

I AM ONE OF THE THOUSANDS

By Frenise A. Logan II, Founding Member,
La Casa Support Committee

September 27, 2002

D.C. City Council Committee of the Whole FY03 Budget Hearing



My name is Frenise A. Logan II and I am one of the thousands of homeless people in our city.

La Casa is the only bilingual shelter in the city. More than that, La Casa is a vital community resource providing life sustaining services and programs for the growing homeless population. However, due to development and misplaced priorities, La Casa's future is in doubt.

We did, however, meet with Jim Graham and Deputy Mayor Carolyn Graham who visited La Casa, and we were promised a state of the art building to be built on the part of the property which La Casa now occupies.

Now with that said, we would like to see this agreement in writing, and we the residents want to be part of its design and program development.

I am a product of La Casa. I came to La Casa seeking emergency shelter. I had nowhere else to go. The emergency shelter was just my first step into their program, where I have been living for six months. I am a much better man— a much better human— because of it. La Casa saved my life.

It is at La Casa where my love for my own life has been reignited. It is at La Casa where my love for my fellow man has been revitalized. The best potential of a human being isn't only developed at institutions like Howard, Hampton, Yale or Harvard; it is also brought to life in shelters like La Casa.

We pride ourselves on what we call a free society yet the continuing growth of homelessness helps perpetuate slavery. This is not the work of God.

The eyes of the world are on the United States, and Washington D.C. is a major focal point. As the seat of power in the world, it is time to put the money that we do have to developing people. The constitution guarantees our right to pursue life, liberty and happiness. Doesn't the constitution include homeless people?