

PRESS RELEASE

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**The Children's Home Society of New Jersey Hosts its 9th Annual Latino Parenting Conference,
"The Importance of Grandparents and Extended Family in the Latino Community"**



CHSofNJ's Director of Maternal/ Child Health, Family and Community Support Services Maritza I. Raimundi-Petroski and Panelists Angela Arias and Leily Morales at the 9th Annual Latino Parenting Conference on September 13, 2014.

Trenton, NJ (October 17, 2014) – The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ) proudly hosted its 9th Annual Latino Parenting Conference on Saturday, September 13th at its South Ward Family Success Center (SWFSC) in Trenton, NJ. This year's event, entitled *The Importance of Grandparents and Extended Family in the Latino Community*, highlighted the critical role of extended family in the life of a child.

As in previous years, the theme of this year's conference was chosen by CHSofNJ families and members of the SWFSC's Parent Advisory Committee, and supported by the Latino Advisory Committee Members of CHSofNJ. The conference, presented entirely in Spanish each year in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month was free to the public, and included educational workshops, lunch, cultural performances, special activities for children, and a riveting presentation by Keynote Speaker Dr. Harold Fernandez, M.D., who discussed his immigration to the United States, his amazing academic accomplishments at both

Princeton and Harvard Universities, and his contributions to critical medical advancements in the field of cardiology, vascular biology, and molecular genetics. Dr. Fernandez also discussed his book, *Undocumented*, which has sparked nationwide media attention following its release in 2012. In addition to the wonderfully engaging dialogue and information available throughout the day, attendees were given the opportunity to learn about resources available to them and their families from a variety of community partners including The NJ Department of Children and Families, Capital Health, Horizon NJ Health, The Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. (LALDEF), Planned Parenthood, Parent Anonymous of NJ, The Mercer County Family Support Organization, Living Hope Church & Empowerment Center, Transamerica Agency Networks, Wellcare Health Plans, Inc., People and Stories, St. Anianus Coptic Orthodox Church, Young Scholars' Institute, The Mercer Co. WIC Program, and CHSofNJ's variety of programs and services.

"We are consistently humbled by the outpouring of support and participation we receive each year for our Latino Parenting Conference," said Maritza I. Raimundi-Petroski, CHSofNJ's Director of Maternal/ Child Health, Family and Community Support Services. She continued, "It truly is an honor to be a part of the strong Latino community here in Trenton, and we are proud to celebrate the community's dedication to their children and families."

CHSofNJ Trustee Eva Alicea Roman, who co-sponsored the event, said, "I am proud to be a part of this important conference, which celebrates our heritage and reminds us that we are a strong, connected community that comes together to ensure the best for our children."

Panelists Leily Morales, Angela Arias, Carmen Hernandez and Diamond Rodriguez were especially effective in sharing their experiences and their journey in the United States, as well as the importance caregivers, grandparents and extended relatives have in their lives and the lives of their children. Their touching testimonies are an example of how family plays a vital role in parenting our children.

About the CHSofNJ South Ward Family Success Center

CHSofNJ's South Ward Family Success Center (SWFSC) is located at 635 S. Clinton Avenue in Trenton. The SWFSC is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and on Wednesday from 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Services available to participants include fatherhood enrichment programs, parental support groups, job readiness and life skills education, parent child and parent education activities, concrete goods donations, and much more! For more information, call 609-695-6274 or visit our website at www.chsofnj.org.

About The Children's Home Society of New Jersey

Founded in 1894, The Children's Home Society of New Jersey is a nonsectarian, not-for-profit private agency that promotes the welfare of infants, children, adolescents and parents throughout New Jersey and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. As a comprehensive counseling, placement, parenting education and child care agency, CHS of NJ touches the lives of 41,000 children and families each year. All services are confidential and most are free. For more information, visit our website at www.chsofnj.org.

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