

Press Release

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**Mary's Center's President/CEO, Maria Gomez, Honored as First Inductee
to the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Hispanic Business Hall of Fame**

Washington, DC – Today, the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GWHCC) announced Mary's Center's President and CEO, Maria Gomez, as the first ever inductee of its newly established Hispanic Business Hall of Fame. The goal of the Hall of Fame is to recognize business leaders whose legendary achievements continue to promote and advance the economic climate of the Hispanic community.

As part of her induction, Maria received the Hispanic Business Hall of Fame Award, "which is given to a long-standing business leader who has demonstrated a history of resiliency, sustainability, and corporate citizenship."

"I am so honored to be part of this effort that recognizes the important and pioneering work of Hispanic businesspeople in Washington D.C.," says Maria Gomez. "I extend this recognition to all the passionate and devoted leaders of Hispanic origins in this region who have dedicated their lives to improving the lives of our community."

Under Maria's leadership, Mary's Center has grown from an initial budget of \$250,000, serving 200 participants a year in a small basement to an annual budget of \$63 million serving over 50,000 participants from all over the globe at eight locations throughout the District of Columbia and Maryland. Maria is among the strongest leaders in the region, and as testament to her significant commitment to giving back to her community, she was selected by the White House as one of the 18 recipients of the **2012 Presidential Citizens Medal**, the nation's second-highest civilian honor. She is also frequently recognized for her role in the DC metropolitan region's healthcare system.

"We are launching this historic initiative as a vehicle to highlight and memorialize the incredible contributions made by Hispanic businesses in our region over the years," says Nicole Quiroga, GWHCC President and CEO. "This is our opportunity to leave a legacy, tell our stories, celebrate our heritage and showcase our impact on the Nation's Capital."

The Hispanic Business Hall of Fame Award is one of three awards that the GWHCC bestowed on community members at a ceremony held during its 43rd annual gala at the MGM National Harbor.

To learn more about Maria's contributions, [click here](#).

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[About Mary's Center](#)

Founded in 1988, Mary's Center is a federally qualified health center that provides healthcare, educational, and social services to more than 53,000 individuals from over 50 countries. Using a holistic, multipronged approach, Mary's Center helps each participant access individualized services that set them on the path toward good health, stability, and economic independence. For more information, visit www.maryscenter.org.