**Ana Ortiz named Laura Holmberg Awardee, will be recognized at Women’s Fund Annual Luncheon**

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*Online Event: Thursday October 29, 11:50 AM. To register*[*: https://www.cftompkins.org/news-and-events/events/2020/08/save-the-date-womens-fund-virtual-celebration*](https://www.cftompkins.org/news-and-events/events/2020/08/save-the-date-womens-fund-virtual-celebration/)*/*

TOMPKINS COUNTY, N.Y. — Ana Ortiz, founder No Mas Lagrimas/ No More Tears, has been awarded the 2020 Laura Holmberg Award, presented by the Women’s Fund of the Community Foundation. This may be first time a Latina woman has been recognized for an honor of this sort in Tompkins County!

The award, which recognizes unsung heroes in the community who have made an impact on behalf of women and girls through volunteer work, will be presented at the Women’s Fund Celebration on Thursday (Oct. 29) through an online gathering format. The award was established in 2006 by Anna Holmberg, a lawyer with Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP in Ithaca, in remembrance of her mother.

“Ana’s history of tirelessly working to make lives better for people affected by economic and social barriers spans many years,” says Stacey Murphy, chair of the Women’s Fund Advisory Committee, which selects the award recipient. “The ways in which her efforts have bolstered women in our community was especially important in our selection.”

One of her nominators, Lily Gershon, notes that “Ana is the kind of person who is constantly picking up the phone day and night because the people in her community trust her to help them. For many years, she has helped women in domestic violence situations get to safety and get support. Ana moved to NY from Puerto Rico when she was a teen and has organized events for the Latino community to celebrate her culture here in Ithaca.”

Ana noted that starting the Latino festival and cooking classes at Southside were her way of building the sense of culture she was missing. It is also her way of helping so many across other issues of need. “Don’t talk about it or worry. Just do it, get something done…as long as you can believe in what you do and do it, you can feel good about that”, Ortiz says.

Ortiz founded No Mas Lagrimas/No More Tears to continue this role “Ana is a resourceful and courageous leader who warmly embraces and empowers those she assists. Her skills in relationship building, community organizing, and networking have become a source of strength and courage”, says Fran Manzanella Spafadora, who also nominated Ortiz for this award.

In recent months, Ortiz joined efforts to help people impacted by COVID-19 and its economic fallout in Ithaca through Mutual Aid Tompkins, enlisting additional eager members to her all-volunteer team and leveraging long-standing relationships with the Friendship Donations Network and others to make weekly distributions of food and household supplies to those in need.

Ortiz notes her grandmother as an early inspiration. “In Puerto Rico, she was the only woman in the town who was organizing Christmas dinners and the annual La Parranda celebration for people. She did that for at least 40 years. When I was little, she told me she had a magic pot that she used for the holidays. She showed it to me, said she fed 100 people from this one pot.” As Ana grew, she came to understand what the “magic” really was, and brought her own magic to nourish people through Loaves and Fishes, Southside Community Center, and other spaces.

In addition to No Mas Lagrimas and Mutual Aid Tompkins, Ortiz is a collaborator with ¡Cultura Ithaca!, First Latino Festival, and food rescue and distribution efforts. Her past work has led her to connect with people all over the county through the colleges and university, Buttermilk Falls Pediatric Clinic, the Electricians’ Union, City of Ithaca, Ithaca Fire Department, Ithaca Health Department, Tompkins County Workers Center Latino Civic Association, Alternative’s Federal Credit Union Social Ventures, Ithaca Housing Authority, Love Knows No Bounds; Tompkins County Human Rights Commission, and Tompkins Learning Partners, to name just a few.

The Women’s Fund will recognize Ortiz, along with community organizations that have offered programs to serve women on October 29th. This is an online version of an annual favorite event in Tompkins County and they invite all to join.

Attendees can register for this event at: [https://www.cftompkins.org/news-and-events/events/2020/08/save-the-date-womens-fund-virtual-celebration](https://www.cftompkins.org/news-and-events/events/2020/08/save-the-date-womens-fund-virtual-celebration/)/