

HCC 39th *Annual Gala*



Hispanic Counseling Center, Inc.

Nurturing Dreams...
for Generations to Come!

OCTOBER 14, 2016

**Crest Hollow Country Club
Woodbury, New York**

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF OF
WINTHROP-UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Salute the
HISPANIC COUNSELING CENTER

and congratulate
CYNTHIA FIGUEROA-FRETWELL, MD, FACOG

MEDICAL DIRECTOR
WINTHROP WOMEN'S WELLNESS OB/GYN

*We applaud your desire to empower the strength
of the Hispanic community.*


WINTHROP
University Hospital


Your Health Means Everything.®

Welcome to Tonight's
Celebration
of the
39th
Annual Gala



Recognizing our 2016 Honorees

CYNTHIA FIGUEROA-FRETWELL, M.D. FACOG
Medical Director
WINTHROP WOMEN'S WELLNESS OB/GYN


CARECONNECT


Ms. LINDA MEJIAS, Esq.
Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable Edward A. Maron
A Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York,
County of Nassau


Special Honoree
HENRY SCHEIN, INC.


Nurturing Dreams...
for Generations to Come!


MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD



Cheryl D.M. Vanek

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Gala Committee, and all the staff of the Hispanic Counseling Center, it is an honor to welcome you this evening to the 39th Annual HCC Gala. I am delighted that you have joined us in celebrating the accomplishments of our esteemed honorees, and in celebrating HCC's 39 years of service to Long Island.

It is with pride that I observe that the Hispanic Counseling Center continues to forge ahead always utilizing new and creative means to make a difference in the lives of those in need, while working equally hard to build and expand its partnerships with corporations, community leaders, donors, and supporters. HCC impacts the community in a positive and productive way, through diverse services and programs, delivered by an exceptionally competent and skilled bilingual and bicultural staff. I would like to thank CEO, Gladys Serrano, and the entire HCC team, for their commendable and committed service to the community.

In the spirit of celebration, I would like to acknowledge each of you for helping to make this a successful and memorable event. My special thanks to our gala sponsors, whose contributions to the agency will help HCC continue to deliver the highest level of service to all in need. We know that it is only because of the support of all of our partners, supporters, donors, staff, and volunteers that HCC continues to grow, thrive, and best serve those most in need.

We look forward to our continued partnerships, and we thank each and every one of you for helping to make a difference. With my best wishes for a wonderful evening.

Cheryl D.M. Vanek
President of the Board



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Gladys Serrano LCSW

As the Hispanic Counseling Center (HCC) completes its 39th year of service, it is appropriate to reflect on the strengths that have helped the agency flourish from humble origins to a highly respected organization among Long Island's human service agencies. With offices in Nassau and Suffolk counties, HCC serves the growing Hispanic community on Long Island, as well as all others in need of our services. HCC's essential strength emanates from our community. HCC staff work hard, day in and day out, to provide exemplary professional service. Community support and involvement is the primary focus of HCC's staff. Our staff is fully prepared to meet diverse community needs: to overcome addictions, to restore appropriate family functioning, to improve the scholastic performance of children, to engage children and youth in activities to prevent gang involvement, to ensure that our clients benefit fully from the opportunities provided by all of HCC's programs and services.

The leadership of the Hispanic Counseling Center is actively involved in the community of human service agencies on Long Island. As a result of this membership and participation in consortia and associations of agencies in Nassau County, the Hispanic Counseling Center is well recognized and respected as a solid partner in service delivery and in affecting policies for the delivery of human services in our communities. This involvement, coupled with a strong reputation as an effective and dependable service provider, has also made the Hispanic Counseling Center a friend and partner of government officials at the county, state and federal levels.

HCC interacts on a daily basis with a wide network of systems and has become a unique, well recognized, valued, and difficult to replace resource on Long Island. Among our many partners, *the Family Court and the District Court* are not only a source of daily referrals, but close collaborators, with an HCC staff member at the Hempstead site; the *Nassau County District Attorney's office* supports critical domestic violence programming; *the area hospitals* psychiatric units consistently discharge patients into our care; the *Department of Social Services and its Child Protective Services* unit are sources of ongoing referrals; the *Probation Department* is also a source of referrals and a partner in working with our mutual clients; *the police of Hempstead and Nassau County* partner with us in the fight against gang association and domestic violence; *the schools*, particularly the *Hempstead and Uniondale School districts*, are partners in important grant programs and locations of HCC onsite services. Each and every one of these partners and systems plays an essential role in the success of HCC.

Because of all of these strengths, I look with confidence and optimism to the future of the Hispanic Counseling Center and its mission to meet the needs of the Long Island community. In closing, I would like to acknowledge *our funding sources*, for the confidence they have placed in HCC's ability to serve year after year, *our friends and supporters*, for their contributions, and *our Board of Directors*, for their service to the agency through their generous volunteer work. Finally, my special thanks to all my staff, for their devotion and commitment to HCC's mission.

Gladys Serrano LCSW
Chief Executive Officer



A MESSAGE FROM THE GALA CHAIRPERSON



Nanette Malebranche

Welcome to an evening of great celebration! Tonight we applaud the accomplishments of our four exceptional Honorees, as well as celebrate the legacy of 39 years of exemplary service by the Hispanic Counseling Center.

It is a pleasure to serve as Chairperson of the 39th Annual HCC Gala. My involvement as a volunteer for the Hispanic Counseling Center is a most rewarding and fulfilling experience. I am humbled and honored to volunteer for this extraordinary organization which provides such needed and invaluable services to the Long Island community. I hold the highest regard for CEO Gladys Serrano and the entire HCC staff, all of whom who work on a daily basis to make miracles, big and small, happen at this wonderful agency.

The Annual Gala is the agency's principal fundraising event of the year, but it is so much more: it is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate all of the people who make HCC special: its generous supporters, as well as its special staff members, and volunteers.

I would like to thank the Gala Committee for their tireless support and commitment to this event. Their willingness and responsiveness to support the Gala is remarkable, and most appreciated, and has made my job as Gala Chairperson an easy one. Many, many thanks are extended to everyone for giving of their time and energy in planning for this event.

In closing, I would like to thank the many sponsors and supporters of this Gala whose generosity is helping to assure that the work of the Hispanic Counseling Center continues and thrives. Please know that your support is greatly appreciated and is put to excellent use in the programs and services of the HCC.

Please enjoy this wonderful evening! Thank you for being part of the 39th Annual HCC Gala!

Nanette Malebranche
Managing Director
Big Apple District



THE HISPANIC COUNSELING CENTER, INC.

The Hispanic Counseling Center (HCC) is a multi-service agency with culturally competent, fully bilingual/bicultural treatment and prevention services for chemical dependency, mental illness, and youth and family services. The agency was established in 1977 by the Nassau County Department of Drug and Alcohol Addiction to provide substance abuse services to a growing Latino population in Nassau County. Services are available to anyone, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, or economic status; no one in need is turned away due to an inability to pay or for lack of insurance. Programs include Mental Health; Chemical Dependency; Youth and Family Services; Child and Family Respite Support Services; Supported Housing for the Mentally Ill; Medicaid Service Coordination for the Developmentally Disabled; Domestic Violence Prevention; Teen Drop-In Center; and Mental Health Programs for People with HIV/AIDS.

Since its inception, HCC has grown from one program and four staff in a 600 square foot rental office, to ownership of a 27,000 square foot modern facility with more than eight programs serving over 1000 clients monthly, with 56 employees.

HCC has the proud distinction of being the only agency in the region which is licensed by *both* the NY State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and the NY State Office of Mental Health (OMH) to provide bilingual, bicultural behavioral health services. In 1986 HCC was licensed by OASAS to provide substance abuse treatment, prevention, and education services, and alcohol abuse treatment. In 1990, HCC was licensed by OMH to operate the first bilingual/bicultural mental health outpatient treatment clinic in Nassau County.

HCC's current budget is just over \$5million, with nearly half of the budget designated for mandated and contracted services as part of New York State funding to the agency, for the provision of mental health and chemical dependency services. Referrals are made to HCC in a variety of ways: the agency works closely with local hospitals and mental health outpatient clinics which refer patients under their care; with Nassau County agencies including the Department of Social Services, Child Protection Services, Family Court, the District Court, and the Probation Department; other social service agencies; local school districts including Freeport, Hempstead, Mineola, Uniondale, and Westbury; with churches and religious institutions, and with attorneys and medical providers.

HCC is well recognized in the Long Island community and throughout New York State, and continues to serve as a model for other agencies. Agency programs demonstrate a high utilization and completion rate; the agency consistently meets funders' expectations; and the agency has historically been re-licensed for the maximum length of time. In addition to being recognized by regulating agencies and other social service providers, HCC is held in high regard by its target audience, the Hispanic and minority community population. The Hispanic Counseling Center continues to be a beacon of hope for those in need. Like those we serve, HCC continues the journey, with hope and faith in our mission.



Welcome to the
2016 Hispanic Counseling Center Gala
 Marking the
39th Anniversary
 Of services to the Long Island Community

Mission Statement

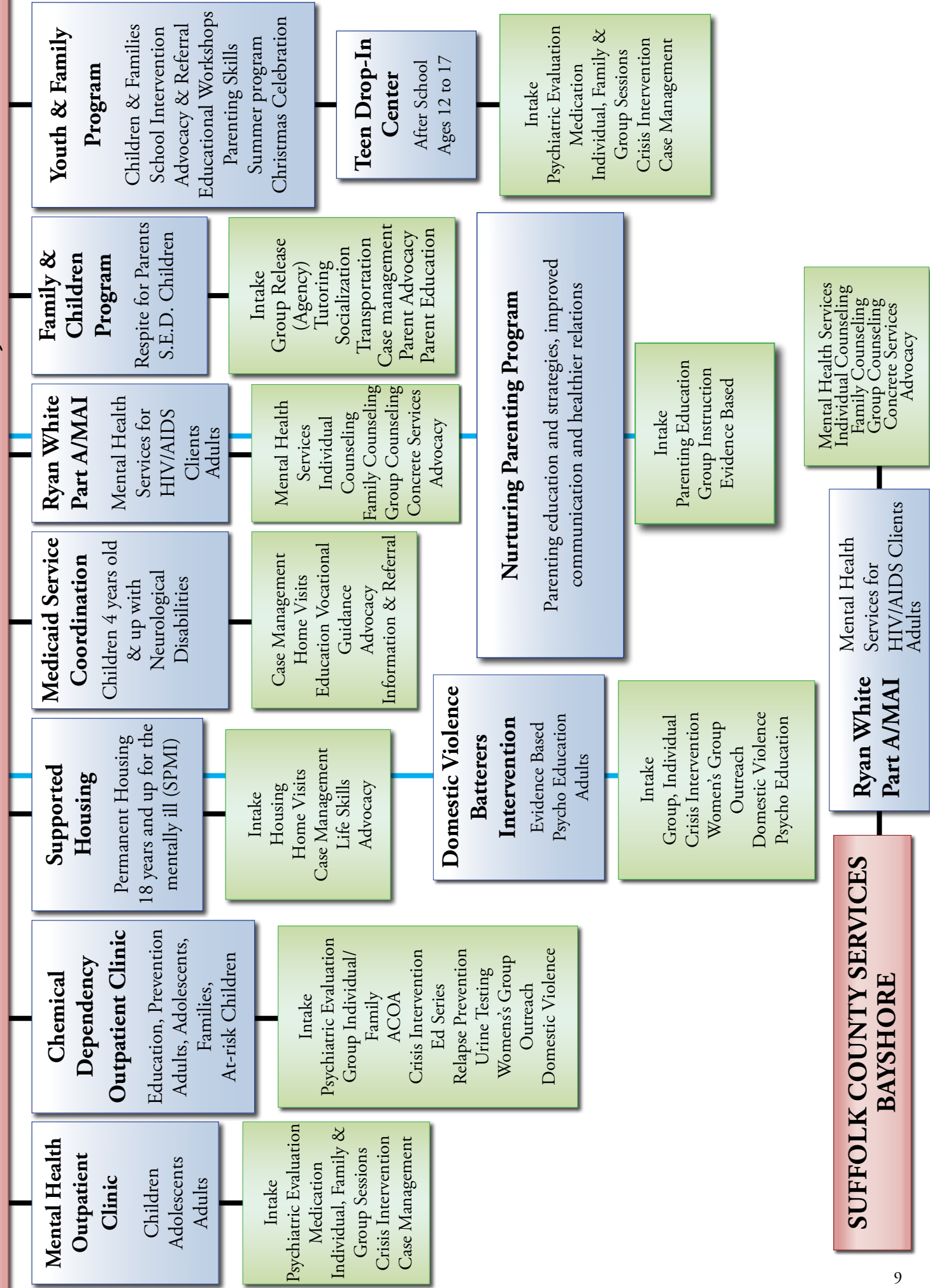
To enhance the strengths of Long Island's families and children through bilingual, bicultural counseling, prevention, vocational and educational services to enrich their lives, foster economic independence and nurture dreams for generations to come.



All proceeds benefit the programs of the Hispanic Counseling Center helping individuals and families to lead healthy and productive lives. Services are available to anyone, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or ability to pay. HCC is a multiservice center that promotes family and community wellness. With a fully bilingual/bicultural staff and a network of interrelated services including licensed behavioral health treatment, HCC supports the recovery of the individual and the family system. HCC serves more than 1,000 clients per month through eight programs ranging from outpatient mental health, alcohol and drug treatment to family support services such as a drop-in center for at-risk teens, parenting workshops, supported housing for the mentally ill, respite for parents of children with serious emotional disturbances, case management for children and adults with developmental disabilities, case management for children at risk of foster care placement, and mental health treatment for people affected by HIV/AIDS.



HISPANIC COUNSELING CENTER, INC.



KATHLEEN M. RICE
4TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3204

COMMITTEE ON
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SECURITY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND
NEW YORK



UNITED STATES SENATOR

October 14, 2016

October 14, 2016

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to join the Hispanic Counseling Center, Inc. in recognizing the outstanding honorees at tonight's 39th Annual Dinner Dance Gala.

Since 1997, the Hispanic Counseling Center has worked tirelessly to improve the health and well-being of Latino residents on Long Island, providing thousands with vital treatment and prevention services each year. Thanks to its many diverse programs and bilingual services for members of all ages, this extraordinary organization has increased the accessibility of quality healthcare and empowered countless families within our community.

I would also like to congratulate tonight's distinguished honorees. I am incredibly grateful for their unwavering support to the residents of Long Island.

On behalf of the residents of New York's fourth congressional district, I would like to applaud all of tonight's honorees and extend my best wishes for the continued success of the Hispanic Counseling Center.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to send greetings to everyone attending the 39th Annual Dinner Dance Gala hosted by The Hispanic Counseling Center, Inc. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate tonight's honorees; Care Connect - North Shore LIJ CareConnect Insurance Company, Inc.; Henry Schein, Inc.; Cynthia Figueroa-Fretwell, M.D., FACOG of Winthrop University Hospital; and Linda Mejias, Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable Edward A. Maron.

I am thankful for your lifetime of service to the people of New York, and for your unparalleled commitment to the Hispanic community of Nassau County. For over 39 years, this organization has been a primary resource for those seeking mental health services on Long Island. I am grateful to individuals like you who remind us of the values, lessons, and ideals that will help us build a strong future for our nation. The efforts of tonight's honorees exemplify the positive contribution an individual can make to their profession, community, and country.

Please accept my congratulations and best wishes for many more years of continued success and dedicated service to the community.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER
110 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12236

October 14, 2016

Gladys Serrano, CEO
Hispanic Counseling Center
344 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, NY 11550



Dear Friends:

Greetings to all those gathered this evening for the 39th Annual Gala hosted by the Hispanic Counseling Center. Since 1977, HCC has worked to provide high quality bilingual and bicultural services to help Latino children and families and other people in need.

Special congratulations are due to this year's honorees. Their dedication to service and accomplishments are truly worthy of your recognition.

Originally established to provide substance abuse treatment and assist children and adolescents in Long Island's rapidly growing Latino community, the Hispanic Counseling Center has grown significantly over the years and expanded its array of programs to address new and emerging needs. In addition to counseling, case management and crisis intervention, HCC offers educational workshops, afterschool enrichment, summer camp and prevention programs for at-risk youth, among other priorities. Open to all regardless of background or ability to pay, HCC remains committed to delivering culturally sensitive, expert care that respects the dignity and autonomy of each client. The dedicated officers, board, staff and supporters of the Hispanic Counseling Center are enabling Nassau's diverse residents to realize their fullest potentials, and building a healthier, more compassionate future.

Best wishes for a joyful celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. DiNapoli
State Comptroller



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

EARLENE HOOPER
Assemblywoman 18th District

NASSAU COUNTY
33 Front Street
Suite 104
Hempstead, New York 11550
516-489-6610
FAX: 516-538-3155

ALBANY OFFICE
Room 739
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
518-455-5861
FAX: 518-455-4329

DEPUTY SPEAKER

COMMITTEES

Education

Rules

Women's Task Force

Ways and Means

September 22, 2016

Gladys Serrano, Executive Director
Hispanic Counseling Center
344 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, New York, 11550

Dear Ms. Serrano:

Congratulations to you and the members of the Hispanic Counseling Center's on your 39th Annual Dinner Gala to be held Friday, October 14, 2016 at the Crest Hollow County Club, Woodbury, New York.

I am proud to acknowledge this prestigious organization and distinguished honorees. Hispanic Counseling Center dedication and commitment to serve shall not go unrecognized or unrewarded.

Again, Congratulations.

Sincerely,

Earlene Hooper, Deputy Speaker
Member of the Assembly
18th AD

EH/pw

SENATOR KEMP HANNON
6TH DISTRICT

E-MAIL:
HANNON@NYSENATE.GOV

WEBSITE:
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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2200

595 STEWART AVENUE, SUITE 540
GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK 11530
(516) 739-1700

October 14, 2016

Cheryl D. M. Vanek
President
Hispanic Counseling Center, Inc.
344 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, NY 11550

Dear Friends:

I would just like to take a moment to express my sincere congratulations and heartfelt wishes to the Hispanic Counseling Center, Inc. as you celebrate your 39th Annual Dinner Dance Gala on Friday, October 14, 2016.

I would also like to offer up my well wishes to your honorees, CareConnect-North Shore / LIJ CareConnect Insurance Company, Inc., Henry Schein, Inc., Dr. Cynthia Figueroa-Fretwell, FACOG-Winthrop University Hospital, and Linda Mejias, Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable Edward A. Maron, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Nassau County. All are excellent choices to be feted at this event.

I would also like to recognize all the fine service the Hispanic Counseling Center provides, as a bilingual, multicultural agency in Nassau County, treatment services to the community, as well as other programs for families and children, and serves as a resource center for immigrant families and a gateway into American society. I am sure the Gala will be a smashing success!

Once again, my best wishes to you and your honorees.

Sincerely,

KEMP HANNON
Sixth Senatorial District



Office of the County Executive
1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York 11501



October 14, 2016

Dear Friends,

Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather to celebrate with the Hispanic Counseling Center on the occasion of its 39th Annual Gala. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the fine work of this organization and the 2016 Award Recipients.

The Hispanic Counseling Center is the only bilingual, bicultural agency on Long Island licensed by the State of New York to provide treatment services in the areas of mental health, substance abuse and alcoholism.

This wonderful organization has worked diligently to make significant contributions to their fellow residents through many charitable community programs and group events, and is deserving and worthy of the esteem of Nassau County for its selfless service to the community, which has made a permanent and positive impact on us all.

This year's event gives us the opportunity to recognize the achievements of honorees, Cynthia Figueroa-Fretwell, M.D. FACOG, Linda Mejias, Esq., CareConnect and Henry Schein, Inc. and to all of you who have worked toward forwarding the goals of this fine organization throughout the year.

Best wishes for continued success in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Mangano
County Executive



OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
240 Old Country Road
Mineola, New York 11501
Tel: (516) 571-2386 Fax: (516) 571-5900
nccomptroller@nassaucountyny.gov

Hon. George Maragos
Nassau County Comptroller

October 14th, 2016

Dear Friends,

I would like to congratulate the staff and supporters of the Hispanic Counseling Center (HCC) on the occasion of its 39th Annual Dinner Gala.

Special thanks to **CareConnect, Henry Schein Inc., Cynthia Figuero-Fretwell, M.D., FACOG,** and **Linda Mejias** for the selfless contributions they have made to this facility.

The Hispanic Counseling Center has done an excellent job of helping the people of Hempstead and of Nassau County by offering counseling in mental health, family services, child care, and substance abuse. It is vital to the community that these issues are addressed, and the Hispanic Counseling Center is an invaluable resource for those seeking information or assistance.

Congratulations again, and have a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,

Hon. George Maragos
County Comptroller

www.nassaucountyny.gov/Comptroller

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THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE - MAJORITY CAUCUS
1550 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MINEOLA, NY 11501



It is with great pride that we as members of the Nassau County Legislature offer our sincere best wishes and salute the Hispanic Counseling Center on the occasion of its 39th Annual Dinner Gala, an evening to honor, remember and celebrate.

We would also like to congratulate the Hispanic Counseling Center's 2016 Honorees, North Shore-LIJ Care Connect Insurance Company, Inc., Henry Schein, Inc., Cynthia Figueroa-Fretwell, M.D., FACOG - Winthrop University Hospital and Linda Mejias, Principal Law Clerk for New York State Supreme Court Judge Edward A. Maron, for their hard work, commitment and unwavering dedication to the people of Long Island.



Norma L. Gonsalves - District 13
Presiding Officer & Majority Leader

Richard J. Niccioletto - District 9
Deputy Presiding Officer

Howard J. Kopel - District 7
Alternate Deputy Presiding Officer

Laura M. Schaefer
Legislator - District 14

Denise Ford
Legislator - District 4

Dennis Dunne, Sr.
Legislator - District 15

C. William Gaylor III
Legislator - District 6

Rose Marie Walker
Legislator - District 17

Vincent T. Muscarella
Legislator - District 8

Donald MacKenzie
Legislator - District 18

James D. Kennedy
Legislator - District 12

Steven D. Rhoads
Legislator - District 19



KEVAN M. ABRAHAMS
LEGISLATOR, DISTRICT 1



NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE
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MINEOLA, NEW YORK 11501
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KABRAHAMS@NASSAUCOUNTYNY.GOV

- RANKING MEMBER:
 - RULES
 - BUDGET REVIEW
- MEMBER:
 - PUBLIC SAFETY

October 14, 2016

Hispanic Counseling Center, Inc.
344 Fulton Ave.
Hempstead, NY 11550

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the First Legislative District and the Nassau County Legislature, the Minority Caucus would like to congratulate the Hispanic Counseling Center, Inc. on your 39th Annual Dinner Dance Gala in celebrating 39 years of service to the Nassau County community.

We wish much success to the HCC as it continues to render treatment and prevention services to the mental health, chemical dependency, and various family, children, and youth services.

I would also like to congratulate the honorees:

- CareConnect – North Shore-LIJ CareConnect Insurance Company, Inc.
- Henry Schein, Inc.
- Cynthia- Figueroa-Fretwell, M.D., FACOG – Winthrop University Hospital
- Linda Mejias, Principal Law Clerk to NYS Supreme Court Justice, Edwin A. Maron

These are awards that are well deserved. They exemplify true leaders who are dedicated and committed to the mission of HCC in addressing the needs of our children and adults myriad of needs to the growing Hispanic immigrant population on Long Island

Today is for celebrating the greatness of the Hispanic Counseling Center and the honorees! May you keep on sharing your beautiful spirit with the world and making a difference in so many lives.

We wish everyone the best and continued accomplishments. I know that HCC will remain the Long Island Hispanic immigrant population's primary behavioral health agency.

Sincerely,

Kevan M. Abrahams
Minority Leader, Nassau County Legislature

Proudly serving the communities of Uniondale, Roosevelt, & parts of Freeport, Baldwin, Hempstead, & East Meadow



Town Hall Plaza
1 Washington Street
Hempstead, NY 11550
Ph: 516 489-5000 Ext.4304



Hon. Dorothy L. Goosby
Senior Councilwoman

October 14, 2016

Greetings!

Congratulations to the Hispanic Counseling Center on the momentous occasion of your 39th Annual Dinner Dance Gala.

It is a pleasure to recognize the life transforming work that the Hispanic Counseling Center continues to do. Your organization has made a tremendous impact in Nassau County and beyond. I commend you on your longevity and the excellence in community service delivery that you continue to provide to our communities.

Congratulations to all of the distinguished honorees. Thank you for your service and commitment to improving the lives of our residents.

- *Care Connect-North Shore LIJ Care Connect Insurance Company, Inc.*
- *Henry Schein, Inc.*
- *Cynthia Figueroa-Fretwell, M.D., FACOG – Winthrop University Hospital*
- *Linda Mejias, Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable Edward A. Maron, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Nassau County*

I extend my heartfelt best wishes for another successful 39 years and many more Annual Gala Celebrations.

Sincerely,

Dorothy L. Goosby
Senior Councilwoman



MAYOR WAYNE J. HALL, SR.

October 14, 2016

Greetings,

On behalf of the Village of Hempstead and our Board of Trustees, I extend congratulations to *Hispanic Counseling Center, Inc.* and all gathered here tonight for your 39th Annual Dinner Dance Gala. *Hispanic Counseling Center, Inc.* is an extraordinary organization with a passionate dedication to empowering the Latino community. Over many years you have provided critical resources to our adults and youth alike and have worked actively to support their achievements. Your continuing efforts to uplift Hispanics, while building bridges between Latinos and other members of the community, mark you as an invaluable member of the Nassau community.

Hempstead applauds the following honorees, *Cynthia Figueroa-Fretwell M.D. FACOG* Medical Director of Winthrop Women's Wellness OB/GYN, *CareConnect*, *Ms. Linda Mejias, Esq.* Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable Edward A. Maron, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of N.Y. of Nassau County and special honoree *Henry Schein Inc.* We commend them for their outstanding dedication to the community and wish them continued success in all that they do.

As you celebrate another year of growth and accomplishment, we wish you a fantastic evening of joy and revelry.

With best regards,

Wayne
Wayne J. Hall, Sr.
Mayor

The HCC Board of Directors congratulates Gladys Serrano, the Hispanic Counseling Center Staff, and our illustrious Honorees for their outstanding community service!

CareConnect - North Shore-LIJ CareConnect Insurance Company, Inc.



Cynthia Figueroa-Fretwell, M.D., FACOG – Winthrop University Hospital



Linda Mejias, New York State Supreme Court, Principal Law Clerk



Henry Schein, Inc.

We salute the Hispanic Counseling Center, and 39 years of service to the Long Island community.

*The Board of Directors
Hispanic Counseling Center, Inc.*



CYNTHIA FIGUEROA-FRETWELL, M.D. FACOG

MEDICAL DIRECTOR
Winthrop Women's Wellness OB/GYN

Cynthia FigueroaFretwell was born in New York City where she lived until the age of ten. Her later childhood years were spent residing in Puerto Rico, her parents' native country; at fifteen, Cynthia permanently moved back to Queens where she attended Forest Hills High School. Four years spent working hard at a Spanish Literature and French double major earned her a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University. After obtaining her undergraduate degree, Cynthia focused her studies more on medicine, accomplishing a Post-Baccalaureate degree from Queens College and an M.D. from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia.

In 1993, Cynthia completed her internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York City where she stayed on as an attending physician for five years. She was later employed by Jamaica Hospital Center where she managed a private practice and worked part-time for Maternal Infant Care, a clinic that provides prenatal care to uninsured and undocumented people in need.

In 2006, she joined the faculty at Winthrop University Hospital as an attending physician. Just four years later in 2010, she was appointed Medical Director at Winthrop Women's Wellness, an organization founded to provide obstetrical and gynecologic care to the indigent, uninsured, and undocumented. Serving a majority Central American population, Winthrop Women's Wellness has flourished, delivering six hundred babies in 2015 alone. As Medical Director, Cynthia supervises the ambulatory care education of the residents of OBGYN, a feat for which she has received numerous teaching awards.

Cynthia has dedicated her career and her tremendous efforts over the years to caring for the underserved and those less fortunate. She currently lives in Long Island with her husband, Tony, and her three children, Alexis, Jacqueline, and William. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and skiing with her family.



New York State's first provider-owned commercial insurance company, CareConnect was founded in 2013 by Northwell Health (formerly North Shore-LIJ Health System) to make it easy for people to get and stay healthy. It offers a broad range of plans for individuals, families, and small and large groups.

Every CareConnect plan reflects its core principles. **Affordability:** Health insurance cannot improve anyone's health if it is financially out of reach, so CareConnect plans are consistently among the lowest-cost options wherever they're offered. **Access to Excellence:** CareConnect's select network gives its members access to top-quality hospitals and doctors throughout the New York metro area.

Referrals are never needed to see an in-network specialist. **Integration:** A unique integrated network model, built around leading hospitals and provider groups throughout downstate New York, allows CareConnect to work especially closely with its doctors to make sure members get the tests, treatments and preventive care they need to get well and stay healthy. Its medical directors are practicing physicians, and its collaborative model makes it easy for its providers to deliver the kind of care they believe in. **Customer Service:** Health insurance and health care can be complicated, frustrating and confusing, but CareConnect's concierge approach to customer service is designed to make things simple. It makes health insurance personal!



MS. LINDA MEJIAS, ESQ.

PRINCIPAL LAW CLERK TO THE HONORABLE EDWARD A. MARON
A Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau

Linda Kelly Mejias, Esq. is active in her local community and church as a mentor and leader. Linda is passionate about helping young women understand and appreciate their full potential and guiding them in achieving that full potential in all aspects of their lives. Her philosophy is one of balance. She teaches her mentees to take the time to develop and take care of themselves in the various areas of their lives – education, professional, health, spirituality, and relationships. She also works within the minority communities on Long Island through various organizations, including the Long Island Latino Teacher’s Association, Girls, Inc., and the Latina Moms of Long Island, to teach students and parents about the value and necessity of higher learning and education, and the importance of working hard in school and in any employment in order to achieve the “American Dream”. She was recently named Chair of the Mentoring Committee, a committee she helped create, for Wellesley College on Long Island.

Linda is a Past President of the Nassau County Women’s Bar Association (NCWBA), has previously served as a member of the Board of Directors, and has held officer positions of Vice President of Membership, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. In addition to her service to the NCWBA, Linda holds the position of Secretary of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association (LIHBA) and has previously served as President of the Nassau County Chapter of the LIHBA. She is active in the Nassau County Bar Association (NCBA), and is a member of the Association Membership Committee, where she is working to develop strategies and programs to increase the diversity of the NCBA. As of April 2016, Linda serves proudly on the Board of Herstory Writers Workshop, Inc.

Ms. Mejias has received numerous awards and citations for her achievements and activities in the legal community and the local community. Most recently she received the Virginia C. Duncombe, Esq. Award from the NCWBA for her work and commitment to fostering and enhancing on-going legal education. She has also been named a “Rising Star” by the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York, was named “Attorney of the Year” by the Cuban Civic Association, was honored by the LIHBA for her service and empowerment to the Hispanic community, was honored as one of the “Women of Distinction of 2015” in the 17th Assembly District, and was named one of the “Top Women in the Law” by Hofstra University School of Law in 2016.

For the past eight years, Linda has been the Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable Edward A. Maron, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau. She graduated from the Waldorf School of Garden City in 1997, where she later served on the Board of Trustees. She graduated magna cum laude in 2000 in the accelerated program from Wellesley College, with a double major in Psychology and Latin American Studies, and later received her Juris Doctorate from Columbia Law School in 2004.

On a personal note, Linda is a first generation American, whose Mother immigrated to the United States from Ecuador in 1965, and whose Father was exiled from Cuba in 1964 as an anti-communist leader. Linda is fluent in Spanish, and proficient in German and Italian.

Linda is also a devoted mother to her treasured son, Davey.



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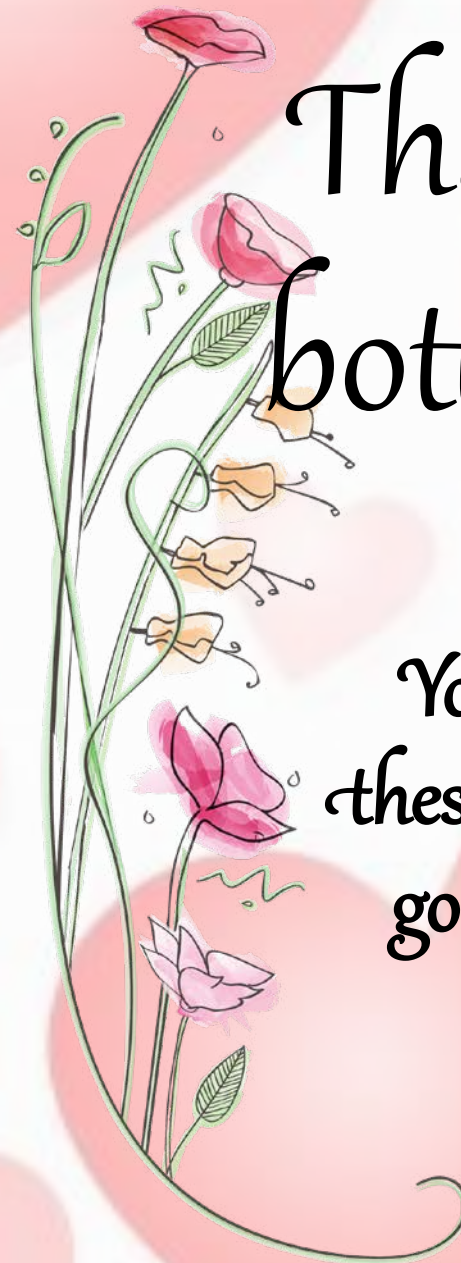


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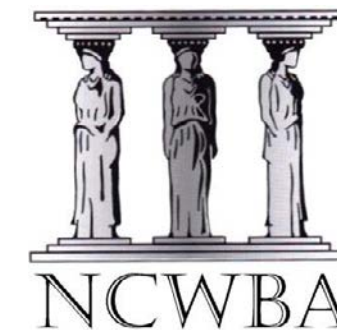
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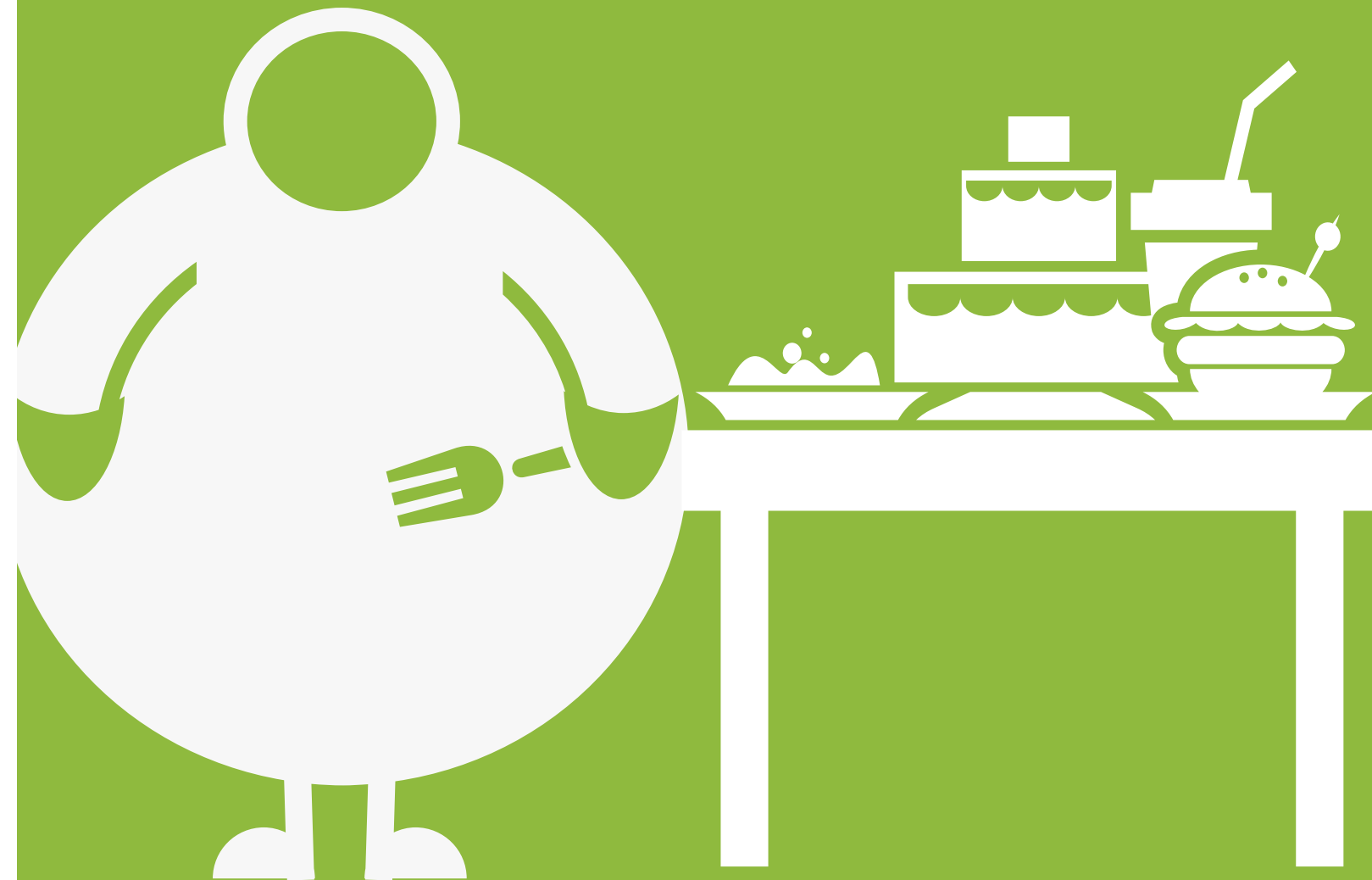
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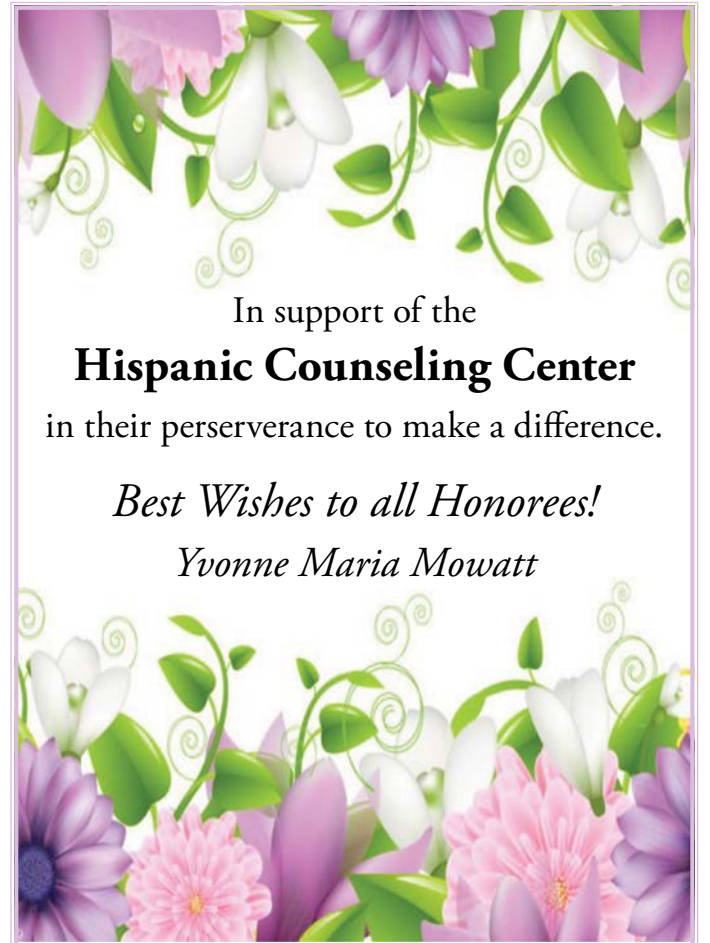
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