



Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair
Alison M. Lozano, Ph.D., M.P.A., Executive Director

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

NJCDD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALISON LOZANO RECEIVES HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

On **October 26, 2011**, NJCDD Executive Director Dr. Alison Lozano was presented with the **Humanitarian of the Year** award at the **31st Annual Community Access Unlimited (CAU) Gala** awards ceremony and dinner dance. This prestigious honor is given each year to a person who has shown a commitment to providing ongoing support for people with disabilities and at-risk youth, and who is a force for policy change throughout New Jersey.

The CAU Humanitarian of the Year Award was presented by Dr. Deborah Spitalnik, Executive Director of the Boggs Center for Excellence at UMDNJ, who highlighted the many successes of the Council, which have come as a result of the leadership, depth of knowledge, and tireless dedication of Dr. Lozano.

In addition to receiving her award from the CAU, Dr. Lozano was also presented with a resolution from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, as well as a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from United States Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D – 6th District). These additional honors, which were presented to her by Union County Freeholders Angel Estrada and Christopher Hudak, were given in celebration of Dr. Lozano's outstanding achievements on behalf of the developmental disabilities community.

Dr. Lozano's legacy of service and achievement in the field of disabilities spans over 30 years. Her many professional and academic accomplishments include working as the Executive Director of the Utah Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Director of Social Work at the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities in Memphis, Tennessee, and as a Genetic Social Worker at both the University of Tennessee and at the Texas Department of MHMR. She has also taught at the University of Utah and University of Tennessee Colleges of Social Work.

In addition to her Ph.D. in social work, Dr. Lozano has a Master's Degree in Public Administration. In pursuing her doctorate, Lozano conducted research on the lives of parents with intellectual and developmental disabilities, which was guided by her commitment to the rights and abilities of people with disabilities.

In accepting the award, Dr. Lozano shared how her career was enriched not only by her professional activities but by her experiences raising a niece with developmental disabilities and fighting to ensure that she has a meaningful and self-directed adult life in the community. Dr. Lozano also used the opportunity to recognize and thank the many CAU members who are also NJCDD Council members and members of the Council's self advocacy program, the *Monday Morning* project. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to continue to collaborate with community partners like CAU, who share the Council's vision of building a community where all individuals enjoy full inclusion, respect, and dignity.

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