

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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**Hispanic Center of Western Michigan Receives \$1.5 Million Grant from the
W.K. Kellogg Foundation**

Grand Rapids, MI, November 8 – The Hispanic Center of Western Michigan has received a \$1.5 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for a three-year **Latino Community Development Project** to be carried out from September 2011 to August 2014. The Latino Community Development Project will provide important and stable support for: the Center’s Latino leadership development efforts; expansion of the Center’s education and civic engagement program; and expansion of the Center’s core immigration services and advocacy for immigrant families.

“The Hispanic Center is proud to partner with one of the largest foundations in the world to promote social change for Latino children and families in this beautiful state we call home,” said Martha Gonzalez-Cortes, Hispanic Center CEO. “The Latino community is now the largest minority group in Kent County and in the last ten years has represented almost 65% of Kent County’s total growth. The Kellogg Foundation’s support strengthens the Hispanic Center’s role as the largest Latino community-based non-profit in West Michigan and gives us the tools to strategically address the changing needs of our community.”

"At its core, this grant supports a Latino focused community development initiative that would enhance the ability of The Hispanic Center of Western Michigan to serve highly vulnerable families in Grand Rapids," said Andrew Brower, Associate Program Officer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. "We believe this investment will improve the capacity of those Latino families to advocate for themselves on critical issues of immigrant racial equity, education, and civic engagement."

Established in 1930, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society. For further information, please visit the Foundation’s website at www.wkkf.org .

Founded in 1978, the Hispanic Center is a 501(c)(3) organizations with a mission “to serve, to educate, to advocate,” and currently serves 12,500 clients per year with 16 full-time staff and a \$1.6 million operating budget. Services currently provided by the Hispanic Center include:

- Family Case Management (Poverty Reduction & Food Security)
- Immigrant Rights Advocacy
- Family Violence Intervention (Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault)

- Mental Health Services and Outreach
- Interpretation and Translation Services
- Adult Education
- Youth Work Readiness & Employment
- Youth Academic Achievement & College Preparation
- Gang Intervention Services
- Civic Engagement Training
- Cultural Event Planning & Training

For more information about programs and services offered by the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, please call (616) 742-0221 or visit www.hispanic-center.org .