Booming laughter and conversation filled the cubicles and hallways as individuals from all walks of life ventured into Spanish Coalition for Housing's North office - most of which were visiting for the first time. On April 28th, SCH and our lead sponsor, BMO Harris, invited the community to join us for an Open House. Visitors could not only tour the new facility, but also learn what SCH offers and how we can help.

The positive energy was palpable as the staff and public came together for education, referrals, mountains of treats, and meaningful conversations. One of the most notable parts of the evening was when Executive Director, Gabriela Roman, took to the podium to give a speech.
"Every day I wake up full of energy asking: how can I help families live better lives?" she beamed. "And although I do not consider myself an emotional person, I must admit that in this job, my heart swells like never before, with joy when we help families reach their goals."

Ms. Roman went on to share the reason behind her passion for the work SCH does; she said it's because the families that are served on a daily basis remind her of her own. Her parents were Mexican immigrants who moved their six children to Chicago in hopes of a brighter future; however, this dream did not come easily. Ms. Roman's family, similar to many families today, found it increasingly difficult to save up for a 20% down payment on a home; her family had to make many offers on many homes, and even felt the sting of discrimination from owners who were not willing to sell to minorities. The audience was visibly moved as she spoke to those experiences:

"I wish my parents had known about Spanish Coalition for Housing back then," Ms. Roman confided. "It would have saved us great heartache."

Thank you again to BMO Harris Bank for making the Open House a success with their generous sponsorship and allowing SCH the opportunity to meet new clients and connections. This furthers our mission to stop the plagues of housing discrimination and inequality through education and resources for families in need.

Millie Reyes-Williams, CRA Relationship Manager at BMO Harris Bank, had this to say: "BMO Harris Bank is excited to have the opportunity to partner with great organizations, such as Spanish Coalition for Housing, on our joint initiatives that are clear commitments to Affordable Housing. Through these partnerships, we are seeing a
positive impact to families and economic development throughout communities in Chicago."

Spanish Coalition for Housing is truly grateful for all who came out and encourages anyone who couldn't to visit and learn about our services. As Executive Director Gabriela Roman said, her family's story does not have to repeat itself. Join SCH as we continue to instill the message of heart, hope and home in the community. It could make all the difference for you and your loved ones.

Program Spotlight:
Micro Market Recovery Program (MMRP)

Spanish Coalition for Housing is part of MMRP which is a neighborhood stabilization initiative targeting small neighborhood areas that are experiencing high rates of foreclosures and vacancies.

The City of Chicago along with its many partners is working to re-occupy vacant residential buildings and to help existing residents remain in their homes.

To that end we have two houses for sale in the Belmont Cragin Neighborhood (See images and prices to the right).

These homes qualify for two "forgivable loans" of up to $70,000! Please call MMRP Coordinator, Saul Garcia, at 773-342-7575 for more information.

HOMES FOR SALE:

2204 North LaCrosse
$94,900

2054 North LaPorte
$98,000