

**Naming of park at 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and Steele St. in  
honor of Lorraine Granado**



**Denver City Council  
February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

# Who was Lorraine Granado?



**Lorraine L. Granado, mother to 3 boys, was born in Denver, Colorado on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1948 to Joseph and Tillie Granado. Raised in the Swansea/Elyria neighborhood along with her 8 siblings, she remained a resident and community leader in these neighborhoods for her entire life and was proud of these humble beginnings.**

# Granado Family



**Lorraine's father Joe, was a migrant farm worker. Her mother Tillie, was born on a farm in the San Luis Valley. They met in Denver, married, and had a total of 9 children. Lorraine drew inspiration from her brother Joey, who was a student with special needs and passed away at the age of 16. Her love for him inspired her lifelong career of helping people using love, community, and faith as her guide.**

# Teaching Peace is her Legacy

IP PROFILES . COMMUNITY



**LORRAINE L. GRANADO**

*Director Community Justice Project  
American Friends Service Committee  
Metro State College, Human Services  
Development Awards: Outstanding  
Citizen Award, Gov. Romer,  
Outstanding Young Women of  
America Member: Co-Founder Colo  
Women's Agenda, People of Color  
Consortium Against AIDS  
Children: Jim, Paul, Mario  
"My job entails organizing events,  
training employees and staff and  
problem solving." Leadership style:  
"Empower people." Best asset: "Deep  
and firm belief in a loving God."  
Future goals: "To eliminate injustice."*

**As a young woman, Lorraine started her community organizing as a member of the American Friends Service Committee- a Quaker based organization whose mission is to promote peace and justice for all humans. Her focus at the time was to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons across the globe. Her work, along with meeting heads of state from other countries to discuss nuclear disarmament led to national recognition.**

# Cross Community Coalition/ Family Resource Center



In 1986, she brought her talents and experience back to the Swansea/Elyria, Globeville neighborhoods, founding Cross Community Coalition. A family resource center designed to meet the needs of the communities by providing services such as:  
GED classes, access to social services, parenting classes,  
after-school and summer programs for youth, and many other programs.

“It not what you do, it’s how you do it.”



She taught us all that LOVE is the best way to solve problems. Throughout her career she emphasized the humanity that needs to be present when working with each other.

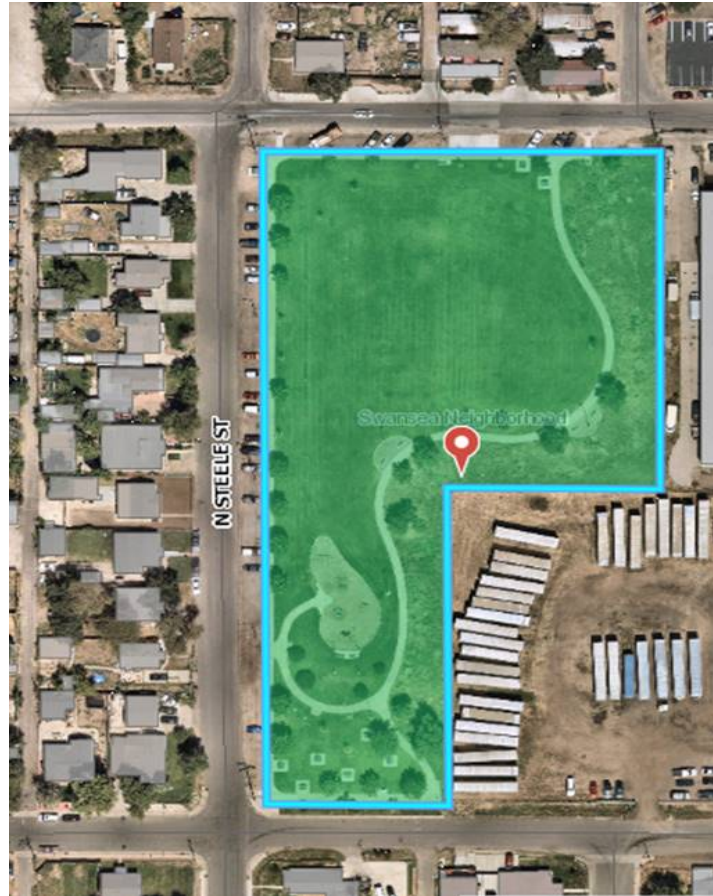
“We need to recognize and honor the spirit of God that lives within us all...if we can help each other while doing so with respect and dignity, then we are truly doing good work.”

# Environmental Justice



As a part of her fight for justice, she took on the environmental issues that plagued her community. Most notably, she led a group of neighbors who filed a successful class action lawsuit against the ASARCO Smelting Company. ASARCO had contaminated the groundwater and soil of nearby communities. At the time of the settlement, it was the largest environmental settlement awarded in Colorado.

## A gift to the Community



**In 1995, a Vulcan Chemical tanker spill near Swansea Park released hydrochloric and muriatic acid into the air. Vulcan did not properly notify or evacuate the surrounding neighborhood. As a result, Lorraine led a group of residents who took Vulcan to court. The \$200,000 settlement, in addition to funds raised by Lorraine, were used to purchase 3.3 acres of land and all the equipment for a new park. After the community-led designed process, she then turned the property over to Denver Parks and Recreation for the use of the park. This land was designated in May 2014.**



# Organizations and Impact



TRIBUTE TO LORRAINE GRANADO

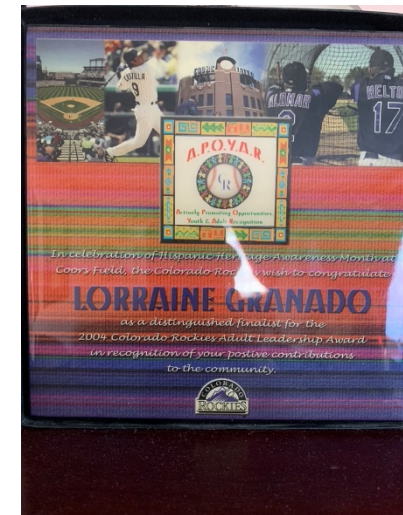
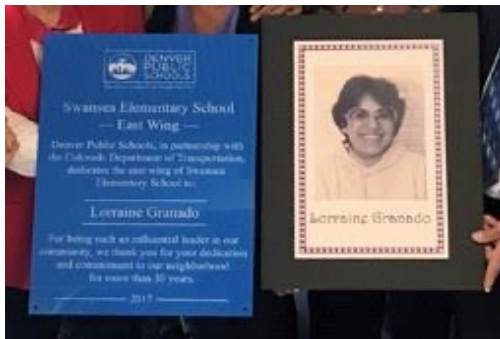
HON. DIANA DEGETTE  
of Colorado

Thursday, September 7, 2009

Ms. DEGETTE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the splendid efforts and notable accomplishments of an extraordinary woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this community leader for her exceptional record of civic leadership and productive service. It is to commend the outstanding citizen that I call to honor Lorraine Granado.

Presently, she is the Executive Director of the Crisis Community Coalition in the Golden, Swallow and Elyria neighborhoods in Denver. People in these communities have witnessed tremendous change over the years and through Ms. Granado's efforts, they are able to better address their health care, economic empowerment and environmental justice because of her common sense approach to problem solving. Through her leadership, the Crisis Community Coalition continues to bring tangible benefits to disadvantaged people through their Family Transition Center which offers job training and counseling, health social services, and after school programs.

Lorraine Granado has helped build a number of organizations through her work in board development, nonprofit management, media relations, community development, advocacy, teaching organizing techniques, and public policy participation. She has served as an organizing member of various organizations including the Colorado Women's Lobby, the Elyria/Swallow Economic Development Corporation, Habitat of Colorado, the National Rural Health Care Campaign, the Senatorial Jobs for Workers Project, the Colorado People's Environmental and Economic Network, People of Color Consortium Against AIDS, and the Colorado Coalition for Full Employment Project. Her accomplishments include helping to create Denver's Industrial zoning code to reduce industrial blight, provide guidance for community outreach helping to increase the presence of a regional medical profession in the community, developing a cooperative with the Environmental Protection Agency to address greenhouse issues and outline ways in which community members, legislators and government can work together to reduce greenhouse emissions, and the Swallow that Lorraine Granado received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award because of her tireless forward non-biased as a result of achieving impact and justice.



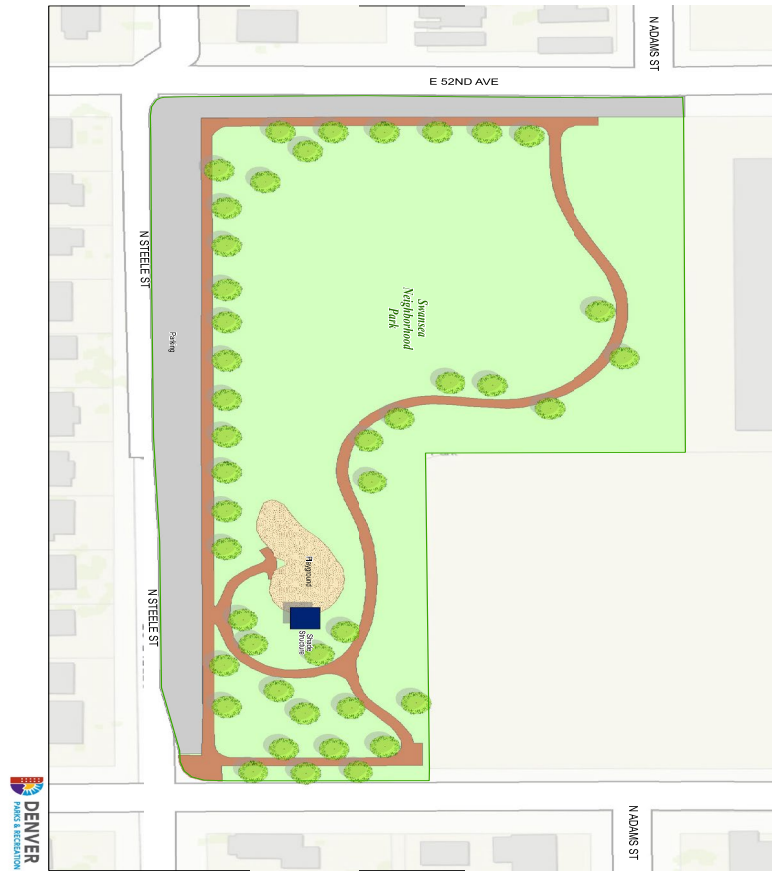
While Lorraine was quite humble and worked only for the satisfaction of helping others, she has been recognized locally and nationally for her outstanding work.

# Her legacy continues...



**Everyday, proud successful people are using the lessons of love, community, and faith that Lorraine taught to them. Her legacy is one that will endure as these voices continue to make positive change and advocate for others.**

The Granado Family humbly requests your support  
for the renaming of  
*52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and Steele St., to be named the*  
*“Lorraine Granado Community Park”*



¡Mil Gracias!