

SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

SCHAKOWSKY COMMEMORATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AT CENTRO ROMERO

CHICAGO, IL -- U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky today joined immigrants and advocates for an open house at Centro Romero, a community-based organization that serves the Latino immigrant population on the northeast side.

Representative Schakowsky released the following statement on Hispanic Heritage Month and her visit to Centro Romero following the open house:

"The Hispanic dream - the hope of a better future - is the American Dream. During Hispanic Heritage Month, we honor the Hispanic community and pay tribute to the extraordinary contributions that Hispanics make to our community and our country."

"I was inspired today by my visit to Centro Romero, a place that has set many immigrants from Latin America on the path to a new life in the United States. Not only does Centro Romero provide immigrants with educational and professional tools to help them settle and succeed in Chicago, but it has also strengthened our Hispanic community and helped to train the leaders of tomorrow."

"There are over 41 million Hispanic-Americans in this country and over 750,000 in Chicago - more than a quarter of our population. Their professional drive, deep faith and closely-knit families have made America a better and stronger country, and many of their stories of success motivate us to do better."

"Recognizing that Latinos are an integral part of our community means that we must support initiatives that will help them succeed. With my colleague Congressman Gutierrez, I am the co-sponsor of the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, which will produce real immigration reform in the U.S and create a legal path for all hard-working immigrants to stay with their families and to succeed in this country."

"On the occasion of Hispanic Heritage Month, we thank our neighbors for their contributions to our community, our culture, and our lives."