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**Michael Jordan Donates Funds to SOS Children's Villages Illinois and
22 Chicago nonprofits to support vulnerable children**

CHICAGO, IL – This week, basketball legend Michael Jordan selected SOS Children's Villages Illinois and 22 other Chicago-area nonprofits to receive the net proceeds from recent legal settlements he received concerning the use of his identity.

"I care deeply about the city of Chicago and have such incredible memories from my years there," said Jordan. "The 23 charities I've chosen to make donations to all support the health, education and well-being of the kids of Chicago. Chicago has given me so much and I want to give back to its kids – the city's future," said Jordan in a statement released on December 15, 2015.

SOS Children's Villages Illinois praised Jordan for distinguishing, with his generosity, the work the organization does for the children in its care.

"We are incredibly thankful to Michael Jordan for this gift and his dedication to support organizations that care for Chicago's most vulnerable children and youth," said Tim McCormick, CEO of SOS Children's Villages Illinois. "It is an honor to be amongst the 23 organizations that are empowering this city's younger generation to realize their full potential."

SOS Children's Villages builds families for neglected, abandoned and other vulnerable children in 134 countries, including the United States. In Illinois, SOS Children's Villages provides sibling group foster care, where children receive care and support from a full-time, professionally trained foster parent. SOS Children's Villages Illinois runs four sites including: an 18-home Village in Lockport, Illinois; a 17-home Village in the Auburn Gresham, Englewood neighborhood and a 14-home Village in the Roosevelt Square community of Chicago; and Casa Tepeyac, a short-term residential facility located in the Back of the Yards neighborhood of Chicago.

SOS Children's Villages Illinois has the distinction of being named among the twenty "2015 Best Charities in Chicago" by Chicago Magazine. Since 2006, SOS Children's Villages Illinois has received 8 consecutive 4-star evaluations from Charity Navigator. Visit www.sosillinois.org to learn more.

The 23 nonprofits that were picked by Jordan to receive funds to support their work are: After School Matters, Casa Central, Chicago Scholars, Chicago Youth Programs, Children's Literacy Initiative, Christopher House, Common Threads, Erikson Institute, Gary Comer Youth Center, Greater Chicago Food Depository, Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund – Illinois, KEEN Chicago, La Casa Norte, La Rabida Children's Hospital, Make-A-Wish Illinois, New Moms, New Teacher Center, The Ounce of Prevention Fund, Project Exploration, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Sinai Health System, SOS Children's Villages Illinois, Tutoring Chicago.

Interview opportunity

Tim McCormick, CEO of SOS Children's Villages Illinois, is available for interviews and can share the impact this gift will have on the children and youth in Chicago.
