



COMUNIDADES LATINAS  
UNIDAS EN SERVICIO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**National, State, and Community Leaders and Supporters Commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)**

*St. Paul and Minneapolis – November 8, 2011* – CLUES is thrilled to announce that it celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the people of Minnesota on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at The Depot in Minneapolis. Excitement abounded at this momentous, well-attended 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration that brought together the community around the central theme, “Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, and Build for the Future.” In recognition of its 30 years of service to the community, CLUES received numerous, formal communiqués from state and national leaders that were read at the event. Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie Skjerven Gildea provided the keynote address for the Annual Celebration, and General Mills was the lead sponsor of the event.

In acknowledgement of CLUES’ important work in the community, Honorable President Barack Obama sent a Presidential Message that was read aloud at the event by CLUES President, Jesse Bethke Gomez. Honorable Governor Mark Dayton, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, and U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum also issued statements that were read aloud at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of CLUES. Ms. Micah Hines, General Counsel, Office of Honorable Governor Mark Dayton, delivered the Governor’s Proclamation, which declared that October 27, 2011 is “CLUES Day” in Minnesota. Mr. Erick Garcia Luna, Senior Constituent Advocate at United States Senate, shared a letter to CLUES from U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar that congratulated the agency for 30 years of service to the community. Additionally, Jesse Bethke Gomez read a congressional record from U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum that commended CLUES for its important work over the last 30 years.

Minnesota’s Honorable Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea, Keynote Speaker of the event, addressed the importance of professionals volunteering to help others achieve the American Dream. Chief Justice Gildea adopted the theme of CLUES’ 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration, “Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, and Build for the Future” in her keynote address. She honored the past by providing historical examples of how Minnesotans—Sister Elizabeth Kenny, Archbishop John Ireland, and Vice President/Senator Hubert Humphrey alike—have helped other Minnesotans and newcomers to achieve the American Dream. Chief Justice Gildea then celebrated the present by relating that the model of service of CLUES in the community, as well as Jesse Bethke Gomez’s service as a member-at-large of the Minnesota Commission on Judicial Selection, stand out as exceptional examples—both historical and current—of how the entire society can ensure that the American Dream becomes possible for more and more Americans. In so doing, Chief Justice Gildea finally explained how society can effectively build for the future.

At the celebration, CLUES President Jesse Bethke Gomez and Board Chairperson of CLUES Diego Osuna presented a variety of awards to community members whose contributions and wonderful service have made CLUES a stronger organization and greatly contributed to the betterment of the community. Award recipients included Community Builder of the Year, Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea, for her relentless commitment to justice and equality for all; Donna Sherlock, Former (first) Executive Director of CLUES, for her tireless efforts to operationalize CLUES; Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega, Former (second) Executive Director of CLUES, for successfully growing the agency during his tenure; Jesse Bethke Gomez, President of CLUES, for his instrumental work in building the institution as it is today; Comadre of the Year, Sandra Balaguera, and Compadre of the Year, Rafael Marquez-Aguirre, for going above and beyond in their work on behalf of the Latino community and service as CLUES board members; Volunteer of the Year, Tom Daly, for being instrumental in the development and teaching of U.S. citizenship classes at CLUES; Business of the Year, The Minnesota Twins Baseball Club, received by Miguel

Ramos, for its tremendous support of and partnership with CLUES over the years; Community Collaborators of the Year, F.R. Bigelow Foundation and The St. Paul Foundation, accepted by Lori Berg and Claire Chang, for their generous support of CLUES over the years, particularly their strong support in 2011 of CLUES' Mental Health Services; and posthumous, Lifetime Recognition Award winner, Specialist Emilio Campo, Jr., accepted by his father, Emilio Campo, and his mother, Mirna Campo, for his bravery, valor, and service to his country in the Iraq War.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, funders, and friends of CLUES, we are deeply grateful to U.S. President Barack Obama, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, and U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum for their most profound, formal communiqués that we received on the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of CLUES ,” notes Jesse Bethke Gomez, President of CLUES. “We also wish to express our gratitude to Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lori Gildea for providing such an inspirational keynote speech at the event and congratulate all of our meritorious award recipients. We are thankful for the honor of serving our community for the last thirty years and are excited to recognize the commitment and diligent work of so many who believe in our mission, our work, and the vibrancy of our community’s contribution to society. Their hard work and support will carry us boldly into the future.”

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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.