



For Immediate Release

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MANA de Texas Gulf Coast Welcomed as Newest MANA Chapter

January 4, 2016, Washington, DC - The MANA National Board of Directors has approved the Charter of the newest Chapter of MANA, A National Latina Organization® (MANA). MANA de Texas Gulf Coast was approved unanimously, with all rights and responsibilities of a MANA Chapter, as of January 4, 2016. The central base of operations will be Baytown, Texas, with outreach to surrounding areas, including Highlands, Mont Belvieu, Southeast Houston, among others.

Founded in 1974, MANA is a national grassroots membership organization with chapters, individual members and affiliates across the country. MANA represents the interests of Latina women, youth and families on issues that impact our communities. MANA contributes the leading Latina voice on many of the major issues in the public sphere, particularly in the areas of education, health and well-being, financial literacy, equal and civil rights, and immigration reform.

MANA de Texas Gulf Coast joins the national MANA mission to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service and advocacy. This will include providing community education in the areas of financial literacy and mentor training for adults, as well as local implementation of the National HERMANITAS® program. The HERMANITAS® program is the only youth mentoring program developed specifically for Latina youth, ages 11-18. This successful programming has been the subject of a study published in the Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy in 2007, and was named a 2015 Bright Spot in Hispanic Education by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

Veronica Padilla, Chair of the MANA National Board of Directors, said, "We are thrilled to welcome MANA de Texas Gulf Coast as our newest Chapter. Our focus has always been to provide Latinas with the tools to take on leadership roles and educate our communities so that we can grow stronger collectively. We are confident that the leadership of Chapter President Allison Araujo will build a strong community of active Latinas committed to Baytown and the surrounding areas."

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MANA, A NATIONAL LATINA ORGANIZATION