



COMUNIDADES LATINAS  
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) Officially Acquires Walter's Wish  
and Latino Student Participants Rename It: *Youth in Action* – ¡YA!**

*Saint Paul and Minneapolis, October 3, 2011* – CLUES announces the acquisition of the Walter's Wish Program and its new name: Youth in Action – ¡YA! (¡YA! not only serves as an acronym for the title, it signifies "Now!" in Spanish). The goal of this dynamic leadership program is to harness the collective energy of the community's most successful professionals along with the aspirations of parents to optimize the success rate of young people graduating from high school, college and beyond.

Youth in Action – ¡YA!, garners the support of Latino adult volunteers (employees from Target Corporation and other local companies) to provide guidance to Latino students throughout their middle and high school careers to prepare them to pursue higher education. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), college preparation and supportive Latino role-models help the students tackle the most difficult of academic challenges, and develop life-long learning skills. Walter's Wish was first developed and implemented by St. Paul Public Schools teacher Kellina Porthan in 2006.

"As a community, we have to accelerate the success of young people graduating from high school and college one family at a time," comments Jesse Bethke Gomez, president of CLUES. "Youth in Action - ¡YA! helps us to increase the productivity of the community through a network of volunteers who encourage education – NOW!"

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**About CLUES**

CLUES is in its 30th year of service to the community and has been among the top twenty-five Hispanic non-profit agencies in the United States, as ranked by Hispanic Business Magazine. The agency provides a family-centric, coordinated care model of linguistically appropriate and culturally competent services to Latino and other diverse communities in Minnesota. The divisions of CLUES include: Mental Health Services; Chemical Health Services; Family Enrichment Services; Economic Advancement Services; Aging Well Services; and Community Health Worker Services.