



Ms. Vilma N. Rosario, nominator, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and Ms. Anna Salinas, recipient of the Unsung Hero Award

2004 Unsung Hero Anna Salinas

Nominated by Ms. Vilma N. Rosario

Ms. Vilma N. Rosario wrote:

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Anna Salinas for a Maryland Hispanic Heritage Award. Ms. Salinas was born in El Salvador and is a naturalized American Citizen. She is employed at the Food and Drug administration as an Advisory Committee Specialist. Ms. Salinas is an eight years breast cancer survivor who has made a commitment to help women with cancer.

As part of Ms. Salinas commitment to fight breast cancer, she became an active member of Nueva Vida, a cancer support network for Hispanic Women in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area. She is an active volunteer peer counselor at Nueva Vida, where she helps many women who are either battling or recovering from cancer, by visiting them or making telephone calls. During this time Ms. Salinas listens attentively, offers her experience, assistance and compassion. These women are residents of either Prince George or Montgomery Counties. Ms. Salinas has accompanied many women to Holy Cross Hospital in Montgomery County to serve as a Spanish interpreter during the women's chemotherapy or radiation treatments and/or doctor's office visits. On one occasion, Ms. Salinas took into her

home a cancer patient who had been displaced from her home and lost her job due to her illness. Ms. Salinas offered her home without charge until the woman was able to obtain a place to live.

During this year, Ms. Salinas continues to help women who have faced this illness and who are Maryland residents. In May 2004, she assisted Nueva Vida to organize a fundraiser “Canto por la Vida”, which was held in Bethesda, Maryland. In October 2004, she will attend a conference on Breast Cancer, which will be held at Suburban Hospital in Montgomery County. During this Holiday season she will again participate to obtain food donations and in the distribution of food baskets to Hispanic women who are too ill to do the shopping. In addition, she serves on the Board of Director for Nueva Vida. Often, Ms. Salinas has taken time from her job to render her services.

I am a Howard County resident and a breast cancer survivor who has been fortunate to have my life touched by Anna’s kindness. Ms. Salinas is an Unsung Hero who is definitely making a difference in the quality of life for many Maryland residents.