Greetings,

On behalf of the entire Chica Project family of staff and volunteers, we thank you for joining us on May 9th to celebrate our 8th Annual Fundraiser, Dinner Party with a Twist! It was a night filled with love, passion, and a testament to youth empowerment.

We are extremely grateful to our honorary performer and keynote speaker, Ayodele Casel, an American actress, tap dancer, and choreographer who received the "Influential Chica of the Year" award that evening. Ayodele graced us with her rhythmic tap shoes and her gift of wisdom, which shone in the eloquence of her words, “You curate the experience that you want to have. When you lead with joy, confidence, compassion, optimism and empathy, it attaches to you and your life will be the most amazing adventure ever.” We’re confident that her legacy will continue to influence the world and pave the way for a generation of young women leaders.

A special thank you to our four main youth speakers of the night, Neyssa Franklin, Grazielly De Oliveira Guerra, Medelys Marte, and Megan Florestal, who bravely shared their testimonies about their experiences and how our programs have supported their leadership.

Thank you again to our event chairs; Aileen McHugh, Dr. Debra Joy Pérez, and Kate Ford,
host committee, advisory board members, volunteers, and staff for putting this event together. And a huge thanks to our sponsors:

It is not too late to show your support! If you didn’t have the opportunity to donate yet, or would like to make another contribution, you can do so [here](#) or text "Chica Project" to 44321.

If you’d like to provide us with feedback on your experience at Dinner Party with a Twist and/or join our host committee to plan for next year’s fundraiser, please take this brief [survey](#). Thank you again for your continuous support!

Con agradecimiento (with gratitude),
"Influential Chica of the Year"
Ayodele Casel
Youth Speakers
Neyssa Franklin
Third year participant in the Empowerment Institute at Cathedral High School, senior at Cathedral High School, and attending Dean College in the Fall

Grazielly De Oliveira Guerra
Second year participant in Queens Rise, senior at Boston Latin Academy, and attending Umass Amherst in the Fall

Medelys Marte
Empowerment Institute alumnae at Lawrence High School, first year participant in Queens Rise, sophomore at Salem State University, and 2018 Recipient of Chica Project's Rosanna Y. de la Cruz, Full of Life Scholarship

Megan Florestal
Empowerment Institute alumnae at Cathedral High School, sophomore at Stonehill College, and 2018 Recipient of Chica Project's Rosanna Y. de la Cruz, Full of Life Scholarship