



Catholic Charities

Archdiocese of Hartford

Providing Help & Creating Hope

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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El Centro De Desarrollo y Reafirmación Familiar Receives Catholic Charities USA's Family Strengthening Award

(HARTFORD, CT September 26, 2009)

Catholic Charities' El Centro De Desarrollo y Reafirmación Familiar, located at our new Institute for the Hispanic Family in Hartford, has been named as a Family Strengthening Award Winner by Catholic Charities USA. The award in the amount of \$25,000 is funded by the generous support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. It was presented today to Rolando Martinez, Director of the Institute for the Hispanic Family, in Portland, Oregon. Catholic Charities representatives from around the country will be visiting El Centro during the week of October 19th to observe this award-winning program.

Catholic Charities USA's Family Strengthening annual awards program aims to recognize and award exceptional programs that take a holistic approach to providing services that support healthy family relationships, work to improve a family's overall financial situation, and enhance the community where the families live. This award is one of three given nationally each year, and it is the second time in two years that one of Catholic Charities' Family Centers has been recognized for excellence by Catholic Charities USA. We are the only Catholic Charities agency in the nation to have received this award twice.

El Centro De Desarrollo y Reafirmación Familiar strengthens families by encouraging children, adults, and seniors to reach their full potential. The center's family specialists work with families that need services, support, leadership development, early childhood education, adult education and training, crisis intervention, and stabilization. The program seeks to help parents recognize that they are their children's first and most important teachers, natural supporters, and most powerful advocates, and further, that they are decision makers who can have a positive impact in their families and communities.

Catholic Charities is the largest non-governmental provider of human services in the State of Connecticut and has been the licensed, accredited social service arm of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Hartford (Hartford, Litchfield and New Haven Counties) for more than 90 years. The Agency serves 30,000 people of all faiths annually from 34 locations throughout Connecticut and is an employer of more than five hundred social service professionals.

For more information on Catholic Charities and El Centro, please visit our website at www.ccaoh.org.

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