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## **Promotores/Community Health Workers reach 4422 in 3 "Rebuild Houston-Restore Lives" Recovery Fairs**

HOUSTON, TEXAS — Dia de la Mujer Latina (DML), and the Houston Health Department have joined forces to provide food, clothing, supplies, and computer assistance for FEMA disaster relief in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner for many of our racial and ethnic minority populations disproportionately affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Since 1997, our non-profit organization, Día de la Mujer Latina, Inc., in partnership with a multitude of community leaders, healthcare providers and dedicated volunteers have addressed the challenges and barriers experienced by many of our Latinos who are very much a fabric of this great nation. With our signature health fiestas and the Texas State Certification Training of Promotores/Community Health Workers, DML continues to successfully make an impact in reducing the systems barriers that impede healthier communities. Texas was the 1<sup>st</sup> state to legislatively recognize the role of Promotores/Community Health Workers as a viable means for advancing community resilience, preventive care and wellness. The Houston Health Department has incorporated Community Health Worker training for their employees to effectively guide vulnerable populations to access care and disease management, thereby improving health outcomes overall.

On August 25th, our beautiful city of Houston and surrounding counties were hit with a catastrophic and disastrous event that will continue to impact many lives for years to come. DML's Promotores have been out in full force to help those in desperate need of assistance.

According to Venus Ginés, President and Founder of Dia de la Mujer Latina® (DML), *"After repeated and unfulfilled requests to the American Red Cross for help, we are grateful to the Houston Health Department, The Fountain of Praise Health Ministry, and friends of the mission of DML for their support which enabled us to serve the needs of 4,422 at the following Multiservice Centers: 1,194 (Hiram Clarke); 1,289 (Southwest) and 1,939 (Magnolia) via our dedicated volunteers."*

DML also provided a three-hour training on "Promoting Community Resilience after a Disaster" to 81 Promotores/Community Health Workers, preparing these trusted members of our community to play a key role in the recovery process and should be integrated in many aspects of "rebuilding Houston – restoring lives.

As we brace ourselves for the physical and emotional stressors that follow a disaster, DML's mission has become more intensely challenging and diversified, but we will prevail together. For more information, visit our website at [www.diadelmujerlatina.org](http://www.diadelmujerlatina.org).

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Día de la Mujer Latina y Su Familia® Fiestas is DML's signature program, along with its Promotores/CHW Training Program, developed in 1997 as a community specific grassroots program, serving more than 154,000 folks in 40 major cities, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and trained and certified over 1600 Promotores (Community Health Workers) in Texas alone.