



GALA
iESPERANZA!
2023 IT'S OUR FUTURE TO BUILD



More than housing...hope!

Loews Chicago Hotel

455 N PARK DR, CHICAGO, IL 60611

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023

6:30 PM

Welcome to the 2023 Gala ¡Esperanza! As our headline proudly proclaims, "It's Our Future to Build," and we firmly believe that together, we can create a more just world where all thrive.

*The colors of La Casa Norte's 2023 Gala ¡Esperanza! carry profound significance in our mission to build brighter, more equitable futures for all. **Green**, representing housing, embodies the hope for stable and secure homes. **Orange**, symbolizing nutrition, underscores the importance of nourishing the body and soul. **Blue**, signifying education, stands for the opportunities we create through learning. Lastly, **magenta**, reflecting health and wellness, emphasizes our commitment to the well-being of individuals and communities.*

By attending the gala, you are playing a vital role in La Casa Norte's ongoing work serving low-income Chicago youth and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, making these pathways a reality.

Thank you for your support; together, let us continue to build futures filled with hope, opportunity, and equity for all.

-Jose M. Muñoz, CEO of La Casa Norte

Program

Cocktail Hour & Silent Auction

Opening Remarks

Master of Ceremonies, Ana Belaval
Governor JB Pritzker (Video)

Welcome Address

Hon. Delia Ramirez, Congresswoman,
3rd District of Illinois

Hon. Omar Aquino, State Senator,
Illinois District 2

Community Partner Award

Presented to
McDonald's Corporation

Dinner

Agency Video

Jose M. Muñoz, CEO of La Casa Norte

Sol A. Flores Impact Award

Presented to
Rosario Cruz

Paddle Raise

Decker-McQueen Founders' Award

Presented to
Martha Pierce

After Party

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Presenting Sponsor:



Promoter:

**Fred & Marilyn
Webster**



Allstate

**Larry & Judy
Hicks**

Advocate:

Benesch

PEOPLES GAS

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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Friends of LCN:

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Chicago Community Trust

HBK Engineering

Nourishing Hope

Self-Help Credit Union

City Colleges of Chicago

Healthcare Alternative

NPK Hospitality

Shalini Menon

Cresco Labs

Systems

Microsoft

George & Linda Stevenson

Deloitte

Humboldt Park Health

Philadelphia Insurance

Wintrust

Community Partner Award

This award honors a corporate partner that provides significant assistance in furthering La Casa Norte's mission to serve Chicago youth and families of color who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

McDonald's Corporation

We are honored to recognize McDonald's as our Community Partner of the Year.

Since the 2022 launch of their Chicago Community Impact Grants program, McDonald's philanthropic support has proven pivotal. In 2019, La Casa Norte served over 5,000 people; in 2022, we served nearly 20,000.

McDonald's dedication to establishing effective, long-term opportunities for unhoused youth of color in disinvested Chicago communities continues to propel our mission forward. With their support, La Casa Norte has been able to expand available mental health services, increase community outreach efforts, bolster workforce development programming, and grow our youth-led Public Health Ambassadors initiative.

Their commitment to advancing justice, equity, and opportunity fills us with hope for a brighter tomorrow, and we look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration in pursuit of our founding mission.



Decker-McQueen Founders' Award

Named after agency co-founders Keith Decker and Reverend Peter McQueen, whose vision, humanity, tenacity, and grit propelled La Casa Norte into existence



Martha Pierce

Martha Pierce has long championed justice, equity, and opportunity, particularly in Latin America, owing to her longstanding involvement with and membership of Evanston's Lake Street Church, a sanctuary for numerous Guatemalan and Salvadoran refugees. As executive director of the Chicago Metropolitan Sanctuary Alliance from 1991 to 2008, she advocated for human rights and peace-building initiatives; in her retirement, she remains actively committed to these causes, making frequent visits to the region. A founding member of La Casa Norte's board of directors, Martha played an instrumental role in the agency's formation and development. 21 years later, her support of our mission continues on. Residents of Evanston, Martha and her husband, Denis, are the proud parents of three grown children and grandparents of five grandchildren.

Sol A. Flores Impact Award

Named after La Casa Norte's founding executive director, Sol Flores, who grew the organization from a humble team of two to an agency that delivers transformative support services to thousands of youth and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability citywide.



Rosario Cruz

Rosario Cruz is a compassionate, dedicated case manager known for her exceptional organizational support and mentorship. Having extended a helping hand to numerous colleagues, Rosario's firsthand knowledge of and commitment to the organization's mission are reflected in her tireless efforts to meet clients' and coworkers' needs. Her collaborative approach and unwavering dedication have made her an indispensable asset at LCN, setting an inspiring example for her peers.

Honorary Co-Chairs

Hon. Omar Aquino,
State Senator
Illinois District 2

Hon. Delia Ramirez,
Congresswoman
3rd district of Illinois

Host Committee Members

***Juan Morado Jr.**
Benesch Friedlander
Coplan & Aronoff LLP

***Melissa Flores**
McDonald's Corporation

Teresa Reyes
Office of Lt. Governor
Stratton

Homero Tristán
Tristan & Cervantes

***Vanessa Hall**
Peoples Gas

Cynthia Burr
Vivid Art Gallery

***Ryan Coon**
Realtor.com

Juatise Gathings
DEI Strategist

Lizbeth Menjivar-Muñoz
Fidelity Investments

Jorge Neri
Neri Group, LLC

Swathi Staley
YMCA of Metropolitan
Chicago

***Julio Rodriguez**
Illinois Department of
Commerce and Economic
Opportunity

*Indicates member of La Casa Norte Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Keith Decker
Co-Founder
Board Member Emeritus
Parkwest Furniture

The Rev. Peter McQueen
Co-Founder
Board Member Emeritus
St. John's United Church of Christ

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and Economic Opportunity

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Avail & Realtor.com

Melissa Flores
McDonald's Corporation

Vanessa Hall
Peoples Gas

Howard Hayes
Allstate

Gustavo Magno
Northern Trust

Shalini Menon
Bank of America

JuanPablo Prieto
Chicago Transit Authority

Mick Solimene
Monroe Capital LLC

Christina Tribbia
Farmers Insurance Exchange

Fund-A-Need

\$10,000

La Casa Norte served 19,188 people across Chicago in 2022. Our Solid Ground Transitional Housing Program provides housing, education, and healthcare to male-identifying youth ages 18 to 21. By donating \$10,000, you can help make a tangible difference in their lives.

\$5,000

Our youth programs equip clients with essential life skills and developmental opportunities, including art therapy, college and career readiness, basic culinary lessons, and more. Every \$5,000 donated can help fund these transformative programs.

\$2,500

\$2,500 can help reduce accessibility barriers for homeless youth in need of transportation assistance. Your support will help youth clients visit agency locations to meet with case managers, receive necessary services, and attend school, job interviews, medical appointments, and counseling sessions. Ride-share vouchers and bus passes help eliminate accessibility barriers, financial burdens, sources of anxiety, and potential danger.

Fund-A-Need

\$1,000

In 2022, we served 10,698 meals to clients of Casa Corazón and Solid Ground. Every \$1,000 can provide nutritious meals to our youth and families.

\$500

Every \$500 can provide critical supplies for a family's first home, including cookware, dishes, utensils, and cleaning and bathroom supplies.

\$100

We distribute nearly 10,000 hygiene products annually to our community. Every \$250 donation can provide essential hygiene items.

In-Kind Donors

Amerikas Restaurant
Arepa George
Barry's
Big Mini Putt Club
Brookfield Zoo
Bub City
Chalet Nursey
Chicago Architecture Center
Chicago Bulls
Chicago Cubs
Chicago White Sox
CLEARLY Reformer Pilates
Cooper Hawk Winery
Depaul Athletics
Done by Design Studio
Duck Duck Goat
Eli's Cheesecake
Evanston Art Center
First Ascent
The Frida Room
Galit Restaurant
The Grillroom Chophouse
& Wine Bar
Harrah's Casino & Hotel
Homero Tristan
Jam Productions
Jeni's Ice Cream
KOVAL Distillery
Lalo's Chicago
Latin Rhythms Dance Academy
Maker's Mark
Mark Bradford
Metropolis Coffee
Moe's Cantina
Museum of Contemporary Art
North Shore Center for
Performing Arts
Paramount Theatre
Ritual Hot Yoga
Roeser's Bakery
Rogers & Hollands
Scent Queens
Skydeck Chicago
SPKR BX
Sueños Music Festival
Sun Beam
Tasa Coffee Roasters
TITLE Boxing
TZUCO
VIVE Float Studio
Wines for Humanity
Zanie's
Zen Yoga

Client Testimonial

Last summer, Liliana González embarked on a two-month journey. With her toddler in her arms, she began a slow, winding ascent northward in search of a better life.

“I want my son to have a future. And here, he can. Here, you can.”

Liliana, 30, and son Matías, 3, number among the more than 7.1 million refugees and migrants who have left Venezuela. Upon arrival in Chicago, Liliana, her son, and several hundred Venezuelan migrants and asylum seekers were lodged temporarily at a handful of north suburban hotels. There, a network of local nonprofits, civic organizations, and volunteers converged to prepare them for the road ahead.

La Casa Norte is among these organizations.

“While I was at the hotel, that’s where I met Luz,” says Liliana, referring to Luz Cortez, La Casa Norte’s Community Assistance Program Manager. Cortez and her bilingual team provide migrants and asylum seekers with in-person, Spanish-language rental application assistance, school and job referrals, legal support, and access to El Mercadito food pantry, a collaboration between La Casa Norte and Nourishing Hope.

“It would have been very different without La Casa Norte, Casa Michoacán, Catholic Charities, and all of the organizations that have been helping us. Very different.”

When asked about the future, Liliana smiles broadly.



“ I feel excited. My hope is to enroll Matías in preschool, find a good job, have some things of my own, maybe even a house. I want to be able to have something all my own, where I can say, ‘Look, this is mine. I worked for this.’ ”

GALA

¡ESPERANZA!

2023 IT'S OUR FUTURE TO BUILD

Thank You from La Casa Norte!

Our Mission is to serve youth and families confronting homelessness. We provide access to stable housing and deliver comprehensive services that act as a catalyst to transform lives and communities.



La Casa
Norte

More than housing...hope!

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STAY CONNECTED!



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