mi Casa Golf Classic



Join us on June 25th for the 1st Annual Mi Casa Golf Classic at Arrowhead Golf Course! By signing up, you'll have the opportunity to play 18 holes of golf, be entered in a prize raffle, enjoy breakfast and lunch, and most importantly, support Mi Casa and our participants!

Thank you to our Golf Classic Sponsors!



Thank you to our Community Partners Sponsors!



Global Taco

Mi Casa is proud to present Global Taco™, a novel hybrid event that will frame today's taco conversation as an unforgettable food experience converging with food-related products and news.

Tacos are not only a meal. They can also be a source for understanding and community engagement. Tacos are eaten with our hands, leveling the field of those gathering. They are a source of conversation, and the contribution to our taste buds reflects the contributions made by the diversity in our community.

This August event and EXPO is designed to bring together industry, business owners, community leaders, area food entrepreneurs, foodies, and the general consumer in a long overdue forum, networking, and gastronomic experience to address key taco topics.

GLOBAL TACO™

HERE'S SOMETHING TO **TACO BOUT.**

Saturday
August 13, 2022
Denver, CO

Mi Casa
RESOURCE CENTER®

[MiCasaResourceCenter.org](https://micasaresourcecenter.org)

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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