



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Hispanic Unity Named NCLR's 2015 Southeast Affiliate of the Year**

*Community-based nonprofit recognized by the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States for outstanding service and dedication to immigrant and under-served families living in South Florida*

Hollywood, FL, July 15, 2015 – Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF) has been named the National Council of La Raza's (NCLR) 2015 Southeast Affiliate of the Year. HUF was awarded the special designation at the conclusion of NCLR's Annual Conference held in Kansas City, Missouri from July 11-14. For 33 years, HUF, serving as the Ellis Island of South Florida, has provided community members with more than 30 services across 12 program areas in four languages, including: civic engagement, education, economic development and healthcare.

"We are proud to recognize Hispanic Unity and all of our award recipients for their outstanding achievements and deep commitment to helping engage and educate the Latino community and promote civic participation," said Janet Murguía, President and CEO of NCLR.

HUF has been part of the NCLR Affiliate Network since 2007. NCLR has provided both technical and financial program support to HUF. Key funding program areas include HUF's civic engagement services, which offer high quality citizenship classes and Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA)-Certified naturalization services. Other funding areas include the Comprando Rico y Sano or SNAP program, formerly known as the Food Stamps program, which offers supplemental nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities, and more.

"We are delighted to be the recipient of this award and so grateful to have been selected from so many other organizations who like us, are focused on living their mission, every day," said Josie Bacallao, HUF President and CEO. "We thank NCLR for their continued partnership and support as we work to improve the lives of the children and families living in our communities," she said.

Hispanic Unity was joined by other 2015 regional awardees recognized for their work in NCLR's Affiliate Network. Each awardee, with the exception of El Concilio, was presented with a \$5,000 cash award at NCLR's Affiliate Leadership Breakfast. El Concilio was awarded \$25,000, and all awards were sponsored by the Ford Motor Company Fund.

“Ford Motor Company Fund has established an unwavering legacy of supporting the Latino community,” said Joe Avila, manager of community outreach, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services. “We are proud to support Hispanic Unity of Florida and recognize their work with a \$5,000 cash award. Hispanic Unity has enhanced the quality of life for Latinos in South Florida and we encourage them to continue their outstanding service, which will ultimately lead to a better future for all.” Ford Fund is the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company.

The 2015 regional awardees included:

- El Concilio (Stockton, CA), Affiliate of the Year
- Houston Gateway Academy, Inc. (Houston, TX), Texas Affiliate of the Year
- GOAL Academy (Pueblo, CO), Far West Affiliate of the Year
- Erie Neighborhood House, Inc. (Chicago, IL), Midwest Affiliate of the Year
- Centro Hispano Daniel Torres, Inc. (Reading, PA), Northeast Affiliate of the Year
- Hispanic Unity of Florida (Hollywood, FL), Southeast Affiliate of the Year

To learn more about how to get involved with Hispanic Unity, contact: Josie Bacallao, HUF President and CEO, at [jbacallao@hispanicunity.org](mailto:jbacallao@hispanicunity.org) or at 954-342-0298.

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About Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF):

Hispanic Unity was founded more than 33 years ago by community leaders to ease the acculturation transition for newcomers from other nations. Today this nonprofit provides assistance through 12 programs and 30+ services, in four languages, to Broward's diverse community. Hispanic Unity remains the county's largest agency dedicated to the immigrant population, providing them with the tools they need to build a new life. In 2014, the agency served 17,000+ clients, from toddlers to adults. The agency offers assistance at eight Broward County sites in addition to 15 FREE Tax Preparation sites and 9 Citizenship Preparation sites.

Its mission is: Empowering immigrants and others to become self-sufficient, productive and civically engaged. For more information visit: [www.hispanicunity.org](http://www.hispanicunity.org) or call 954-964-8884 ext. 216.



HUF Team Selfie



HUF Team with NCLR Award