



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
ILLINOIS

# Building the Future of Foster Care



Answering a few questions about  
SOS Children's Villages Illinois



ABOUT US



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## Mission

At SOS Children's Villages Illinois, we build Villages that unite brothers and sisters in foster care, surround them with a community of hope, and help them grow into caring and productive adults.



# Our History & The Inception of SOS Illinois





## Our History

The parent organization of SOS Illinois started after World War II.

Due to the war, children were left without a home, without hope.

They were separated, often never seeing their siblings again; and foster care services at that point didn't offer much more than a roof over a head, but the founders of SOS Children's Villages International had a vision.

Instead of just finding a home for a child... build a home. Build villages.



## Our Model of Care in Illinois

A group of developers and architects responsible for building some of Chicago's tallest skyscrapers were familiar with the international model of foster care.

They felt that every child deserved a home.

30 years ago, a group of founding board members worked tirelessly to bring SOS Children's Villages to Illinois, and with it an innovative Village Model of Foster Care.

erdorf" originally was called "Societas Socialis" when it was set  
reason for the foundation was the poor economic and social  
n the Tyrol after the Second World War, when child protection  
nd welfare agencies were fully utilized.



# Our Village Model of Foster Care

Today, our model of care differs from traditional foster care by emphasizing these 5 pillars.



Brothers & Sisters Live Together



A Full-Time Professional Foster Parent Provides Unconditional Love



They Live in an SOS Illinois Single-Family Home



An Intentional Community Surrounds Them with Support



Families of Origin Receive Family Strengthening Services



100%

# Something to know about us

**SOS Illinois takes great pride in our graduates.**

SOS Illinois is proud to share that **we have graduated 100% of our high school seniors** for 16 years now. The national average for children in foster care is 48%.

This gives our children a remarkable foundation for the rest of their lives once they leave our care.



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# Our Favorite Event





## Our Annual Graduation Celebration

Gathering hundreds of our children, employees, and stakeholders for a day to honor the achievements of all is such a joyous experience for all.

Plus we have a lot of fun singing, dancing, playing games, and enjoying a meal together, as we are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of every child in our care.



BEHIND YOU ALL YOUR MEMORIES,  
BEFORE YOU ALL YOUR DREAMS.  
AROUND YOU ALL WHO LOVE YOU,  
WITHIN YOU ALL YOU NEED.







## Coping with COVID-19

SOS Illinois was diligent and proactive in our safety measures and responses to COVID-19.

We began sheltering in place and working remotely in the early days of March. This meant remote schooling and therapy for our children.

In order to facilitate this, we purchased new laptops for each of our families. We also began regular deliveries of groceries, PPE supplies, and meals to our Villages.

We continue to adapt to these changes and know that together we are building a better tomorrow.

# What Motivates Our Team?

## **Our Work is Rewarding**

We feel great joy bringing light and positivity into the lives of the children in our care.

The children in our care have experienced a significant amount of trauma in their young lives. To be able to bring together good people from all walks of life to help every child is incredibly rewarding.

To see siblings grow together as a family with joy and love despite their past motivates us to work hard.

There is no greater feeling than seeing smiles on our children's faces knowing they have hope for a brighter future.







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[sosillinois.org](http://sosillinois.org)