



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
ILLINOIS

# building the future OF FOSTER CARE

Annual Report 2017



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



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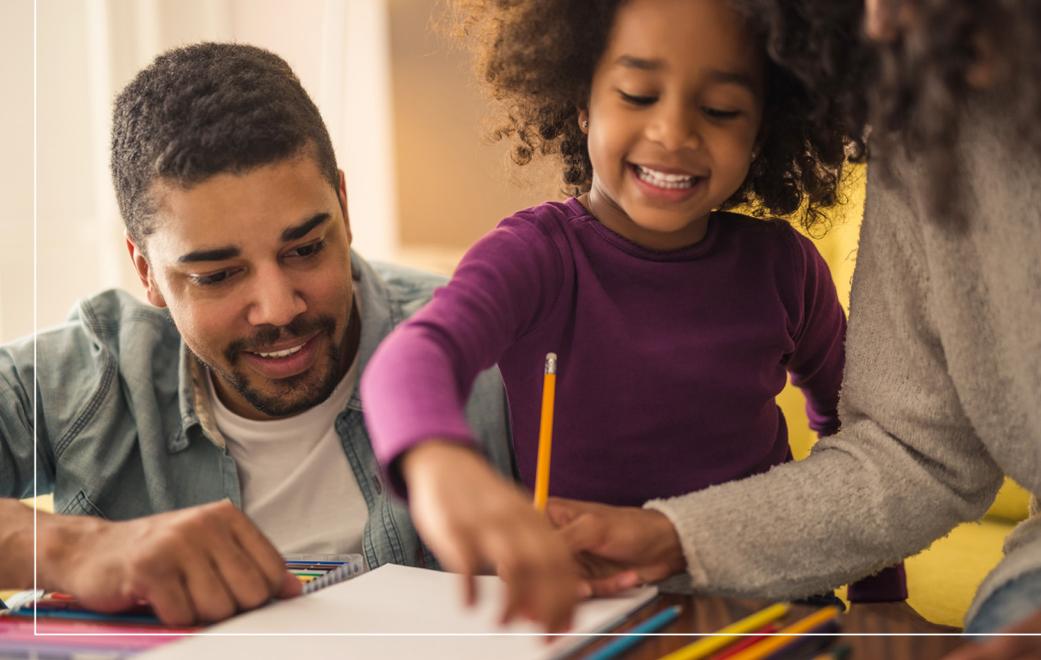
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## SOS Children's Villages Illinois is building the future of foster care.

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.

For over 25 years, SOS Illinois has offered an innovative alternative to traditional foster care in emphasizing the following four components:

**1. Children live together with their siblings; 2. Children receive care and support from a full-time, professionally trained Foster Parent; 3. Children grow up in a**

**private, single-family home; and 4. Children are supported by the Village, designed as an intentional community of care.**

SOS Illinois operates as its own 501(c)3, with four sites in Illinois:

**An 18-home Village in Lockport, Illinois;**

**A 19-home Village in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood of Chicago;**

**A 14-home Village in the Roosevelt Square community of Chicago; and**

**Casa Tepeyac, a site offering family strengthening services in the Back of the Yards neighborhood of Chicago.**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**SOS Children's Villages Illinois makes a powerful contribution to the betterment of the lives of the children and families it serves in and around its Villages and is committed to building the future of foster care.**

As we review 2017, we see it was a year of opportunities and hardships in our city, throughout our country, and across the globe. We too at SOS Children's Villages Illinois faced a mix of both. With every success, we had cause for celebration. Yet, at each challenge we collectively found a way to triumph. This doesn't happen by accident. At the very core of our work, we are made to believe that in the face of adversity we have the power to make an impact.

At SOS Children's Villages Illinois, every member of our community makes a choice each day to make a difference in the life of another person. This dedication to uplift individuals is purposeful and serves as the core of our Village model of care.

Nurturing the children in our care in loving, stable environments rebuilds trust and encourages each child to see a brighter future. The intentional community of support teaches our children they are not just strong, they are Village strong. They begin to learn they are resilient on their own, and are unstoppable as a community that insists every child will succeed because every child matters.

In 2017, the collective strength of our community and corporate partnerships made it possible to gain greater exposure in the media. We

witnessed amazing accomplishments in education and celebrated a 100% high school graduation rate. Our Foster Parents continued to show their exceptional dedication to our mission and the vocation of caregiver to sibling groups. Additionally, our focus of surrounding children with an intentional community of care was highlighted with the unveiling of the plans to build a Community Center at our Roosevelt Square Village.

In 2018, we see even more opportunity to reinforce the stake we claim in contributing to the ongoing changes within the child welfare system to ensure children remain safe and are given opportunities to reach their fullest potential. We also envision ways in which we as an organization can promote our mission, while simultaneously digging deeper to facilitate more meaningful conversations about the work we do, as well as ensure sound structures are in place to achieve our programmatic goals.

We recognize that none of this would have been possible without you. As our friends, advocates, and supporters, you are the reason we can move forward. Thank you for your belief in the important work we do and your dedication to helping us build the future of foster care.

# building the future

## story by story



TEEN HONORED BY MAESTRO CARES

march

april



#RAISINGSUPERHEROES

june



ALL-VILLAGE GRADUATION PARTY

PRINCESS SALIMAH



december

ANNUAL MEETING



ANOTHER YEAR OF CARE

january



LOVE IN ACTION

february



CRAIN'S AD SERIES

WXRT INTERVIEW



may

SUMMER CAMPS



july

CHICAGO REGATTA

september



EVENING OF HOPE

november

to read about these stories, visit [sosillinois.org/connect](http://sosillinois.org/connect)

## 100% High School Graduation Rate

\*Compared to the national average of 54% of youth in foster care

# BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

## accomplishments in education

Thanks to the generosity of our corporate partners, SOS Illinois offers the College Bound and Beyond Program for our youth. This program includes five core components: Academic Preparation, College Outreach, Application Support, Job Readiness, and Material/Technological Support. We prepare our children with the essential STEM curricula, support test preparation and awareness for entering college, and provide educational and training services to help our young adults enter the workforce and career world.

### Catching Up with Rafael in College

In fall 2017, Rafael set out from one of our Villages to his newest adventure: college on the east coast. As a Posse Scholar, Rafael was chosen among 3,000 applicants for the prestigious scholarship opportunity. We recently caught up with Rafael to talk about his first semester in college on the east coast. "There are students here from all around the world," Rafael told us, "students who've had access to

a substantially larger amount of resources than the average public school student like myself. Still, I am not discouraged because we are all in the same college now, which means I am capable of this. I just have to keep working hard."

When asked how the Village model prepared him for his life in college, Rafael gave a heartfelt and practical response.

I have become used to living around people that I am not related to, which

is pretty much the dorm experience. I see other students here who are so homesick, and I just feel normal for the most part. The Village also provided me with paid work, which is helping me out here, as I have money to buy things I need."

We are so proud of Rafael and all of our youth and the ways that the care and love of our community extends to college and beyond.

## 4.2 Years of Loving Service

\*Compared to the national average of 1 year of foster parent service

# CALLED TO BUILD THEIR FUTURES

## reflections from our Foster Parents

The SOS Children's Villages Illinois model of care is a unique one: we employ full-time, professional Foster Parents who care for up to six siblings in a single-family home in one of our Village communities. For SOS Illinois Foster Parents, their job is not just a full-time job—it's a full-time vocation. Here are just a few words of reflection and wisdom from our dedicated caregivers.

### Jeanette Rush 4th year of service

"The rewards of this position? I can talk about those: it's seeing the kids smile, seeing them being happy and being content and comfortable knowing that they're secure—and trusting me with handling everything. Children come with different traumas. They come with different expectations of a foster home, and **it's my job to make it feel like it's their home.** Those are my rewards, just seeing them thriving and moving on."

### Mickey Haldeman 27th year of service

"My hope for the children in my care is that they

are happy and productive children and adults, and that they have learned to give back. I can help make their dreams come true by always being their mom."

### Jenny and John Wray 1st year of service

"My mom was a foster parent when I was younger and until a few years ago, traditional in-home foster care was the only model I was aware of. **SOS Illinois introduced me not only to a new model of care, but a new way of life...** The Village model helps take away the stigma and isolation of being a "foster kid" by allowing the children to live with large sibling groups and/or become friends with

other children in the community who share their experience." - Jenny Wray

"The Village model is unique in that it gives you a built-in network of support that is a huge benefit, especially for me as a first-time parent. I have several friends who are foster parents in the more traditional, non-village model and they have a lot of added stress trying to navigate everything from bio-parent visits to court dates. There are a lot of questions that SOS takes care of and allows us to focus more on parenting." - John Wray





# OUR SUPERHEROES BUILD THE FUTURE

offering thanks for Evening of Hope

Evening of Hope is SOS Children's Villages Illinois' annual fall event that raises awareness and funds to support the programs at SOS Illinois. This year's event invited guests to join us in raising hope for siblings in foster care with an evening of fun, friendship, fundraising. Our heroes-in-training are lucky to have heroes like you! We would like to thank our supporters for another successful event this year.

Approximately 450 guests attended Evening of Hope on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 19 East in Chicago and raised over \$275,000 in sponsorships, ticket sales, and in-kind support.

The event featured live entertainment, delicious food, and raffle ticket sales, as well as programming with a superhero theme.

Special thanks to Event Chair John Trotta of WSP USA and the fundraising committee for their work on the event.

Top sponsors gathered for a VIP reception, featuring appearances by Robert Schillerstrom, Chairman of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Dorval Carter Jr., President of the Chicago Transit Authority, and Randy Blankenhorn, Secretary of the Illinois Department

of Transportation. Significant in-kind support was offered by Mosaic, Southern Glazers Wine and Spirits, and The Edrington Group.

This year's presenting sponsor was WSP USA. Other top sponsors included: The Edrington Group, HNTB, Imperial Crane Services, Inc./ The Bohne Foundation, TranSystems, and Images Inc.



# BUILDING SUCCESS TOGETHER

## A YEAR IN NUMBERS

Alongside our dedicated Foster Parents, staff, corporate partners, and generous donors, 2017 was a year for the books. Though numbers cannot fully capture the breadth of our year, we are proud to share the following figures that were achieved by the last quarter of 2017. These figures, and all our successes, are only achieved with your help. Thank you!

95% of Village siblings are living under the same roof

433 children served through our programs and services

62 families served through programs at Casa Tepeyac

53,167 days of service provided to youth and families

64 sibling groups reunited in our supportive Villages

Thousands of dollars raised by generous donors and partners

# BUILDING THE FUTURE RESPONSIBLY

"My wife and I searched for years for an organization that not only has a wonderful mission, but that we could be certain was carrying out that mission with reliable success. There are so many organizations caring for vulnerable children, but SOS Illinois holds themselves to a higher standard; they care, but they also deliver on their promise to help the children and families that they serve *not only survive, but thrive.*"

- Benjamin Wessels, SOS Illinois Donor

	FY2017
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	\$6,048,605
Property & Equipment Net	\$22,590,807
Other Assets	\$5,491,426
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$34,130,836</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current Liabilities	\$1,758,408
Long-Term Liabilities	\$13,497,642
Net Assets	\$18,847,788
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$34,130,838</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Government Support	\$9,021,463
Private Support and Special Events	\$1,605,356
Total Other Income	\$720,953
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$11,347,772</b>
<b>Functional Expenses</b>	
Program Services	\$8,990,086
Management & General	\$1,410,133

# BUILDING THE FUTURE WITH OUR PARTNERS

## YOUR IMMENSE GENEROSITY HAS HELPED TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF MANY

*SOS Children's Villages Illinois strives to help the children in our care reach their full potential. Even with our successes, there still is more hard work to be done. With the support of our dedicated partners, we are able to continue our commitment to helping children in foster care grow into caring, productive, and self-reliant adults.*

## Corporate and Foundation Support, \$5,000 and Above

### FOUNDATIONS

- A. Montgomery Ward Foundation
- Bohne Foundation
- Chicago Blackhawks Foundation
- Chicago Foundlings Home
- Col. Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
- George M. Eisenberg Foundation
- Helen V. Brach Foundation
- HSBC USA
- Huen Foundation, Inc
- Ignite a Better World Foundation
- Maestro Cares Foundation
- Mission & Ministry, Inc.
- Network For Good
- New Frontiers Foundation
- Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
- The Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation
- Union Pacific Foundation

### CORPORATE PARTNERS

- Abt Electronics, Inc.
- Advance Mechanical Systems
- All-Tech Decorating
- Amberleaf Cabinetry
- Ardmore Roderick
- Ashley HomeStore
- AT&T Business
- Atrium Landscaping
- Bonus Electric Company
- Chicago Yacht Club
- Citizens Bank
- Civiltech Engineering, Inc.
- Contract Flooring Service
- Crown Corr, Inc.
- D&L Wood Products, Inc.
- DAMA Consultants, Inc
- The Edrington Group USA
- Elite Electric Co., Inc.
- Enterprise Holdings, Inc.
- F.E. Moran Inc.
- First Midwest Bank
- Glascott & Associates Realty
- GSG Consultants, Inc.
- Hasbro, Inc.
- Hayward Baker, Inc.
- HNTB
- Huen Electric, Inc.
- Illinois Masonry Corp.
- Images, Inc.
- JGMA
- Legacy Construction Services, LLC
- Lyn-Den, Inc.

- M.E.P. Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.
- MBB Enterprises of Chicago, Inc.
- Midwest Applied Solutions
- Millennium Advisors
- Moen
- Mosaic
- Norman Mechanical, Inc.
- OMEGA & Associates, Inc.
- One10
- Parsons Corporation
- PEAK6
- Plastic Omnium Auto Exteriors, LLC
- Plastic Omnium Auto Inergy (USA) LLC
- R.G. Construction Services Inc.
- Reflection Window + Wall, LLC
- Related Midwest
- Related Realty
- Reliable Contracting & Equipment Co.
- Robert Bosch Corporation
- S Mechanical, Inc.
- Schindler Elevator Corporation
- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP
- Snaidero Chicago
- STV Inc
- Sub-Zero Group Midwest, LLC
- Swissôtel Chicago
- The Grove, Inc. (TGI)
- The Levy Company
- TranSmart Technologies, Inc.
- TranSystems
- W.E. O'Neil Construction Co.
- Walsh Construction Company
- Wintrust Financial Corporation
- WSP USA

*SOS Children's Villages Illinois is an extraordinary program that addresses the needs of families and children in the Chicagoland community. It is important for us at Swissôtel Chicago to take responsibility in the community and continue to create educational opportunities through our career days, horticultural guidance and culinary programs. Not only do our efforts with SOS Illinois help create stability and hope, Swissôtel's colleagues better understand the values of supporting a community outreach program.*

- Ted Selogie, General Manager



OUR FRIENDS ARE  
**OUR FOUNDATION**

BUILDING THE FUTURE  
**TOGETHER**

corporate partners provide loving support

transforming lives with **swissôtel** CHICAGO

SOS Children's Villages Illinois' fundamental mission is to give children the resources of our entire Village. We believe a college education is of paramount importance to ensure every child's ultimate success in life. The College Bound and Beyond Program makes this education and securing a full-time job a reality.

The main components of College Bound and Beyond are academic preparation, college outreach, application support, job readiness, and material/technological support. With the support of our College Bound and Beyond corporate partners, we are able to approach each of these components through creating programming, mentorship, and real-life workplace experience.

#### **Chicago Blackhawks Foundation**

*"Our vision at the Chicago Blackhawks Foundation is to create a healthier, smarter, more secure world for families in and around Chicago. Youth in foster care often have a drastic academic disadvantage because of traumatic and disruptive life experiences. By partnering with SOS Illinois and the College Bound and Beyond Program, we are providing youth in care with the tools they need to succeed in school and in life."*

**-Tovah McCord, Foundation Director**

#### **HSBC**

*"SOS Children's Villages Illinois provides invaluable services to youth in need, while providing incredible opportunities where young people begin to realize their dreams and ambitions. Whether considering college, a technical skill, or a vocation, SOS Illinois ensures that the entire family receives the support they need to succeed. HSBC is proud to partner with such a stellar organization."*

**- Ray Johnson, Vice President of Corporate Sustainability**

It is truly a priority of our mission and our work in the Villages to help each young person in our care aspire to and achieve his or her dreams. With corporate partners like Swissôtel Chicago, we can help them gain the skills and experience they need to be self-sufficient and thrive.

Swissôtel Chicago does so much to help our children and families experience opportunities for growth and enrichment, from career days to summer

camp to joyful holidays to culinary workshops and learning about health and wellness. We are truly grateful to have such a dedicated and exceptional partner a part of our extended family.

Thanks to the Swissôtel Chicago, our children had so many opportunities for growth, particularly when it came to learning about the gardens in our Villages. At our annual Harvest Festival, Swissôtel taught our children about grow towers, composting,

and the connection between the garden and healthy living and eating. Additionally, through the fundraising efforts of every staff member at Swissôtel Chicago, they were able to help support the construction of a therapeutic garden at the Chicago Village.

We thank our friends at Swissôtel Chicago for sharing their enthusiasm and passion for creating new learning and enrichment opportunities for our youth, and helping us grow.



# The Roosevelt Square

# Community Center



*The construction of a new Community Center is among our priorities at SOS Children's Villages Illinois. Located at 13th Street and Blue Island Avenue in Chicago, the Center will serve as an urban prototype for the delivery of human services.*



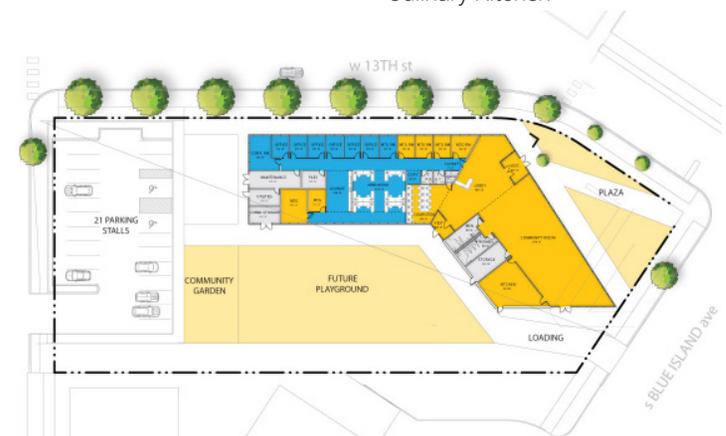
## The Center will:

- House academic, therapeutic, social, and recreational outlets for youth and families served at our Roosevelt Square Village homes
- Serve as a gathering place for community members to connect to public resources and engage in training, activities, and events
- Include multi-use and signature spaces in 11,000+ square feet
- Serve over 5,000 people annually from the surrounding neighborhoods

## Intentional Design, Flexible Spaces

Architect Juan Moreno, internationally recognized for making a difference in the lives of children and their communities, has carefully considered the SOS Illinois vision and thoughtfully designed a building that offers flexible and welcoming spaces:

- Learning Annex
- Family Enrichment Rooms
- Meeting Spaces
- Staff Offices
- Playground
- Community Garden
- Culinary Kitchen



## Signature Culinary Kitchen

The signature setting of the Community Center is the culinary kitchen and dining space, which will allow for:

- Culinary Demonstrations
- Food and Nutrition Education
- Hands-on Learning Experiences
- Job Skills Training

## The Future Unfolding

Breaking ground in 2019, the Community Center will be the ultimate example of the collective power of Foster Parents, staff, the surrounding community, and our dedicated donors and friends.

Naming opportunities for a selection of spaces are still available. Please contact us for more information.



*"I love everything about the children in my care. I love the way they look at me, the way they make me feel when they wrap their arms around me, their smiles, their joy, it's all contagious!"*  
- Cynthia Hernandez, 4th year of service

**Interested in becoming a Foster Parent? Visit [sosillinois.org/fpq](https://sosillinois.org/fpq)**