



COMUNIDADES LATINAS
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio - CLUES
PRESS RELEASE: CLUES Hosts its 2009 Annual Celebration

For Immediate Release:

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Tuesday, September 8, 2009 – Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) is pleased to announce that it successfully hosted its Annual Celebration on Wednesday, September 2nd from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Jackson Room of Travelers Companies in Downtown St. Paul.

The lead sponsor, Travelers Companies, generously sponsored and hosted the event. Other sponsors included General Mills, Ecolab, and Best Buy Co., Inc., BlueCross BlueShield, and President Jesse Bethke Gomez. Those in attendance at the event included CLUES donors, volunteers, staff, and the Board of Directors, as well as partners from other health and human service agencies, non-profit organizations, Latin-serving organizations, government agencies and departments, educational institutions, health providers, financial institutions, and corporations.

CLUES President Jesse Bethke Gomez opened the celebration by welcoming all of the honored guests and thanking them for their presence and contributions to CLUES and the Latino community in Minnesota. Keynote Speaker Honorable Head Consul of Mexico in St. Paul Ana Luis Fajer Flores related her experience with CLUES and the important contributions of CLUES to the quality of life of Latinos in Minnesota. Jesse Bethke Gomez and CLUES Board of Directors Chairperson Patrick J. Kelly also presented CLUES' annual awards to community members whose multiple, meritorious contributions and strong service to CLUES and the Latino community over the last year and throughout their lives have made CLUES a stronger organization.

Award recipients included Community Collaborator of the Year, Saint Paul Public Schools, accepted by Superintendent Suzanne Kelley, for partnering with CLUES to build relationships with local businesses, community leaders and other service providers, as well as work with CLUES to build capacity for its Learning Together Program; Business of the Year, General Mills, received by Diego Osuna, Board Vice-Chair of CLUES and Director of Partner Development & Marketing Alliances with General Mills, for strongly supporting CLUES over the years in its mission to enhance the lives of Latinos in Minnesota, as well as their donation of a mural designed by Arlene RB Sullivan, Executive Director of Changing Images Art Foundation Inc., and painted by the art club at General Mills (the mural was proudly displayed at the Annual Celebration); Community Builder of the Year, Honorable Head Consul of Mexico in St. Paul Ana Luisa Fajer Flores, for partnering with CLUES to build relationships with local businesses, community leaders and other service providers, in addition to dedicating herself to opening doors and creating opportunities for Latinos; and Lifetime Recognition award winner Tor Dahl for his dedication to advancing economic productivity and prosperity throughout the world and serving Minnesota's Latino community by helping to accelerate the American Dream for Latinos; Comadre of the Year, Elena Izaksonas, for going above and beyond in her work for the Latino community; Compadre of the Year, David Quigg, for going above and beyond in his work for helping the Latino community; Volunteer of the Year, Alen Duka, for going above and beyond in his volunteer work for CLUES.

Jesse Bethke Gomez president of CLUES stated, "Today we honor the commitment and diligent work of our Board of Directors, volunteers, staff, funders, partners and collaborators and our many wonderful friends who help us carry out our mission of enhancing the quality of life for Minnesota's Latino community. We are grateful for the honor of serving our community with the help of so many who believe in our mission, our work and the vibrancy of our community's contribution to society."

CLUES is in its 28th year of service to the community. The agency provides a family centric coordinated care model of linguistically appropriate and culturally competent services including: Mental Health Services, Chemical Health Services, Family Services, Aging Well Services, Family Centric Community Health Promotion Services, and Economic Advancement Services in employment, education, and financial literacy.

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