



November 29, 2001

Dear friends

Re: Lay Health Promoters (LHP) Graduation Celebration

You are cordially invited to take part in the Lay Health Promoters Graduation Ceremony to be held on Saturday, December 15th at 6:00pm at the Glebe Community Centre located at 690 Lyon St, Ottawa.

This graduation is the culmination of the first phase of a well-built partnership among the four key partners –The Latin American Women’s Support group, (LAZO) Gentium Consulting, Centretown Community Health Centre and the Community Health Research Unit of the Ottawa University. The training is one of the components of a Demonstration Project to Build Community Capacity and Equitable Access to Cancer screening for ethno-racial minority women titled *Mujer Sana, Comunidad Sana - Healthy Women, Healthy Communities*. The new LHP graduates will be working to raise awareness on cancer screening within Hispanic women between Jan 2001 and March 2003 in the Ottawa.

The training has had a double purpose and focus. On one hand, it has been developed to receive recognition as part of an academic program, consisting two half-credit university-level courses with the School of Social Work at Carleton University (one on research methods, another on lay health promotion), over thirteen weeks, for a total of 216 hours for each student, including 4.5 hours of paid time to prepare assignments and study. As well this training have been successfully accepted as **an innovative college-level certificate course in Lay Health Promotion at Algonquin College**.

The training program included a very intensive, practical, and hands-on component, as these community-located women are supported actively to acquire skills, as well as theoretical knowledge, to enable them to operate consistently and competently as lay health promoters. The combination of these two approaches, although very labor-intensive, is one of the most innovative and promising elements of this demonstration project to date. This is why we would like you to be part of the graduation of the Lay Health Promoters ceremony and celebration. Many members of the Hispanic communities in Ottawa are expected to attend, as well as the local media.

Please confirm you participation. Snacks will be served and children are welcome to join us! For further information call us at 233.4443, ext.2222 and ask for Carolina Borquez.