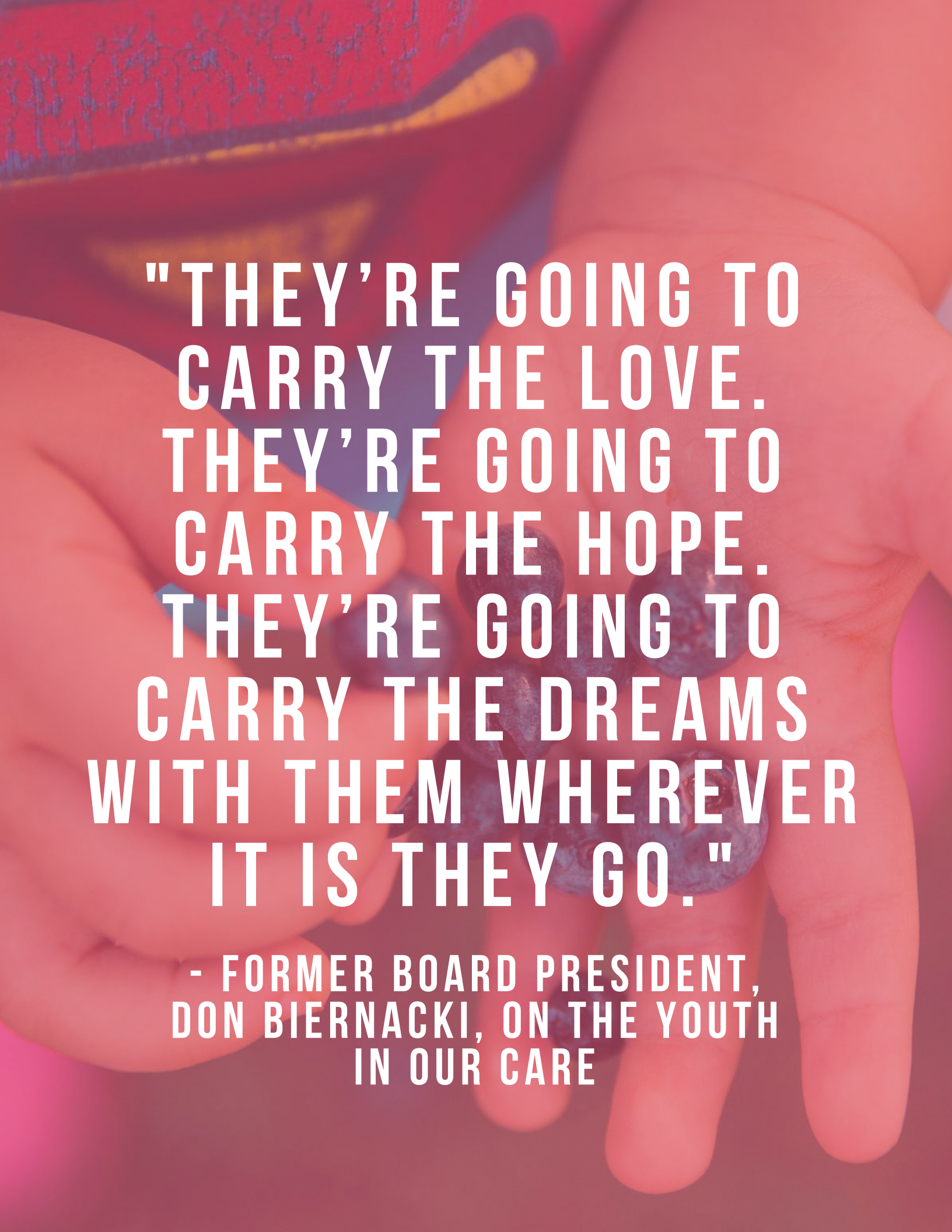




SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
ILLINOIS

2018 TOP 10 SNAPSHOTS



**"THEY'RE GOING TO
CARRY THE LOVE.
THEY'RE GOING TO
CARRY THE HOPE.
THEY'RE GOING TO
CARRY THE DREAMS
WITH THEM WHEREVER
IT IS THEY GO."**

**- FORMER BOARD PRESIDENT,
DON BIERNACKI, ON THE YOUTH
IN OUR CARE**

#10



RAISING AWARENESS OF YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

SOS Illinois joined together to raise awareness for mental health October 1st-5th in an effort to ensure children in foster care have the opportunity to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Staff and Foster Parents from all Villages and sites gathered for viewings of "The Resilience Project: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope" led by Dr. Jackie Samuel, National Louis Faculty Member and facilitator at the Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative. Staff also participated in a #WearGreenDay to visualize our support for our children, teens, and peers.

[click here to read more](#)

#ILLINOISPROUD: SOS ILLINOIS JOINED STATE'S BICENNENTIAL CELEBRATION WITH HARVEST DAY

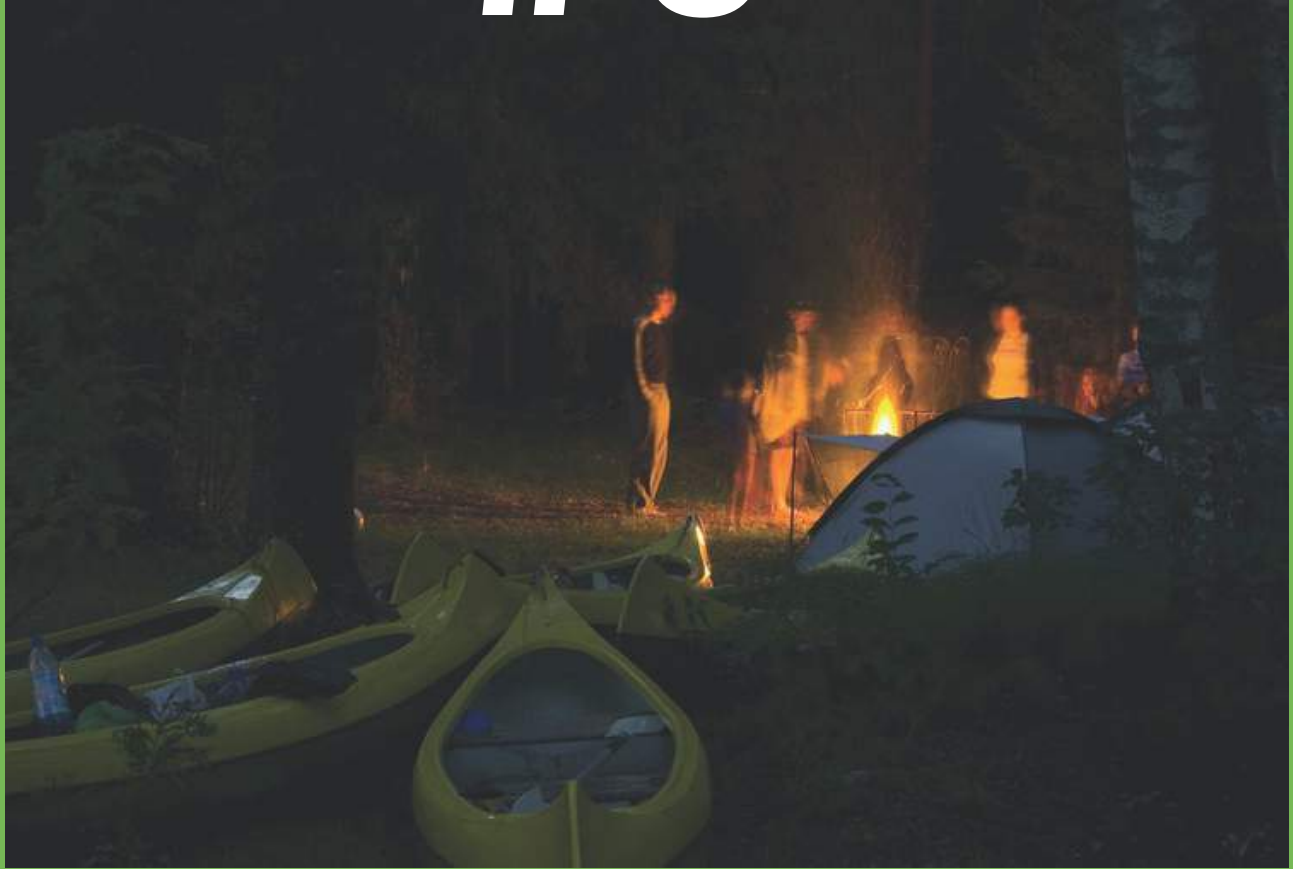
This year, Harvest Day honored the Illinois Bicentennial. In collaboration with the Cook County Farm Bureau and our partners at Swissôtel Chicago, Harvest Day highlighted Illinois' agriculture and history through educational activities for the children and families in our care. Our activity stations incorporated themes of Illinois' history, natural landscape, and State symbols. This celebration highlighted how SOS Children's Villages Illinois is important to Illinois: its history, its people, and its communities. We were #IllinoisProud to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with our friends and supporters.

[click here to read more](#)

#9



#8



DIVING INTO A NEW EXPERIENCE: SUMMER CAMP AT MANITO-WISH YMCA

For all children, especially ours, who many have never experienced the outdoors quite like this, time spent at Manito-wish YMCA is what summer dreams are made of. Riding horseback through the forest, sailing under the blue sky, making a new friend, singing by the campfire, jumping into the refreshing lake, learning how to set up a campsite, paddling a canoe, going out on trail . . . each day is full of new adventures. Our friends at Jefferson Sportsman Society and Camp Manito-wish YMCA created a lasting impression for over 15 youth in our care this summer! With the skills they gained and the friendships they forged at camp, our youth had another summer for the books!

[click here to read more](#)

SOS ILLINOIS HOSTS DCFS PARTNERS AT QUEST FOR PERMANENCY CONFERENCE

On Friday, November 7, SOS Illinois Case Management, Operations, and Quality and Training staff gathered alongside supportive partners at the Chicago Village for the Quest for Permanency Conference. Permanency, or “permanency planning”, is a social work philosophy that promotes and advocates for a permanent living situation for every child entering the foster care system or for a child that is already in the foster care system. Facilitated by Karen Bartmann, Deputy Director of Operations, Clinical and Support Services, the full-day conference invited SOS Illinois staff to participate both as speakers and participants, allowing a wealth of diverse, tested strategies to be shared as best practices and tools of the trade.

[click here to read more](#)

#7



#6



OUR #SUPERSIBLINGS SEND PRESENTS TO THEIR #SUPERPALS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The week of April 28, youth in our care gathered with staff, volunteers, and Foster Parents to create special gifts for new friends in the Dominican Republic. As part of our commitment to raising awareness of child abuse prevention and the importance of out-of-home care for youth in need, we partnered with Maestro Cares Foundation to assemble and ship superhero pillows to youth in the DR currently living in an orphanage. With these small treasures, we hoped to remind the children being served by Maestro Cares that they have special strength to overcome adversity and achieve their goals.

[click here to read more](#)

ZACH FILKINS OF ONEREPUBLIC SHARES THE GOOD LIFE OF MUSIC WITH TEENS AT LOCKPORT VILLAGE

Zach Filkins of OneRepublic was happy to share the good life of the music industry with teens at the Lockport Village this past June. The award-winning musician hosted a lunch and music video program for a group of 10 youth. At first, the teens were a bit star-struck, but soon warmed to their new rock star friend. The music video workshop included Filkins showing examples of his favorite music videos and describing the process of creating a music video "treatment" - a visual representation of the components of a music video, such as graphic elements, mood, characters, etc. During this time, Filkins shared hard copies of OneRepublic's treatment for their new song "Start Again," and the teens broke into small groups and used laptops to research and create a treatment for a favorite song. Together with Filkins, the youth gained valuable skills in applying music to healing and look forward to learning new ways of developing creative skills.

[click here to read more](#)

#5



#4



A YEAR OF LANDMARK DONOR SUPPORT

From our dedicated sponsors and guests at Evening of Hope -- who helped to bring in over \$300,000 at this year's fall gala, to the immense generosity of Related Midwest and LendLease's Annual Charity Golf Classic, to the over 230 new contributors, SOS Illinois celebrated a landmark year of donor support. Your investment has shown us that you value our mission, support the youth in our care, and are committed to partnering with us as we continue to build the future of foster care. We could not do it without you!

[click here to read more](#)

A COMMUNITY UNITED: THE ROOSEVELT SQUARE COMMUNITY CENTER ANNOUNCEMENT

SOS Children's Villages Illinois unveiled the final design and plans for the Roosevelt Square Community Center at a special announcement on Wednesday, October 24 at 13th Street and Blue Island Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. In attendance were corporate partners, Board Members, and staff in support of the project, which will serve the SOS Illinois Roosevelt Square Village and surrounding neighborhoods. The building was designed by award-winning architect Juan Moreno who spoke about why he wanted to do work in the community, "I feel that architecture has the chance to transform lives and make a difference with people. It's not every day that you get to meet an organization that actually believes that and lives that."

[click here to read more](#)

#3



#2



SOS ILLINOIS IS RE-ACCREDITED BY COA

After a year of immense preparation, SOS Children's Villages Illinois proudly received our Council on Accreditation (COA) re-accreditation on June 14th. During the past year, we underwent evaluation to ensure each of our policies and procedures were up-to-date and being properly utilized. Our COA accreditation is a testament to the fact that we are among those that provide the highest quality of services in our field. By obtaining COA accreditation, we acknowledge our focus on the well-being of our youth, their families, and our communities. Our accreditation also signifies that SOS Children's Villages Illinois is effectively managing our resources and providing the best possible services to all of our stakeholders.

[click here to read more](#)

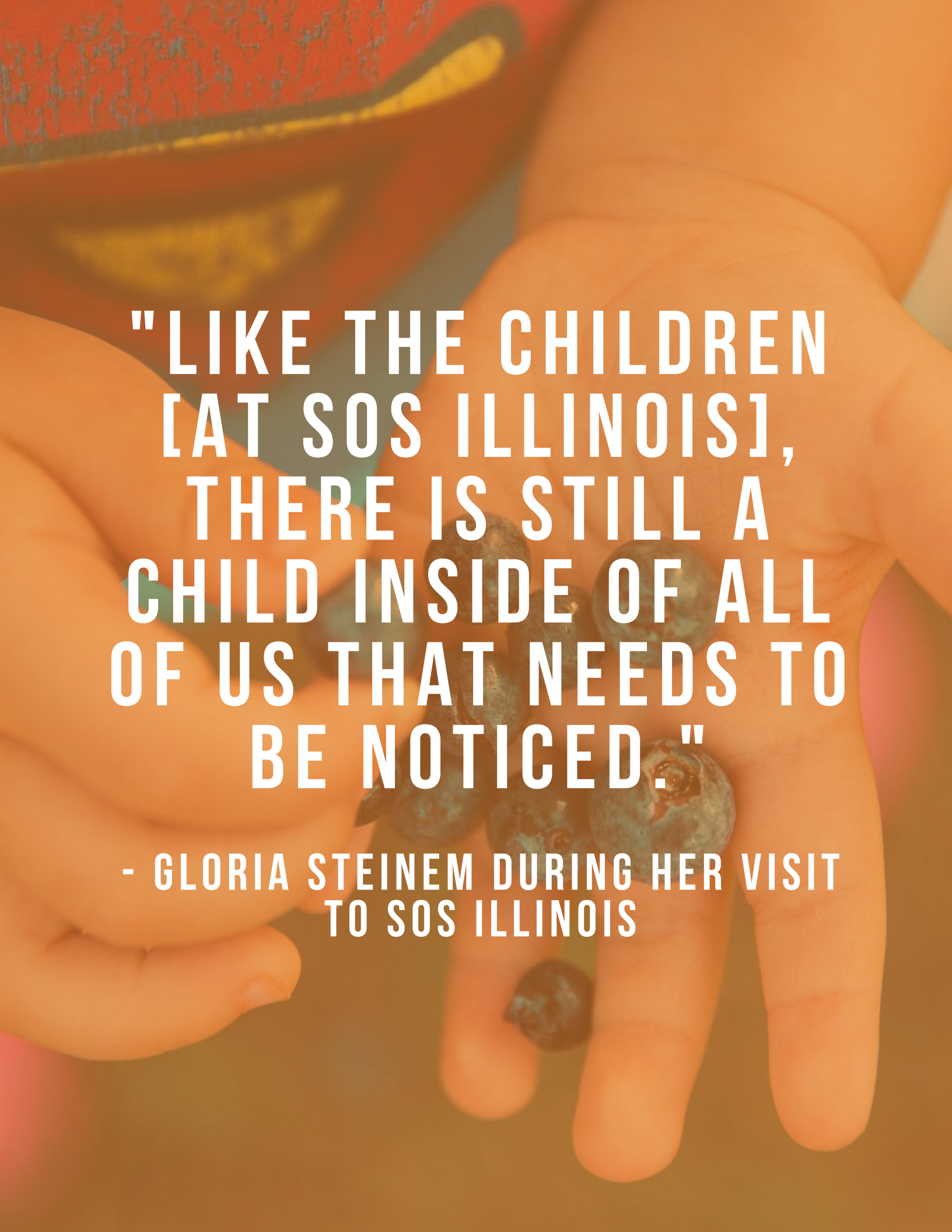
THE STARS CAME OUT IN SUPPORT OF SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ILLINOIS

On May 30, 2018, the stars came out in support of SOS Children's Villages Illinois. Serving as the culmination of Foster Care Awareness Month and as a foundational event for the Roosevelt Square Community Center Capital Campaign, Dining & Conversation offered the opportunity to gather alongside key supporters and friends during a milestone moment in SOS Illinois history. Prior to the evening, Christian Bale and Gloria Steinem joined a small group of staff to tour a Roosevelt Square Village home and visit with two SOS Illinois Foster Parents. Bale and Steinem enjoyed playing with a group of young siblings on the Village, shared in afternoon treats, and participated in curious and meaningful conversation. Most significantly, Bale and Steinem were able to hear first-person testimony from the Foster Parents on the rewards of our Village model of care, the daily challenges of caring for large sibling groups, and their hopes for the future of the organization.

[click here to read more](#)

#1





**"LIKE THE CHILDREN
[AT SOS ILLINOIS],
THERE IS STILL A
CHILD INSIDE OF ALL
OF US THAT NEEDS TO
BE NOTICED."**

**- GLORIA STEINEM DURING HER VISIT
TO SOS ILLINOIS**