



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
ILLINOIS

SOS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

# EVERY PERSON IS A GIFT

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FAMILY MATTERS - MEET ELLA CASEY

PG 4

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THANK YOU, MAESTRO CARES

PG 7



**SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES**  
ILLINOIS



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## DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

Don't miss out on event announcements and Village news.  
Send your e-mail address to:

[KKAVANAGH@SOSILLINOIS.ORG](mailto:KKAVANAGH@SOSILLINOIS.ORG)

We'll make sure you're on the list!

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CEO Message

## EVERY PERSON IS A GIFT

“EACH OF YOU ARE PRECIOUS GIFTS TO OUR MISSION AND THE CHILDREN WE ENDEAVOR TO NURTURE AND GUIDE.”

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ILLINOIS CEO  
- TIM MCCORMICK



We are well into a new year, but we are still overwhelmed by the support you showed us in 2016. You help us continuously do our best to provide a safe, stable, loving, and healing place for the brothers and sisters in our care. We never take for granted that you help us share our gifts and talents every day of the year. Each of you are precious gifts to our mission and the children we endeavor to nurture and guide.

It is true, as they say, that gifts can keep on giving. This is certainly felt through the act of contributing tangible gifts through our Holiday Giving Program, ensuring that each child has the experience of receiving and opening gifts meant just for them. This outpouring of love transforms the way our children experience the holidays by creating new and lasting memories for them. That in and of itself is an amazing gift to witness: the gratitude of the children in our care at the realization that there are people who, without knowing them directly, care enough to spread holiday cheer. The other gift is a profound one: your commitment to creating new and lasting memories for our youth.

The holidays bring to light that what we do every day of the year at SOS Illinois is made possible by a community of individuals who collectively do so much to fulfill our mission. From our staff and Board of Directors to our volunteers and those in the community, each person is a part of the SOS Illinois extended family and makes a marked difference.

For our children, this means that you encourage them to explore their talents and aspirations and recognize the gifts they are. You join us in inspiring them to thoughtfully consider what they can contribute to others and the world around them. You are pivotal to helping us instill this in our children. You help us show them, through action, the power of generosity and the importance of continuing to pay it forward—not just during the holidays.

It is always a goal to sustain and extend the sentiment of generosity and giving back—that is so deeply felt throughout the holiday season—throughout the other months of the year. As we look forward to all that is in store for our community in

2017, it is with a deep level of gratitude to our partners for all that you have made possible this past year, and an abundance of hope and excitement around what is possible for us as an organization and community this year.

One monumental development for 2017 is the building of a brand new Community Center at our Roosevelt Square Village. In partnership with Maestro Cares Foundation, this space aims to provide safety, stability, and resources to the surrounding community and children and families. It is a truly impactful gift that will help us realize a complete vision for our Roosevelt Square Village families.

Your support of our children and families strengthens our mission and helps us better fulfill it, and your dedication and kindness are priceless gifts. We look forward to the work we will do together this year, sustaining our partnerships and engaging with each of you—valued gifts to our Villages and the children and families we serve.

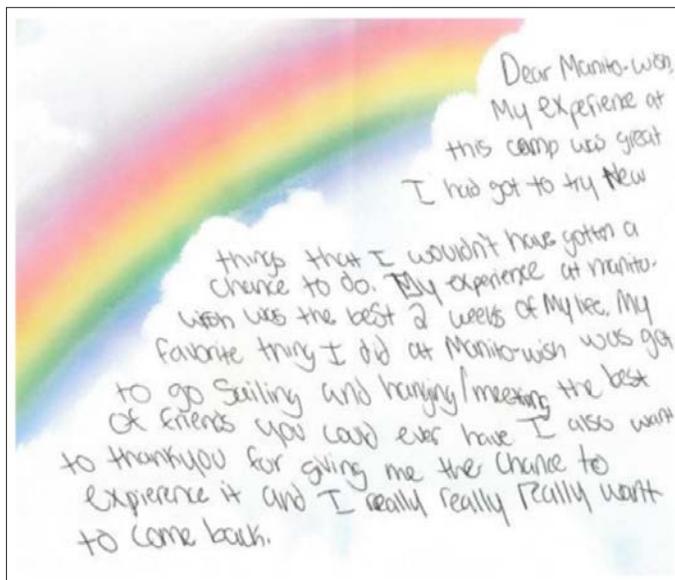
## VILLAGE VOICES

### GRATITUDE: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Throughout the year, our partners and supporters have provided our youth tremendous opportunities for enrichment and learning. From the gift of summer camp attendance to career days, all of the children in our care, from the youngest to our graduating seniors, were impacted by your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Thank you for your continuous support and opening doors for every brother and sister of SOS Children's Villages Illinois.

"My experience at this camp was so great... My favorite thing I did at Mainto-wish was to go sailing and hanging/meeting the best friends you could ever have."



Dear Mr. M. Huntley,

I would like to say thank you for allowing me to have a great experience. I believe Career Day was outstanding. The different career paths we explored taught me what to expect and what is possible when I am prepared. It meant a lot for you guys to make us feel welcomed. I learned so much about the different ways to advance professionally. I especially liked shadowing Ms. Pearl from the housekeeping department. She had so much information to share. I now have real understanding of knowing what it takes to work in that department. Ms. Brigitte also gave me great information in preparing interviews. It was just such a great experience.

So again, I want to thank you and the Swissôtel team for the Career Day. I rank it at the top of my high school experiences. This will continue to help me plan my future and I will always remember the opportunity. Maybe you should remember this day too, so when I interview soon you will be reminded what a great impression that day made on me.

## SPEAK UP

AT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ILLINOIS, WE KNOW THAT THE MOST MEANINGFUL INSIGHTS ARE OFTEN SHARED THROUGH CONVERSATION, AND WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK. FOLLOW THE ORGANIZATION FOR TRENDS IN FOSTER CARE AND CHILD WELFARE:

Are you looking to learn more about SOS Children's Villages Illinois or see the organization in action? Consider attending an event, or scheduling a volunteer project with a group of friends, family, or coworkers.

Looking for the latest updates, events and information? Look no further than your computer! Let's keep the organization going!

 @SOSILLINOIS

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How did you first encounter SOS Children's Villages Illinois? Why do you stay involved? What is your favorite memory with our organization? We want to hear your stories and learn about your involvement.

TO SHARE, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE KAVANAGH AT (312)372-8200 OR BY E-MAIL AT [KKAVANAGH@SOSILLINOIS.ORG](mailto:KKAVANAGH@SOSILLINOIS.ORG).

## FAMILY MATTERS: MEET ELLA CASEY

Ella comes to us from Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) where she served as the Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development. Ella was highly successful at NHS in directing recruitment strategies and pipelines for all levels of positions. Ella has been a board member for the Center of Correctional Concerns, which works to help inmates in the Will County Adult Detention Facility achieve educational goals. She is also a mentor at AG 47, an organization that works with young women to amplify their voices through art, providing them with an opportunity for positive creative expression. Ella demonstrates tremendous enthusiasm and focus. We are delighted to have her on our team.



Ella Casey, Chief Human Resources Officer for SOS Illinois.

### IN YOUR FIRST FEW MONTHS AT SOS ILLINOIS, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN MOST PROUD OF ACCOMPLISHING?

I am really proud of the team we hired to support everyone at SOS Illinois in Human Resources. Steph, Phalyn, Krystal, and I make up a strong team. We all seem to be on the same page when it comes to what we value and we all want to improve the organization by our work. Our working together as a team is how we're going to make progress on our goals, and I remain impressed with how quickly we're learning and taking initial strides together.

### HOW DOES YOUR DEPARTMENT IMPROVE THE ORGANIZATION AND THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN IN OUR CARE?

Who we hire and how we train all of our staff has a direct impact, as we're making decisions about who will be an influencer in a child's life. Foster Parents, Child Welfare Specialists, Relief Parents, Village Directors, In-Home Family Services Specialists, Education and Activities Coordinators, and everyone here has the potential to extend themselves for the growth of children in our care. All of us contribute to our unique cultural fabric through our actions and behaviors. So, the shared responsibility of hiring with other managers is probably the most impactful

part of HR. How we assist employees with questions, how much we spend on benefits, how efficient our systems are—all of these have a residual impact on our mission but are not as direct as who makes up our team.

### WHAT DREW YOU MOST TO THE SOS ILLINOIS MISSION?

I heard about the SOS Illinois Foster Parent model and felt my heart leap—in a good way. The potential for positive impact by being a part of this organization is immense, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to dedicate my working energy to our team and to help the children in our care.

## 2016 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Members of the Board of Directors, staff members, donors, and corporate partners gathered together at the office of Drinker Biddle & Reath for SOS Children's Villages Illinois' 2016 Annual Meeting on December 7, 2016.

Eddie T. Johnson, Chicago Police Department Superintendent, offered praise and support for SOS Illinois in his keynote address, and discussed how by making families stronger, we make our communities safer.



Honorees included: (Front row from left to right) Mark Huntley, Vice President and General Manager, Swissôtel Chicago, recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Corporate Leadership Award; Veronica Smith, recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Staff Leadership Award; Zaidy Cárdenas, Executive Director, Maestro Cares Foundation, recipient of the Caring for Children Award; and Tracy Morse, recipient of the 2016 Making a Difference Award. (Back row from left to right) Tim McCormick, CEO of SOS Illinois and Don Biernacki, Board President.

# OUR EXTENDED FAMILY: OUR FRIENDSHIPS

## EVENING OF HOPE 2016

This year's Evening of Hope was the 6th annual fall fundraising event benefitting SOS Children's Villages Illinois. The Around-the-World-in-One-Night-themed event took



place at Morgan Manufacturing on October 20 and raised over \$275,000 in sponsorships, ticket sales, and in-kind support. At the main event, Illinois' Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti once again delivered remarks and congratulated the Evening of Hope honorees, children from our Villages who have shown progress and success in their educational goals.

The evening began with a VIP Backstage Reception attended by John Hooker, CHA Board President, who served as this year's Evening of Hope Honorary Chair. Mr. Hooker gave



heartfelt remarks on the importance of family, and enjoyed meeting the children honored at the event. Also at the VIP reception were Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti, Illinois Tollway Chairman Robert Schillerstrom, and select guests of top sponsors.

The evening's in-kind donations included food, beverage, and auction items from: Chicago Blackhawks Community Fund,

a McCormick Foundation Fund; Christopher & Co.; Cushing; Eli's Cheesecake Company; Jewell Events Catering; Kizuki Ramen & Izakaya; Lagunitas Brewing Company; Solemn Oath Brewery; Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits; Southwest; Swissôtel Chicago; and The Edrington Group.



Honored guests, Evening of Hope Committee members, and SOS Illinois Leadership from left to right: Tim McCormick, CEO, SOS Children's Villages Illinois; Tracy Morse, Evening of Hope Co-Chair; Jim Wolfe, SOS Children's Villages Illinois Board Treasurer; Robert Schillerstrom, Illinois Tollway Board Chairman; John Hooker, Chicago Housing Authority Board President and Evening of Hope Honorary Chair; Don Biernacki, SOS Children's Villages Illinois Board President; John Trotta, SOS Children's Villages Illinois Board Member and Evening of Hope Co-Chair; and Amar Rajpurkar, Evening of Hope Committee Member.



This year's presenting sponsors were WSP and Parsons Brinckerhoff and Images, Inc. Other top sponsors included: our \$15,000 "Mount Kilimanjaro" sponsors HNTB and Related Midwest; \$10,000 "Eiffel Tower" sponsors Imperial Crane Services, Inc./The Bohne Foundation and TranSystems; \$5,000 "Eiffel Tower" sponsors Alfred Benesch & Company, Cárdenas Marketing Network/Maestro Cares Foundation, CivCon Services, Inc., Civiltech Engineering, Inc., Enterprise Holdings, Inc., Globetrotters Engineering Corporation, GSG Consultants, Inc., HBK Engineering, LLC, Kiewit Infrastructure, Old Veteran Construction, Inc., Patrick Engineering, S&J Construction, SQN Associates, LLC, and The Grove, Inc. (TGI).

## 2016 RELATED MIDWEST & LEND LEASE ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

Our extended family at Related Midwest and Lend Lease sponsored their Annual Charity Golf Classic at Harborcreek International Golf Course on September 15, 2016. This year's

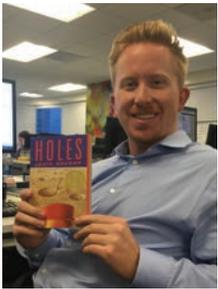
event, presented by Snaidero, was once again sold out with over 300 golfers. Proceeds benefitted SOS Children's Villages Illinois and two other child welfare organizations. SOS Illinois received over \$150,000.



# IPS ARE OUR BIGGEST GIFTS

## SPECIALIST STAFFING GROUP - \$100,000 PLEDGE MET

For the past two years, Specialist Staffing Group has dedicated their US-based fundraising efforts to support the building of a new SOS Children's Villages Illinois Community Center for our Roosevelt Square Village. Through its CSR (corporate social responsibility) mission, Specialist Staffing Group made a commitment to support SOS Children's Villages Illinois with a \$100,000 pledge toward this effort.



Regional offices from across the United States including New York, Boston, Austin, Houston, San Francisco, San Diego, and Chicago all participated. From dress-down days to bike rides, bake sales, and auction events, the staff dedicated most of their philanthropic efforts to SOS Illinois.

After thousands of gifts, hundreds of donors, and countless events and programs across the United States, we are proud to announce that Specialist Staffing Group surpassed their \$100,000 goal last month. Much like the collective work



that each of our Foster Parents and support staff do each day to ensure the children in our care feel safe and know they are loved, this too, is a wonderful example of the power of community. We are so very grateful to all the employees at Specialist Staffing Group for their commitment to this endeavor, and we look forward to celebrating in the months to come.

## RUNNING FOR TEAM SOS ILLINOIS

Each year, runners from around the country and globe come to cross the finish line at the Chicago Marathon. It is a race for both elite and everyday runners and is one of the most

recognized and largest marathons in the world. This year, we were proud and fortunate to have three of our very own extended family members running and fundraising for Team SOS Children's

Villages Illinois. We are pleased to introduce Ryan, Livvie, and Lucas, and thank them for their incredible training and dedication to the SOS Illinois mission and youth.

*"NOTHING IN THIS WORLD HAS BEEN MORE IMPORTANT AND VITAL IN MY GROWTH THAN THE LOVE AND SUPPORT OF MY FAMILY THAT I HAD GROWING UP. I AM RUNNING THIS CHICAGO MARATHON TO STRIVE TO BRING EVERY CHILD IN OUR COMMUNITY THE SAME CHANCE AT LOVE AND SUPPORT THAT I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE GROWING UP."*



**RYAN**

*"I WORK WITH AT-RISK YOUTH IN SCHOOLS AND FOUND THE FAMILY UNIT TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE A STUDENT HAS. I RAN THE CHICAGO MARATHON FOR SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ILLINOIS TO SPREAD AWARENESS ABOUT THE UNIQUE WORK THIS ORGANIZATION ACHIEVES BY KEEPING SIBLINGS TOGETHER AND PROVIDING HOLISTIC WRAP-AROUND SERVICES. I AM HUMBLLED TO REPRESENT SOS ILLINOIS IN THE CHICAGO MARATHON THIS YEAR."*



**LIVVIE**

*"I AM RUNNING THE CHICAGO MARATHON TO RECOGNIZE THE POSITIVE IMPACT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF SOS ILLINOIS' MISSION TO BRING BIOLOGICAL BROTHERS AND SISTERS TOGETHER TO LIVE IN A SAFE, PRIVATE HOME WITH A FULL-TIME, PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED FOSTER PARENT WITHIN A SUPPORTIVE SOS COMMUNITY."*



**LUCAS**

# SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ILLINOIS

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## THANK YOU, MAESTRO CARES

### A TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT FROM MAESTRO CARES FOUNDATION

On Sunday, December 4, 2016, before the start of the Marc Anthony concert at the Allstate Arena, in Rosemont, IL, Maestro Cares Foundation Co-Founders Marc Anthony, music icon, and Henry Cárdenas, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cárdenas Marketing Network, presented a \$500,000 check to SOS Children's Villages Illinois.

This transformational gift is designated for the construction of the SOS Illinois Roosevelt Square Village Community Center, to be located on the near west side of Chicago within blocks of the 14-home Village. It will be the final piece to the Roosevelt Square Village and also serves the important role as a hub of academic, therapeutic, and social resources for the children in our care and the surrounding community.

***"Our common efforts to create this new Center will make a significant impact and truly transform the lives of thousands of people."***

*Zaidy Cárdenas, Executive Director  
of Maestro Cares Foundation*



Left to right: Henry Cárdenas, Marc Anthony, Tim McCormick

We are so grateful for this tremendous gift and look forward to forging and continuing a long, impactful partnership with Maestro Cares Foundation.

Learn more about Maestro Cares Foundation at [maestrocaresfoundation.org](http://maestrocaresfoundation.org), and stay tuned for updates about the Community Center at [sosillinois.org](http://sosillinois.org).

**TO MAKE A GIFT, VISIT [SOSILLINOIS.ORG](http://SOSILLINOIS.ORG).**

