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Jose Ruacho Receives Award for Supporting Latino Fathers

Minneapolis, MN, April 10 2015- Jose Ruacho won the Dwight Vinson award from the FATHER Project, recognizing his passionate mentoring of Latino fathers in the Twin Cities. The FATHER Project, a program run through the Goodwill Easter Seals of Minnesota, supports dads to become better able to support their children both emotionally and economically.

Jose, an advocate for the FATHER Project, has worked for CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio) for the past three years. Prior to becoming an advocate, Jose received services through the FATHER Project himself. This experience influences his work with clients, allowing him, “to guide them with a better understanding of what they might be feeling.”

As an advocate, Jose supports local, Spanish-speaking fathers who are struggling with parenting, child custody, or visitation issues. He reports a huge demand for this type of Spanish language parenting support. Much of his work involves developing trust-based relationships with his clients— “I have to believe in them to be able to help them. I want to be there for them. I want them to be successful.”

Jose supports clients individually, while also facilitating a weekly parenting support group for Latino dads. He sees this group as crucial because it provides a safe space for men to express their feelings and receive support from one another as they strive to improve as parents.

Last year, the Dwight Vinson award was given to Jose’s mentor—who served as his advocate over seven years ago. Today he feels honored to be following in her footsteps.

CLUES is a Twin-Cities’ based non-profit organization committed to helping Latino families be healthy, prosperous, and engaged in their communities. CLUES’ programs and services connect families from all backgrounds to the skills and resources they need to thrive.

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