

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Veteran Team to Lead Casa Myrna

The Board of Directors of Casa Myrna Vazquez, Greater Boston's largest non-profit working to end domestic violence, announced today that Deborah Collins-Gousby and Nathalie Favre-Gilly have been named Co-Executive Directors of the agency. The shared leadership model is new to Casa Myrna, but is in use at a number of local non-profits in the area of human services. Board President John LaPann said, "Deb and Nathalie have proven track records of success at Casa Myrna, and the energy, experience and imagination we need. The Board was delighted when they approached us with this joint management proposal, and voted unanimously in favor of it. We're excited about their leadership and about the agency's future."

Nathalie Favre-Gilly joined Casa Myrna as its Director of Development and Communications in July 2004. Under her leadership, the agency has diversified its funding stream, raised new revenue to expand its range of supportive services, and launched Massachusetts' only statewide mass transit ad campaigns about domestic violence. She was previously Special Assistant for Development in the Office of the President at Boston University, where she also spent two years as Director of Development and Alumni Relations for the School of Education. A resident of Dorchester, Favre-Gilly has served on the Board of the Upham's Corner Charter School, including two years as Treasurer. Before coming to Boston, she worked in sales and marketing in New York and Europe. She has an M.A. in International Relations from Boston University and a B.A. in Literature from Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Deborah Collins-Gousby has been at Casa Myrna since February 2005, starting as Director of Emergency Programs and eventually assuming responsibility for all of the agency's direct service programs. She also served for two years as the agency's Interim Executive Director, from 2007 – 2009. Before joining Casa Myrna, Collins-Gousby spent fourteen years managing shelter programs at Boston's Elizabeth Stone House, also a provider of shelter and services to women and children affected by domestic violence. Collins-Gousby has extensive experience in direct services as well as in program development, budgeting, staffing, volunteer management, education, outreach and outcome measurement and reporting. She is a member of the Boston Regional Domestic Violence Director's Roundtable and the Thrive in Five Boston Ready Systems Implementation Partnership/Boston Local Wellness Council. She is graduate of Emerson College.

Casa Myrna Vazquez is Boston's leading non-profit working to end domestic violence in the lives of women and children. Founded in 1977, the agency operates three residential programs in the city of Boston for women and children made homeless by domestic violence, the state's most comprehensive range of fully bilingual supportive services, and the only statewide domestic violence hotline in Massachusetts (SafeLink, 877-785-2020). Casa Myrna's range of programs includes legal advocacy services, individual counseling and support groups, children's services, housing search assistance and advocacy, financial literacy education, teen dating violence education, public awareness campaigns and education to key stakeholders on the issue of domestic violence.

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