



314 S. Madison Street | Green Bay, WI 54301
920-445-0104 | www.CasaAlba.org

PRESS RELEASE

September 14, 2015

MEXICAN CONSULATE HONORS FOUNDER OF LOCAL CHARITY

Sister Melanie Maczka, a member of the Society of Sisters for the Church, has been selected to receive the prestigious “Ohtli” recognition by the Mexican Consulate. Sister Melanie is the Executive Director of Casa Alba Melanie in Green Bay. The “Ohtli” recognition is a result of a 30-year ministry, along with Father Ken DeGroot, to Hispanic residents in the greater Green Bay area. Sister Melanie and Father Ken served first at St. Willebrord Parish in Green Bay, and since 2011, at Casa Alba Melanie.

Carlos Jimenez Macias, Consular General of Mexico in Chicago, Illinois, said, “Nominations of persons, both domestic and foreign, have been submitted by the Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago to the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, Secretary of relations of Mexico, for consideration for the ‘Ohtli’ Recognition.” “The word ‘Ohtli’ is in the language Náhuatl, and means ‘Way’. The ‘Ohtli’ is the highest recognition awarded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to people, regardless of their country of origin, who have distinguished themselves in work on behalf of the Mexican community residing abroad.”

In his letter to Sister Melanie, he said, “It is a great honor for me to inform you that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after a thorough examination of the candidates, selected you to receive this high distinction.” The Consular General will present this “esteemed recognition” to Sister Melanie at a reception on Tuesday, September 15 at the National Hispanic Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago.

Sister Melanie said, “It is very humbling to be selected for such a prestigious recognition from so many admirable candidates. The recognition is really a tribute to all exceptional staff and volunteers at Casa Alba Melanie. They are truly making a difference in the lives of the Hispanic people in Northeast Wisconsin as well as the broader community.”

BACKGROUND ON CASA ALBA MELANIE: Casa ALBA Melanie is the Hispanic Resource Center of the greater Green Bay area. Their mission is to nurture the well-being and wholesome development of all members of the Hispanic community living in the region. It grew out of a 25-year ministry to the Hispanic community. It was incorporated as a 501(c)3, non-profit entity on December 8, 2011. Its Federal EIN# is 45-4099296. Its services include: Educational Services, Professional Services, Community Liaison and Socialization and Family Needs. Casa ALBA Melanie services are provided through the work of our volunteers and are funded through the generosity of supporters like you. Charitable contributions are tax deductible and stay in the Green Bay area. It does not receive any state, federal, or local tax support. It does not duplicate services available elsewhere in the community. They partner with other organizations to leverage all programs to best meet the community’s needs. Contributions may be made at: CasaAlba.org.

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FOR PHOTOS AND MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: <http://casaalbagb.weebly.com/news.html>



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Brief Description

Sister Melanie Maczka was honored with the coveted Ohtli Award by officials at the Institute for Mexicans Abroad on Tuesday, September 15, 2015. Conceived to recognize and honor Mexicans and Latino leaders whose efforts have contributed significantly to the wellbeing, prosperity and empowerment of Mexican communities abroad, the award is handed out annually.

Pronunciation

- Typical pronunciation of Ohtli is: [oh-tli](#), or [oht-li](#)

Ohtli Award - What is the Ohtli Award

- The Ohtli Award was conceived to recognize and honor Mexican, Mexican-American or Latino leaders whose efforts have contributed significantly to the wellbeing, prosperity and empowerment of Mexican communities abroad. Ohtli is a náhuatl word that means “pathway”, or camino in Spanish.
- The Institute for Mexicans Abroad, part of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, annually grants the Ohtli Award, which consists of a medal, a silver rosette, and a diploma. This acknowledgment honors people who have dedicated most of their lives and career to “blazing a trail” abroad for younger generations of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans as they strive to achieve their dreams.
- This Award is one of the highest and very limited distinctions given by the Government of Mexico to distinguished individuals of Mexican or Latino origin

Past Recipients

- [Alicia Aguirre](#) – City Council – Redwood City, California – 2013 Recipient
- [Bill Richardson](#) – former Governor of New Mexico – 2011 Recipient
- [Dr. Juan Andrade](#) – President of the Hispanic Leadership Institute – 2011 Recipient
- [Eva Longoria](#) – Actress – 2015 Recipient
- [Manuel Rios](#) – Founding Partner Rios and Cruz – Legal Services in Seattle WA - 2013 Recipient
- [Dr. Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa](#) – neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins – 2012 Recipient
- [Alma Flor Ada](#) – California Educator – 2014 Recipient