



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ALDERMAN SANTIAGO EMBARKS ON HER MISSION TO AID ECUADOR

Goal: To Ensure Transparency in the Delivery of Earthquake Relief Funds

CHICAGO - Alderman Milly Santiago will travel to Ecuador this weekend to personally deliver funding raised by her May 1st Help Ecuador event after the country suffered a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on April 16 at 6:58pm (Ecuador time). More than 650 people were killed and tens of thousands injured and relocated to shelters.

The outpouring of support from Chicago to help in the rapid response event will be hand delivered to make sure it goes directly to those in need. The relief event has raised over \$14,500 so far. More checks are still expected. The group also has a Go Fund Me site for Chicago called 'Help Ecuador!!!'

"We have a vibrant Ecuadorian community in the 31st Ward and across Chicago", said Alderman Santiago. "So many people of all neighborhoods, races and nationalities came together to raise money and show support after such an enormous disaster. I am going to Ecuador and see that the help is delivered. I will travel to Guayaquil, a larger city, but also to Jama, Playa Prieta, Punta Blanca and Tasaste, smaller communities which haven't seen much coverage."

The grass roots movement of volunteer helpers called 'Yo Soy Hormiga' or 'I am an Ant' has been 'swarming' to help in the small communities. Alderman Santiago will join with members of the group to assist the recovery and rebuilding effort.

"We are very glad to find there is another team of 'Ants' in Chicago", said volunteer Jose Grunauer. "We are grateful for the help of our Chicago brothers and sisters."

Alderman Santiago's May 1st Help Ecuador Event received generous support from several local Ecuadorian organizations and the Ecuadorian General Consulate Carlos Lenninhouse. Also supporting were other aldermen and elected officials across Chicago, including Aldermen Roberto Maldonado (26), Gilbert Villegas (36), Ricardo Muñoz (22), Carlos Rosa (35), Raymond Lopez (15) as well as State Representatives Luis Arroyo, Sr. and Jaime Andrade and Cook County Commissioner Luis Arroyo, Jr.