

***Celebrating our past.  
Serving in the present.  
Building for the future.***

**50th Anniversary Journal**



# PROGRAM

**Introductions**

**Robert Falzon Video/Award Presentation**

**Dinner Served**

**Live Band Performance**

**Past, Present & Future Video**

**Poem by Makayla Rivera**

**Grizel Ubarry Video/Award Presentation**

# THANK YOU TO OUR HONOREES!



***Robert M. Falzon***

**Vice Chair,  
*Prudential Financial***

***Ramon Rivera  
Leadership Award Recipient***



***Grizel Ubarry***

**President,  
*G. Ubarry, Inc.***

***Hilda Hidalgo  
Award Recipient***



# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRMAN + PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Guests,

Thank you for joining us this evening to commemorate an important milestone in the history of La Casa de Don Pedro. Tonight we celebrate 50 years of mission-driven service to the Greater Newark Community. This evening's program will highlight three important themes: Celebrating our Past. Serving in the Present. Building for the Future.

***Celebrating our Past.*** Tonight we take time to acknowledge our founders and fifty years of tireless advocacy, coalition building, and justice seeking. As we reflect on the progress our communities have made, we also honor our ancestors and those who came before us in this fight for social justice.

***Serving in the Present.*** We reflect on the many ways we still serve others. We have become a trusted pillar of the community by always keeping our doors open to those who need us most, especially women, children, and the disenfranchised.

***Building for the Future.*** We seek to transform and enhance our impact in our communities by providing services that are holistic, integrated, and accessible to all. We will return to our activist roots by investing in community organizing and advocacy.

Together, we are building a future for the 50,000+ members we serve annually. For the children we prepare for a life of active learning, the thousands of homes we help make safer, the families we support by providing after school and summer enrichment programs, and the New Americans who come to us to learn English, Civics, and other critical skills to begin building their version of the American Dream.

Thank you for celebrating with us.

Cincuenta y Pa'lante! Fifty and Onward!



**Arcelio Aponte**  
Chairman



**Peter T. Rosario**  
President & CEO



# WHO WE ARE



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

La Casa de Don Pedro, Inc.'s mission is to foster self-sufficiency, empowerment and neighborhood revitalization.

## **ABOUT US**

**La Casa de Don Pedro, Inc. (LCDP)** was founded in 1972 by a group of local activists seeking to establish educational and charitable programs to meet the needs of Newark's Puerto Rican community.

Named in honor of **Don Pedro Albizu Campos**, LCDP has since evolved to become the largest Latinx-led organization in the state of New Jersey, serving 50,000 Newark and Essex County residents annually under three central pillars: **Early Childhood** (Prenatal, Early Head Start, Head Start, and Pre-K); **Healthy Homes** (Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program [LIHEAP], Weatherization, Lead Remediation/Abatement); and **Community Empowerment** (Women & Family Center, Immigration, Workforce Readiness, Youth Enrichment, Housing & Home Ownership Support, and Community Organizing).

# CORE VALUES



## **JUSTICE/JUSTICIA**

Breaking down the barriers created by systems of oppression which seek to block equity and liberty for all people.

## **LOVE/AMOR**

It's not *who* you love, but *how* you love. Love is the driving force that guides our mission.

## **SOLIDARITY/SOLIDARIDAD**

We stand with ALL marginalized people. Through unity, we will achieve victory.

## **EXCELLENCE/EXCELENCIA**

Our duty is to elevate those we serve to a level where they can flourish and reach their fullest potential.

## **BELONGING/PERTENENCIA**

We don't just invite you in, we want you to feel at home. "*La Casa es su casa*" will always be our promise.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Arcelio Aponte, Chairman, Barclays**

**Sandra Cruz, Merck & Co., Inc.**

**Rita E. Robles, Vice Chairwoman, Legal Services of New Jersey**

**Dr. Enrique Diloné, Self-Employed**

**Richard Roper, Immediate Past Chair, The Roper Group**

**Dawn Gammon**

**Daniel Czerniawski, Treasurer, Actors Federal Credit Union**

**Steven Gomez, SEED Impact**

**Antonio Valla, Secretary, Uptown Development**

**Dr. Gayle Griffin, Retired**

**Jesus Mercado, Jr., At Large, eXp Realty**

**Eltia Montano Galarza, Montano, Galarza, LLC.**

**Farhan Ali, McCarter & English, LLC.**

**Dawn C. Robertson, PGIM Real Estate**

**Margaret Cammarieri, Retired**

**Ivette Rosario, Rutgers University – Newark**



# EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



**Peter T. Rosario**  
President & CEO

**Rosalina “Wendy” Melendez**  
Vice President of Programs

**Garfield Grant**  
Vice President of Finance and Administration

**Ivonne Salazar**  
Vice President of Development and External Relations

# City of Newark, NJ

The Newark Municipal Council  
hereby issues this Resolution

COMMENDING

## “LA CASA DE DON PEDRO”

*Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Service to  
The City of Newark Community*

*We, the Members of the Newark Municipal Council, take this opportunity to congratulate the Administration and the Staff of La Casa De Don Pedro on the auspicious occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Service to the Newark Community. The Governing Body and Newark Residents wholeheartedly commend La Casa De Don Pedro on their successful mission of providing hope, inspiration and resources toward improving the lives of untold thousands of families and individuals, on this day, Thursday, November 10, 2022.*

**LaMonica B. McIver**  
PRESIDENT, MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



**Patrick O. Council**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

**C. Lawrence Crump**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

**Carlos M. Gonzalez**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

**Dupré L. Kelly**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

**Luis A. Quintana**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

**Anibal Ramos Jr.**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

**Louise Scott-Rountree**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

**Michael J. Silva**  
COUNCIL MEMBER

Attest:

  
Kecia Daniels  
Acting City Clerk

Date: *November 11, 2022*

GORY A. BOOKER  
NEW JERSEY



UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

November 10, 2022

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to extend my warmest greetings as you gather to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of La Casa de Don Pedro. Thank you for all you do to uplift our community!

For half a century, La Casa de Don Pedro has been committed to serving the people of Newark. As the former Mayor and a current resident of Newark, I am so grateful for the invaluable work you do in our community every day. Through your efforts, La Casa has provided so many of our neighbors have the opportunities and resources they need to thrive. Your work has touched countless lives, and will have long-lasting and sustaining reverberations for generations to come. Thank you for all that you have done, and continue to do, for the people of Newark.

Once again, congratulations on this milestone. I look forward to celebrating your continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory A. Booker', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN  
AFFAIRS  
FINANCE  
FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

528 SENATE HART OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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208 WHITE HORSE PIKE  
SUITE 18-19  
BARRINGTON, NJ 08007  
(856) 757-6363

May 9, 2023

La Casa de Don Pedro  
75 Park Avenue  
Newark, NJ

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your invitation to attend La Casa de Don Pedro's Fiftieth Anniversary Gala. While I had hoped to be with you personally, please accept my sincere congratulations on this landmark achievement for your organization.

Since 1972, La Casa de Don Pedro has been committed to empowering the Puerto Rican and the Latino communities in Newark, New Jersey. La Casa fosters self-sufficiency, empowerment, neighborhood revitalization, and a persistent community focus as guidelines for success. Throughout the years, your organization has been a remarkably positive force in our community, helping to address the needs of individuals, families, and children in a holistic way.

Your community efforts have included assisting our friends and neighbors with early childhood development as well as youth and family counseling, HIV prevention, workforce development, energy assistance, and home energy conservation. I sincerely commend your ambitious efforts to uplift our communities over the decades. Your dedication, persistence, and drive has positively influenced the lives of so many New Jersey residents.

Today as you commemorate five decades of service and recognize your trailblazing honorees, Robert Falzon and Griselle Ubarri, I congratulate you for all you have accomplished and send you best wishes in your future community endeavors.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator

RM:ceb

# State of New Jersey



## THE SENATE

STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N.J.

### SENATE RESOLUTION

By Senator RUIZ

**WHEREAS**, La Casa de Don Pedro, highly esteemed throughout the Garden State, will commence its Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations with a Kickoff Party on November 10, 2022, at El Patio de La Casa in the City of Newark, Essex County; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of New Jersey is pleased to recognize La Casa de Don Pedro upon this auspicious occasion, during which the organization will unveil its Fiftieth Anniversary logo and theme amidst live music and delicious fare; and,

**WHEREAS**, For half a century, La Casa de Don Pedro has excelled in its worthy mission to empower, revitalize, and build self-sufficiency through a robust array of educational programs and economic development strategies, thus ensuring all residents benefit from the Newark region's dynamic growth; and,

**WHEREAS**, The strength and prosperity of the State of New Jersey and the effectiveness of our American society depends, in great measure, upon concerned individuals, exemplified by the tireless staff, board of directors, and volunteers of La Casa de Don Pedro, who dedicate their time and utilize their unique talents to enhance their communities and improve the quality of life for their neighbors; and,

**WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper for the members of this House to pause in their deliberations to acknowledge La Casa de Don Pedro and laud its meritorious efforts in behalf of the residents of this State; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

That this House hereby salutes La Casa de Don Pedro, pays tribute to its sterling record of service, leadership, and commitment, and extends sincere best wishes for continued success and vigor in all future endeavors; and,

*Be It Further Resolved*, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the President and attested by the Secretary, be transmitted to La Casa de Don Pedro.



Handwritten signature of Nicholas P. Scutari in black ink.

Nicholas P. Scutari  
President of the Senate

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Linda Metzger in black ink.

Linda Metzger  
Secretary of the Senate



*Thank You*

# La Casa de Don Pedro

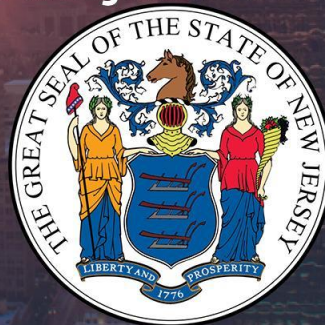
For empowering and revitalizing our  
community for the last 50 years.

*50 y Pa'Lante*

Senate Majority Leader

# M. TERESA RUIZ

29th Legislative District





The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of thick, expressive brushstrokes. The color palette is rich and varied, featuring deep blues, fiery oranges, bright yellows, and lush greens. The strokes are layered and textured, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and artistic creativity.

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
SPONSORS!**



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We continue to see the promise of prosperity.**

**In 1875, Prudential founder John Dryden chose Newark** as the home for an idea that would change America forever: life insurance for everyday families.

**Today, we're doing more than ever to champion the aspirations of Newark** families. Through partnerships across the city, we're creating avenues for new ideas and technologies to emerge. For businesses, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions to thrive. And to help individuals achieve the promise of prosperity for generations to come.

**We began with a sense of purpose that lives on today** in our commitment to Newark and communities around the world.

**Prudential Celebrates La Casa de Don Pedro's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

**50 y Pa'Lante!**

***Visit [prudential.com](https://www.prudential.com)***



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1059719-00001-00



CONGRATULATIONS

## La Casa de Don Pedro

for 50 years of mission-driven and  
visionary service, advocacy and pride  
in Newark—Onward!





**IS PROUD TO SUPPORT**

# La Casa De Don Pedro

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[WellCareNewJersey.com](https://www.WellCareNewJersey.com)





*Congratulations,  
La Casa de Don Pedro!*

Cheers to 50 Years of Service in Newark and beyond!





**50 Y PA'LANTE!**

*Saluting*

# **La Casa de Don Pedro**

*-A member of the NeighborWorks Network of Excellence -*

**On 50 years of mission-driven,  
visionary service, advocacy and  
pride in the city of Newark!**

Congratulations to tonight's honorees

**Robert M. Falzon & Grizel Ubarry**

[NeighborWorks.org](https://www NeighborWorks.org)

[@neighborworks](https://twitter.com/neighborworks)



hanini

**Building  
the  
future,**

while  
celebrating  
the past





 **Powering  
progress.**

*PSE&G is committed* to fostering access to fair and equitable opportunities throughout its communities.

[pseg.com](https://www.pseg.com)

PROGRESS



# We Are Honored to Support La Casa de Don Pedro

For 50 years you have provided exceptional service to our community.

The guidance in education and economic development along with the services you provide to the residents of Greater Newark are needed and greatly appreciated. You do so much good.

Thank you!!



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withum<sup>+</sup>  
ADVISORY TAX AUDIT



**The Rutgers University – Newark community  
congratulates La Casa de Don Pedro on its  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and joins in honoring  
Grizel Ubarry and Robert Falzon!**

**RUTGERS**  
UNIVERSITY | NEWARK



# Ramon Rivera Jr.



ANTONELLI KANTOR RIVERA

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

[akrlaw.com](http://akrlaw.com)

908-623-3672

354 Eisenhower Pkwy., Suite 1000 • Livingston, NJ



# THANK YOU TO OUR SMALL BUSINESS SPONSORS!



# Congratulations!

**Unified Vailsburg Services Organization**  
salutes its long-standing community partner

## **La Casa de Don Pedro**

for 50 years of helping to transform lives  
in Newark's North Ward and city-wide.

Your wide breadth of programming  
and services is a testament to your  
diligence in helping to address  
the ever-evolving and  
ever-expanding needs  
of residents, businesses  
and stakeholders.

Thank you for being such an  
incredible beacon of hope  
to countless individuals and families.

You are a community treasure.

*SanDonna B. Jones*  
*UVSO Executive Director*



# Congratulations!

For 50 years, La Casa de Don Pedro has been a pillar of the Greater Newark and Essex County community and we are proud to sponsor this wonderful organization.

Looking forward to another half century of impactful and groundbreaking work.





# Congratulations!

## To La Casa on 50 years of servicing the community.



[ucc.newark](https://www.instagram.com/ucc.newark)



[uccnewark.org](https://www.uccnewark.org)



[info@uccnewark.org](mailto:info@uccnewark.org)



## Join The Fight Against

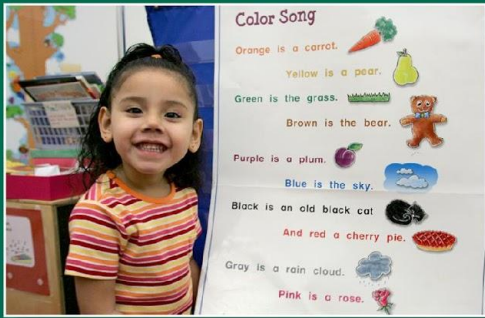
Poverty | Food Insecurity | Victimization | Clothing Insecurity  
Educational Disparities | Unemployment | Homelessness



“Moving  
people from  
dependency  
to self-  
sufficiency

[www.uccnewark.org](https://www.uccnewark.org)





Congratulations on 50 Years of  
Incredible Impact to Our Friend  
Peter Rosario and Everyone at  
**La Casa De Don Pedro**

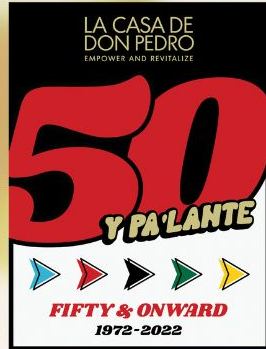


*Robert Guarasci*

Robert Guarasci  
NJCDC Founder and CEO



# Congratulations



LA CASA DE  
DON PEDRO  
EMPOWER AND REVITALIZE

**50 Y PA'LANTE \* FIFTY AND ONWARD \* 50 Y PA'LANTE \* FIFTY AND ONWARD \* 50 Y PA'LANTE**  
50 years of mission-driven and visionary service, advocacy, and pride in the City of Newark.



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LinkedIn @urban-league-of-essex-county





**NEW JERSEY CITIZEN ACTION**

CONGRATULATES  
**LA CASA DE DON PEDRO**  
ON THEIR  
**FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY**  
AS THEY  
**CELEBRATE THEIR PAST,**  
**SERVE IN THE PRESENT,**  
**AND BUILD FOR THE FUTURE!**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU  
FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER FIFTY YEARS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
TONIGHT'S HONOREES:

ROBERT M. FALZON  
VICE CHAIR, PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL

GRIZEL UBARRY  
PRESIDENT, G. UBARRY INC.

From the Board & Staff of  
New Jersey Citizen Action  
The Hahne's Building  
625 Broad Street, Suite 270  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: (973) 643-8800  
[www.njcitizenaction.org](http://www.njcitizenaction.org)





LA CASA DE  
DON PEDRO  
EMPOWER AND REVITALIZE

NEWARK  
**WORKS**  
NEWARK WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**NWDB extiende sus  
felicitaciones a La Casa de  
Don Pedro por 50 años de  
liderazgo al servicio de las  
familias de Newark!**

# NCHC

## NEWARK COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, INC.



CONGRATULATIONS

And

NCHC Wish you a happy Fifty & Onward Anniversary!

We wish you all the best!

**WE PROVIDE AFFORDABLE QUALITY HEALTHCARE.**

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[www.nchcfqhc.org](http://www.nchcfqhc.org)



# New Jersey Institute of Technology

congratulates

## **La Casa De Don Pedro**

on its

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

and joins them in recognizing Honorees

**Robert M. Falzon**

Vice Chair, Prudential Financial

**Grizel Ubarry**

President, G. Ubarry Inc.