



ARTE SANA

Victim Advocacy SIN FRONTERAS

PRESENTS:

NATIONAL LATINA VICTIM ADVOCATE AWARDS 2006

2006 National Latina Victim Advocate Awards Selection Committee

Melina Castillo, Domestic Violence Counselor, Irving Police Department/Victim Services, Chair of Latinos Against Domestic Violence, a subcommittee of the Dallas County Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition, Texas

Clara G. Lindstrom, Arte Sana Advisory Council, Founding Member of National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault Leadership Committee, Presenter, Consultant, Oregon

Aimee Loya, Program Specialist, California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA)

Melissa Hernandez Nazario, M.P.A., New Jersey

Kimber Nicoletti, MSW, Statewide Minority Outreach Coordinator, CARE: Communities Against Rape Initiative Purdue University, Vice Chair of NSVRC Advisory Council, Indiana

Laura Zárate, Arte Sana Founding Executive Director, Texas

Agencies in which the 2006 National Latina Victim Advocate Award nominees provide services:

Alaska Immigration Justice Project
Butler County Rape Crisis Program - Hamilton, OH
Casa de Esperanza - St. Paul MN
Citizens Against Sexual Assault (CASA) of Harrisonburg/Rockingham County, VA
Congreso de Latinos Unidos - Philadelphia, PA
Consejo Counseling and Referral Service - Seattle, WA
Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence - Okemos MI
Neighborhood Youth and Family Counseling of Richardson, Inc. - Richardson, TX
SafeHaven - Fort Worth, TX
Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services - Mount Vernon, WA
Texas Health and Human Services Commission - Office of Border Affairs - Laredo, TX
The Center for Women and Families - Louisville, KY
The Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina, Inc.
United Against Sexual Assault of Sonoma County - Santa Rosa CA
Women's Transitional Living Center - Orange, CA
Women of Color Alliance - Founder/Co-director - Boise, ID
YWCA of Greater Harrisburg - Harrisburg, PA

🌀 SIN FRONTERAS: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AWARD 🌀

2006 RECIPIENT:

Elizabeth Ibanez

Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services - Mount Vernon, WA

NOMINATED BY:

Pamela Crume, Executive Director Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services –
Mount Vernon, WA

Elizabeth Ibanez was born in Peru and is a graduate of the Human Services Program at Skagit Valley Community College in Mount Vernon, Washington. As a member of the group that founded the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Station (KCNS), Elizabeth Ibanez was instrumental in helping create, introduce and promote the “station” as a valuable and accessible resource center offering a wide range of services to the Latino community. The station was developed to address the unique needs of a predominately Latino neighborhood in Mount Vernon, Skagit County, Washington. The neighborhood consists of 2500+ residents, 707 low income apartments and one middle school. Through her hard work and devotion, the resource center has grown dramatically, adding many new programs and services for adults and children alike.

Elizabeth, in her modesty, would disclaim any significant responsibility in the development of the following. However, here are a few of her achievements:

- Developing and facilitating the El Grupo de la Mujeres en Acción. These women have participated in various local, state, and national trainings, and have become a key coordinating agent for substance abuse and violence prevention efforts in the community. Elizabeth was also instrumental in helping the group gain non-profit status in 2005.
- Developing and coordinating the Family Heritage Celebration, an annual event, occurring on Mothers’ Day weekend, brings over 1,000 people together to celebrate the language, dance, music, culture, and cuisine of Latin America.
- Developing and coordinating weekly Spanish language community radio discussions, facilitating conversations about issues relevant to Latino residents, migrant workers, and many of the agencies which provide assistance to them. These radio programs reach an audience as far north as Vancouver, BC, and as far south as the Chehalis, Washington. These broadcasts have recently included the *Mizteco* language in an attempt to reach newer residents from Oaxaca, Mexico.

Even the above, limited list, however, does not touch Elizabeth’s real impact on our entire community. Her presence among us has been fortuitous, coinciding with a maturing awareness in Skagit County of the importance and permanence of our Latino neighbors. She has been their voice at many tables, helping the non-Latino community understand both what is unique to Latino communities in Skagit County and elsewhere, and what those communities have in common with their non-Latino neighbors. She modestly, but firmly, reminds those of us who work with her in human services and government that our responsibility includes developing linguistic and cultural competencies so that our work can be genuinely inclusive.

☞ SIN FRONTERAS: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AWARD ☞

2006 RECIPIENT:
Consejo Counseling and Referral Service - Seattle, WA

NOMINATED BY:
Merril Cousin, King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence - Seattle WA

I am nominating *Consejo* Counseling and Referral Service for your *SIN Fronteras Award* because *Consejo* is doing groundbreaking work for Latina survivors of sexual and domestic violence and their children in the Pacific Northwest.

Consejo's Domestic Violence Services Program provides a culturally competent and comprehensive continuum of services from prevention to safety provision to transitional housing for single women and mothers with children who are survivors of domestic violence. *Consejo* programs are one-of-a-kind, providing unique and unduplicated services in Spanish to Latina/os in nine counties across our State.

Consejo's Teen Advocacy Program (TAP) began in 1995 to reach out to young Latina victims of dating and domestic violence including sexual abuse in Western Washington. All programming is in Spanish to serve newly-arrived immigrant and monolingual youth. Before *Consejo*, these young women had no available resources. Now, in partnership with the Seattle, King County, and Yakima County School Districts, *Consejo's TAP* provides training and support groups for both female and male adolescents who have suffered dating violence, sexual harassment and/or assault as well as domestic violence. This year, *Consejo's TAP* conducted the very first conference on dating violence in the Pacific Northwest, called *Ya! Basta!* Workshops included *Latino Gang Violence*, *Self-Defense Awareness* and *Dating Violence*. *Ya! Basta!* was held at the Youngstown Community Arts Center and was completely organized by Latina/o youth! Over 300 young people attended.

This year, *Consejo* also did a series of public service announcements, informational programming and call-in shows on *Radio Sol (1360 AM)* in downtown Seattle, and on their *Human Trafficking Services Program* in Eastern Washington. The radio shows discussed how Latina victims can seek services, advocacy, and support from law enforcement agencies to end involuntary, indentured servitude and sexual slavery.

Confirming their commitment to ending violence, *Consejo* also has the only culturally competent *Latino Perpetrator Treatment Program* in the state.

Consejo is making history for Latinos in Washington yet again this year with construction of *Villa Esperanza*: this facility includes 23 brand new, two- and three-bedroom transitional housing apartments for Latina survivors and their children. *Villa Esperanza* will set the precedent for culturally competent services as the only housing available for Latino families with children, with family and legal advocacy, case management, and natural peer support systems all onsite. I trust the hundreds of families served at *Villa Esperanza* will be families who will have no where else to turn. Thanks to *Consejo*, they will not only escape violence, but will be saved from homelessness.

☞ COMADRE EN LA LUCHA – LATINA LEADERSHIP AWARD ☞

2006 RECIPIENT:

Karina Barillas

The Center for Women and Families - Louisville, KY

NOMINATED BY:

Ana María Keane

The Center for Women and Families - Louisville, KY

Karina Barillas is from Guatemala City, Guatemala and has been working in the areas of women's empowerment and women's issues since 2000. She has served in leadership positions in various community entities and has received public recognition for her service. In 2004 she was awarded the National Conference for Community and Justice's *Peace Maker* Humanitarian Award. Karina was also featured in Louisville Magazine 2004, as one of the 12 "Women to Watch". She was also named by the Spanish newspaper "*Hoy en Las Américas*" as one of the 25 most influential Hispanics in Louisville (January 2006).

Karina has been working at the Center for Women and Families as a Bilingual Family Advocate since 2001. At the Center she accompanies Latina victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, provides counseling and case management, and facilitates *Latinas Unidas*, a domestic violence/sexual assault support group. With Karina's leadership the Center for Women and Families' staff and services have become more accessible to immigrant women.

Karina has been a key organizer of the Latina Women's Movement in Louisville, creating places of community and support where women find the courage and strength to confront oppressive systems and abuse. Karina is also the founder of a movement called *Las Promotoras*, a leadership program for the women of the groups to talk to other women about domestic violence/sexual assault and issues of mental and physical health. Karina provides community education and information on domestic violence/sexual assault via the radio station *La Caliente* and through bi-weekly articles in *Al Día en América* Newspaper. She serves as a consultant and presenter to the Police Academy for Latino Citizens on issues related to domestic violence/sexual assault and options for victims and survivors. She has also trained attorneys and staff at Catholic Charities on domestic violence/sexual assault issues, so they can effectively and sensitively support victims that seek legal help at that agency. At the Kentucky Hispanic and Immigrant Networking Summit, Karina presented information on domestic violence/sexual assault issues and barriers facing immigrants. She also works in collaboration with the Archdioceses of Louisville, as a consultant and as the presenter of the program "Honor Thy Children", a sexual assault prevention program for all staff and volunteers that work for the Catholic Archdiocese.

Karina possesses skills of humility, generosity, leadership and endless creativity and innovation. As an immigrant herself, she has a strong connection and great credibility with the women. In addition to all she does, Karina is a fantastic mother of two beautiful children, a wonderful partner to her husband, an outstanding friend and confidant to those close to her.

☞ COMADRE EN LA LUCHA – LATINA LEADERSHIP AWARD ☞

2006 RECIPIENT:

Irene Ochoa

Casa de Esperanza - St. Paul MN

NOMINATED BY:

Family Advocates on behalf of Casa de Esperanza - St. Paul MN

It is with great pride and love that Casa de Esperanza's Family Advocates nominate Irene Ochoa, the Lead Advocate at Casa de Esperanza, for the National Latina Advocate Award in the *Comadre en la Lucha* category.

There are women in this world who are so wise and strong that just being in their presence inspires comfort and *confianza*. Irene is one of them. For the last sixteen years, Irene has dedicated her time and energy to the women and children who have passed through *El Refugio*, an emergency shelter for battered women and their children, as well as to all the Family Advocates who have worked with battered Latinas in *El Refugio* and in the community. We all know that she is the one we can count on to be there when we need her. Those of us who have had the privilege to know her and work with her have seen a quiet, peaceful woman, always working with a smile and a profound sense of *humildad*.

Irene has had many opportunities to advance her position at Casa de Esperanza and elsewhere, but her commitment and connection to the women that we serve have kept her rooted and active in our direct service. Her *sabiduría, consejo y apoyo* are critical to maintaining the level of service that we provide and the liberating support that women feel when they are struggling with experiences of domestic abuse or sexual violence.

At Casa de Esperanza we believe that women are their own experts, and Irene consistently utilizes this philosophy to empower women. Irene will spend hours on the crisis line with a woman, supporting her as she struggles with difficult experiences, feelings, and decisions. “¿Que Piensa Usted?” is one of the most common sayings that she will use. She is conscious of her own feelings and does not let them interfere with another woman's decisions.

In her role as Lead Advocate, she helps us develop critical-thinking strategies and implement creative problem-solving with the women with whom we work. Her willingness to stay in the office, attending to the crisis line and the women in *El Refugio*, allows Family Advocates opportunities to attend meetings and trainings that we would otherwise not be able to attend.

The best leaders lead by example, and everyone at Casa de Esperanza learns from Irene. Her *forma de ser* leads and guides us. Casa de Esperanza has dedicated time in recent years to intense reflection on who we are and how we do our work. Irene's input and example have contributed directly and indirectly to shaping our current identity and direction.

∞ LUCHA – SOCIAL CHANGE AWARD ∞

2006 RECIPIENT:

Jaime Arizpe

Texas Health and Human Services Commission - Office of Border Affairs - Laredo, TX

NOMINATED BY:

Alva Moreno, East Los Angeles Women's Center

From his early years of employment determining the eligibility of applicants for subsidized day care and throughout his various duties with the Texas Department of Human Services, Mr. Arizpe has become an expert on the many levels of need in his border city of Laredo. Through his position as Regional Coordinator with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission – Office of Border Affairs, Mr. Arizpe has worked tirelessly since 2001 to improve the quality of life for *colonia* residents, some of the most impoverished unincorporated subdivisions in the nation, with little or no infrastructure. Through various positions Jaime has seen the effects of interpersonal violence and has served as a volunteer for the Laredo/ Webb County Domestic Violence Coalition's annual conference planning committee.

Since 2003, Jaime has partnered with Arte Sana to promote the training of Community Health Workers or *promotoras*, many who live and who work in the *colonias*, and allied professionals on sexual assault prevention and victim rights. The "Victim Advocacy *Sin Fronteras* Institute," two *Capacitadoras en Acción* (trainers in action) train-the-trainer sessions, the bilingual "Girl Empowerment Arts Festival," are among the training and presentation events that were offered in Laredo thanks to Jaime's support.

From recruiting multidisciplinary event planning committee members, holding conference calls, and delivering the pizza for the girls' event, Jaime rolls up his sleeves to make things happen; he gets the mission and is a true victim advocate. On behalf of Latina victim advocates from Texas and California, I nominate Jaime Arizpe for the *Lucha* Social Change Award, for honoring the power of the *promotoras* as agents of change, and for enhancing their professional development to address sexual violence issues in their communities. However, most importantly he is truly a role model for other men to follow in the fight against violence against women. The need for men to join this movement, especially en of color is crucial, and Jaime is making this happen.