

Mi C.A.S.A. MN (formerly known as Esperanza) is excited to announce receiving our formal 501(c)(3) designation in January 2023. The new name reflects our organization's continued dedication to establishing a powerful and dynamic Latino-led entity that provides invaluable cultural and linguistic services to promote social and economic equality for not only our beloved Latino community but also all underserved communities. The C.A.S.A. in Mi C.A.S.A. stands for "Comunidad, Apoyo, Solidaridad y Amistad" or "Community, Support, Solidarity, and Friendship" in English. With our name change, we have also expanded our work; our updated mission and vision statements are "*to serve the underserved*", and "*to create a healthy and thriving community*".

An environment of trust and safety is critical to establishing outreach into our underserved and marginalized populations. For the past 15 years, our team has been working to create this welcoming environment and a sense of belonging within our community. Founded in 2010 by Pastor Simmons and Mary Hernandez and later joined by Lupita Reyes-Morales, Yuniba Montoya, Veva Garcia, Astrid Martinez, and Debbie Morales, Esperanza was formed to tackle the lack of access to community and local resources available to Latinos. Esperanza's mission was to serve, educate, and empower the historically neglected Latino community. Over the years, the needs of the Latino community continued to grow and shift, and our team noticed the same needs in other BIPOC and marginalized communities. Mi C.A.S.A. officially formed in 2022 with a focus on Mental Health, Food Access, Education, and Youth Development for all who are underserved.

Over the past 15 years, we have developed strong partnerships to help expand our work. These partnerships include Love INC of Carver County, Bountiful Basket Food Shelf, Gather and Grow Waconia United Food Shelf, Scott and Carver County, LEDC, HACER, A Better Society, Shakopee and Chaska Law Enforcement, Public Health in both Counties, ISD 720 and 112, Faith Community, Shakopee Chamber, Shakopee Community Ed, St. Francis, Canterbury, Second Harvest, Shakopee Cub Foods, Unidos MN and many others.

Mi C.A.S.A.'s goals are to increase and promote healthy lifestyles through mental health awareness, healthy eating, and active living in an environment that promotes inclusion and racial equity while raising leaders from within the community to continue and expand the mission. With our bold and transformative initiatives and many community partners, we strive to cultivate a new generation of leaders who can effect meaningful change within our community and beyond. Our ultimate objective is to unleash the full potential of our community, spark a movement of change, and promote systemic transformation by Latino staff with enriched bicultural backgrounds.

Mi C.A.S.A.'s offices are located at 1058 Jefferson St. S., Shakopee, but we provide services to both Carver and Scott Counties and the surrounding area. We go where the needs are!

For more information, visit micasamn.org, email us at info@micasamn.org or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Thank you!