

## **CARECEN Honors Exemplary Women and Celebrates 28 years of Service to the Community during Hispanic Heritage Month**

**Community** 2009-09-28 15:54:29

Washington, DC - The Central American Resource Center (**CARECEN**) will host its annual 2009 benefit event, *Celebrating Women: Strengthening Families, Empowering our Communities*. At this gathering, CARECEN will honor women who have taken leadership roles in the Latino community, while celebrating 28 years of service. The event will take place on October 1, 2009 at the St. Francis Hall in Washington, DC, from 6-10 PM.

The anniversary celebration will benefit CARECEN's citizenship, civic engagement, immigration legal services, housing counseling and financial literacy programs which provide Latinos with the necessary tools and information for the stability and advancement of their families and communities. "This year... non-profit organizations and service agencies are experiencing a contradictory dichotomy. While there is an increase in the number of people seeking social, legal, housing, and other support services, the opportunity to access revenue sources is moving downward at a rapid pace. We welcome your continued support and hope to see you at our event" states Saul Solórzano, Executive Director of CARECEN.

Mercedes Lemp, Director of the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs will be the keynote speaker at the event and will highlight the role of women in the Latino community. Women have increasingly taken leadership roles and are at the forefront of issues such as housing, education, and civil rights. For example, women make up 65% of tenants' associations CARECEN works with to ensure that landlords provide safe, fair housing for them and their families. Also, over 60% of the participants in our citizenship classes are women, and they are the first in the family to take the necessary steps towards naturalization. "I am delighted that this year's event will pay homage to women leaders in our community as we are now celebrating an unprecedented number of Latinas representing our community from the grassroots level, in tenant and neighborhood associations, all the way to the Supreme Court and the new Administration" says Mr. Solórzano.

More than 200 community and business leaders, national advocacy organizations and representatives from local and state governments are expected to attend the event. Clark Construction Group, LLC is the main sponsor of this event and other supporting partners include DC United, TACA Airlines, Tycko&Zavareei, LLP and CapitalWirePR.

### **Celebrating Women: Strengthening Families, Empowering our Communities**

**October 1, 2009**

**St. Francis Hall - Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land  
1400 Quincy St., N.E., Washington, DC 20017**

**6:00 PM Reception**

**7:00 PM Awards Program, Dinner and Live Music**

**\$100 PER PERSON**

To reserve tickets please call 202-328-9799, ext. 13, email [events@carecencdc.org](mailto:events@carecencdc.org), or visit <http://carecencdc.org/CARECENevent.php>

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**WHERE :**

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