



The mission of Casa de Esperanza is to mobilize Latinas and Latino communities to end domestic violence. A Latina organization founded in 1982, Casa de Esperanza's innovative philosophy and approach are grounded in the strengths, realities, and values of Latinas, as well as the knowledge that family and community are the fabric of Latino life. Casa de Esperanza works both locally and nationally to support families, end domestic violence, and increase access to effective services for Latinos across the country. Casa de Esperanza served 13,988 individuals in FY2008.

### **The National Latino Network for Healthy Families and Communities**

Building on local initiatives, Casa de Esperanza has taken a leadership role in improving access and services across the country for Latinas experiencing domestic violence. The National Latino Network for Healthy Families and Communities incorporates:

- A research center to conduct culturally relevant research to inform the creation of new strategies for engaging Latinas and their communities in ending domestic violence.
- A public policy initiative, based in Washington, DC, that takes Latino realities to legislative tables. Casa de Esperanza also translates policy decisions into information and tools that inform and enhance the work of organizations throughout the country.
- Training and support. Casa de Esperanza is a Technical Assistance (TA) provider for the Office on Violence Against Women, US Dept. of Justice. TA is provided to Latino domestic violence organizations and mainstream agencies that work with Latinas and their families.

### **Community**

Casa de Esperanza believes that strong communities and social networks decrease domestic violence. Building connections, facilitating resources, and changing attitudes about violence in the home are key elements in engaging communities to prevent and end domestic violence.

- Two neighborhood Information and Resource Centers—in St. Paul and Minneapolis—provide access to technology and information that is critical to Latinos' daily lives.
- Casa de Esperanza trains Latina women and teens to offer workshops for their peers. Peer educators are challenged to recognize their skills, take leadership in their communities, and promote and model healthy relationships.
- Casa de Esperanza partners with other organizations and community leaders to create action agendas and infuse information, resources, and support into Latino communities.

### **Latinas and their Families**

Casa de Esperanza's Latina-based advocacy is grounded in the conviction that each woman experiencing domestic violence knows what is best for her and her family; Family Advocates follow her lead and support her decisions.

- Family Advocates work with women and children who find safety at our shelter, *Ei Refugio*, and with Latinas *where they are*—at home in the community.
- The 24/7 bilingual crisis line receives thousands of calls each year.

### **Products and Tools**

Casa de Esperanza has created original manuals and films for organizations working with Latino families, youth, and communities. Colorful children's products have been developed for use in families and with children who have experienced domestic violence.