

Contact:
Neli Vazquez-Rowland
media@ASafeHaven.org
(630) 606-9997

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Illinois Secretary of State Humanitarian Award Presented to Neli Vazquez Rowland – A Safe Haven Foundation

September 25, 2013, Chicago, Ill.- Neli Vazquez Rowland, Co-founder and President of A Safe Haven Foundation, was honored with the Humanitarian Achievement Award at the Illinois Secretary of State’s Annual National Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration recognizing the historic contributions of business, academic and community leaders of Illinois.

“In honor of your career in the nonprofit field and social business enterprise, your service as a speaker and visionary, and your track record of solid leadership, I present you with this one of a kind personalized license plate: ASAFEHVN. I hope it will serve as a reminder of our gratitude for all you have done to empower those living in Illinois and throughout the nation,” said Secretary of State, Jesse White.

“I am humbled and honored to be recognized by the Secretary of State, Jess White, and his entire team for our work on behalf of helping thousand of homeless, including Veterans living in crisis in the State of Illinois at A Safe Haven Foundation. It is because of his support and the support of thousands of public and private business and community leaders, that we are able to meet the growing needs of our most vulnerable citizens with the social services, jobs and permanent housing resources they need for themselves and their families to become self-sufficient with their pride and purpose restored,” said Ms. Vazquez Rowland.

The event was held at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., Concourse Level, and feature performances by Mariachi Zapopan, Brazilian samba performers, and an Ecuadorian folk dance troupe. Lourdes Duarte of WGN-TV emceed the event.

Honored with Ms. Vazquez Rowland was Martin R. Castro, Chairperson of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission; Jennifer L. Rosato, Dean of Law at Northern Illinois University; and Gilbert Villegas, Jr., Chief of Staff of the Illinois Capital Development Board.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15th through October 15th, a time when the accomplishments and contributions of the Hispanic community are honored across the United States.

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A Safe Haven is a social business enterprise non-profit that partners with a network of public private partnerships to help people aspire, transform, and sustain their lives from homelessness to self-sufficiency with pride and purpose. A Safe Haven provides the tools for over 5,000 people a year through a network of 30 locations and counting to help each individual to overcome the root causes of homelessness through a holistic, scalable model. A Safe Haven’s visible social and economic impact unites families, stabilizes neighborhoods, and creates vibrant, viable communities in a sustainable manner. For more information on A Safe Haven and programs available for the homeless, underserved, and food insecure, visit www.asafehaven.org.