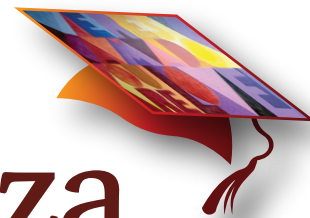




- 2025 -



# Casa Esperanza Graduation

Ceremony Program





# Welcome Message

For nearly four decades this graduation ceremony has been the heart of our year, a day when our community gathers to honor courage, resilience, and the belief that recovery is possible. Here at the intersection of Recovery Month and Hispanic Heritage Month we celebrate the healing power that culture and community bring to the recovery journey. As we travel this road together, learning from and supporting one another, old patterns give way to a renewed sense of self and the confidence to build a future. Transformation is nurtured when heritage and shared history are recognized as sources of strength and belonging in the world.

Today's graduation is not just a time to reflect on our Graduates' hard work and accomplishments over the past year; it is also a time to celebrate, support, and renew our shared commitment to the future. In the face of adversity, each of our Graduates has demonstrated the courage it takes to forge a new life filled with pride, purpose, and love. Inspired by their strength we resolve once again, in solidarity, to meet our mission one day at a time—to lift each other up, help each other move forward, and never lose hope.

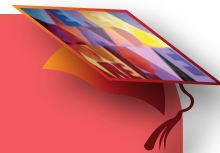
On behalf of the entire Casa family, I thank you for showing up for recovery – not just today but every day. Though the journey is long and often uncertain, if we stick together, there is no limit to what we can achieve.



**Emily Stewart**  
Chief Executive Officer



# Casa's Program Schedule



10:00 AM

10:35 AM

10:45 AM

10:55 AM

11:00 AM

11:30 AM

11:45 AM

12:00 PM

1:30 PM

2:00 PM

2:10 PM

2:30 PM

3:00 PM

3:45 PM

Guests & Community  
Members Arrive

Welcome the  
Community

Program Begins &  
Special Recognitions

Keynote Address

Graduates Receive  
Certificates

Remarks from  
Distinguished Guest

Engagement  
Certificates

Lunch

Community Awards

Graduate  
Performances

Dancing

La Hora Loca

Dancing

Announce Drawing Winner  
& Closing Remarks

# Graduates/Honorees

## Men's Program

- |              |              |                  |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Efrain Q  | 10. Luis G   | 19. Alexsandro D |
| 2. Jose C    | 11. Adan A   | 20. Rafael C     |
| 3. Ricardo B | 12. Maximo S | 21. Luis H       |
| 4. Walter B  | 13. Jose S   | 22. Rafael C     |
| 5. Ever M    | 14. Pablo R  | 23. Thomas R     |
| 6. David M   | 15. Jose M   | 24. Nelson V     |
| 7. Angel R   | 16. Wilson M | 25. Juan S       |
| 8. Israel P  | 17. Hugo M   | 26. Jose D       |
| 9. Javier M  | 18. Jose V   | 27. Juan O       |

## Latinas y Niños

- |               |             |               |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Ruthanne T | 3. Abigal N | 5. Rosicela D |
| 2. Jinna M    | 4. Denise R | 6. Elisha L   |
|               |             | 7. Marielly A |

## Familias Unidas

- |                |                  |                |               |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Yogeny B    | 19. Glenda L     | 37. Lorety A   | 55. Juana C   |
| 2. Jackeline C | 20. Ramona F     | 38. Miriam D J | 56. Rosa C    |
| 3. Jose C      | 21. Leopoldo S   | 39. Betsy M    | 57. Ramona C  |
| 4. Dayanis G   | 22. Jorge B      | 40. Kimberly P | 58. Alondra D |
| 5. Bantroy M   | 23. Sulaika V    | 41. Melanie O  | 59. Jose D    |
| 6. Nayla P     | 24. Leugenia D L | 42. Balinda C  | 60. Santa F   |
| 7. Josefina S  | 25. Juan M       | 43. Ruben C    | 61. Jeimi G   |
| 8. Austria S   | 26. Ricardo L    | 44. Bianka C   | 62. Luis G    |
| 9. Mario T     | 27. Yelsin O     | 45. Robert C   | 63. Sonia M   |
| 10. Juan V     | 28. Daniel O     | 46. Diane F    | 64. Claudia J |
| 11. Walter B   | 29. Adan A       | 47. Andy G     | 65. Melissa L |
| 12. Joaquin R  | 30. Jose J       | 48. Lajuan M   | 66. Yeni M    |
| 13. Maria B    | 31. Joel L       | 49. Johanna M  | 67. David M   |
| 14. Jannete G  | 32. Ever M       | 50. William R  | 68. Jinna M   |
| 15. Xiomara M  | 33. Angel R      | 51. Charles W  | 69. Nancy M   |
| 16. Regla M    | 34. Wilson M     | 52. Ynoemi A   | 70. Santa O   |
| 17. Andres O   | 35. Jose M       | 53. Emerson A  | 71. Lorena P  |
| 18. Julio P    | 36. Nikki J      | 54. Esther B   |               |



# Acknowledgments/Awards



We would like to extend heartfelt thanks to our Hero In Action Award recipients:

- **Cecilia Zhang**  
*Housing Hero in Action*
- **Sullivan Benefits**  
*Community Heroes in Action*
- **Back on My Feet**  
*Recovery Heroes in Action*
- **TJ Lynch, InSource Services**  
*Guiding Heroe in Action*

With gratitude, we recognize and thank our sponsors for their unwavering support:



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# Honored Guests Speaker/Bios



**Liz Miranda**  
MA State Senator

Prior to serving in the Massachusetts Senate, Senator Miranda served two terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. In her first term in the House, she was a lead author in the police reform omnibus bill that passed in 2021. She has passed legislation to provide enforceable tools to protect the life and health of environmental justice communities, improve maternal health outcomes of Black women and birthing people, extend postpartum health insurance coverage, end solitary confinement in state prisons, and ensure vaccine equity in the communities most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Born in historic Mound Bayou, Mississippi and raised in Mattapan, MA, Russell E. Holmes is an American politician who serves as a Democratic member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. First elected in November 2010, he represents the Sixth Suffolk District, which includes the Boston neighborhoods of Dorchester, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan and Roslindale. In 1992, he obtained his BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Boston University, and in 2000, his MBA from Northeastern. In 2007, he obtained his Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certification.



**Russell E. Holmes**  
MA State Representative



**Yailka Cardenas**  
Director at Boston Public Health Commission

Yailka Cardenas is a proud Afro-Latina who has a strong personal connection to recovery. She is public health professional and licensed clinician with over 20 years of experience in the field. She has served in a variety of roles for the Boston Public Health Commission's Recovery Services Bureau since 2011, and currently oversees the 11 programs and divisions under the Recovery Services Bureau. Yailka also worked as a member the Casa Esperanza family as Clinical Director at Latinas y Ninos from 2015 to 2016. Yailka has been at the forefront of innovative initiatives to support the public health workforce.





# Upcoming Events!

## Hope In Action Continues

All year we're opening our doors for learning, celebration, and honest conversations that make care better. It's a rolling series that leads up to Casa's 40th anniversary in 2027. Expect pop ups, open houses, spotlights on peer leadership, and true stories of recovery you'll want to share. Be part of the hope.



**OPEN HOUSE**

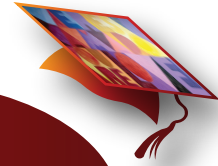


**CASA  
GRADUATION**



**HOPE IN  
ACTION GALA**

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