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**“¡Siempre Latina!” Gala
Amigas Latinas Celebrates 15th Anniversary**

Chicago, IL (October 7, 2009)- Amigas Latinas commemorates their 15th anniversary with the quinceañera*-style gala "¡Siempre Latina!" (Latina Always). Through this tradition and recognition, the organization embraces their Latin American roots as well as their lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LBTQQ) identity and community.

"¡Siempre Latina!" is an annual fundraising gala where Amigas Latinas celebrate who they are with "pride and acceptance, without boundaries or limitations, fearlessly and unapologetically." By attending, Latina LBTQQ women, community leaders and allies will honor and support the existence of a non-profit organization, which advocates not only for the LGBTQ community but for the Latina/o community as well.

Amigas Latinas, founded in 1995, began as an effort to support women's coming out processes and created spaces where they could identify as both Latina and LBTQQ. The organization is led by a volunteer board, which plans, facilitates, and fundraises for all their programming. In the last year, Amigas Latinas provided scholarships to four college youth; and implemented programs based on needs identified by their Proyecto Latina Survey (topics include spirituality, mental health, and healthy relationships). They also facilitated monthly programming such as Madurando Elegantemente, a group for LBTQQ Latinas 40 and older; Amiguitas, a youth group; and Entre Familia: PFLAG en español, a Spanish language support group for family and friends.

The gala will take place on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago, IL 60613. For information on tickets, visit www.amigaslatinas.org, or call 773.661.0940.

*A quinceañera is a coming of age ceremony held on a girl's 15th birthday in many Latin American countries.

Amigas Latinas empowers Latina lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning women by providing a safe environment, personal growth, support, education, and advocacy to impact family, friends, and the larger communities we live in.

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