

MEMO for the Secretary

From: Emilia Pablo-Montano, Special Assistant, OPA

CC: Phil Tom, Director, FBCINP

RE: TOUR & ROUNDTABLE – Casa De Maryland

Date: May 29, 2012

Introduction:

- On **Wednesday, May 30, 2012** from **2:00 – 3:00 pm**, you are scheduled to tour the Casa de Maryland's Welcome Center and participate in a stakeholder roundtable. Gustavo Torres, Executive Director will moderate the roundtable.
- Upon the conclusion of your tour and stakeholder roundtable you will participate in an informal press availability.

Purpose/Background:

- You will tour the Prince George's Welcome Center and see their training programs for building and construction trades and for child care providers.
- This Welcome Center also provides ESL classes and the OSHA training classes. The OSHA training class is an outcome of the Susan Harwood grant to provide training for their students.
- For your roundtable discussion, Casa de Maryland is inviting several students including a recent grad who is now employed and representatives from Prince George and Montgomery County Community Colleges.
- Casa de Maryland is a community organization that was founded in 1985 by Central American refugees and North Americans. Casa was created in response to the human needs of the thousands of Central Americans arriving to the D.C. area after fleeing wars and civil strife in their countries of origin. There are eight Welcome Centers throughout Maryland.
- Casa's vision is for strong, economically and ethnically diverse communities in which all people - especially women, low-income people, and workers - can participate and fully benefit, regardless of their immigration status.