

Carolyn Vazquez – Woman of Excellence

Carolyn O. Vazquez joined Community Affairs at Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network in March 2007. A diverse professional background has provided a solid foundation for her role in raising awareness about organ and tissue donation for the next generation.

She has been involved in planning national telethons and events to increase the donor registry, and currently is recruiting and implementing innovative outreach campaigns in the central and downstate Illinois areas. She coordinates with national, state and local organizations/agencies to develop creative strategies that focus on and address health issues in the African American community.

Vazquez has always been known as a “people person” with positions in development, event/project management and later, an emphasis on marketing and public relations. Mentoring youths of all ages, working with child protection agencies and high school mentoring programs, she has positively affected hundreds of families. As an event manager at the American Liver Foundation, she raised more than \$200,000 for Liver research and educational programs as her way to help give back to the community.

She is a member of Zelta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and uses her energy to personally continue to give back as well. Vazquez has coordinated events to help rebuild homes in Chicago and increase safety for youth. She participated in the *Chicago AIDS Ride* in 2000 and 2001 serving as the media spokesperson throughout the events to help raise awareness and funds for AIDS research.

To read the printed article and to view other *Women of Excellence*, please visit www.chicagodefender.com.

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