

# SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ILLINOIS

every child deserves a HOME



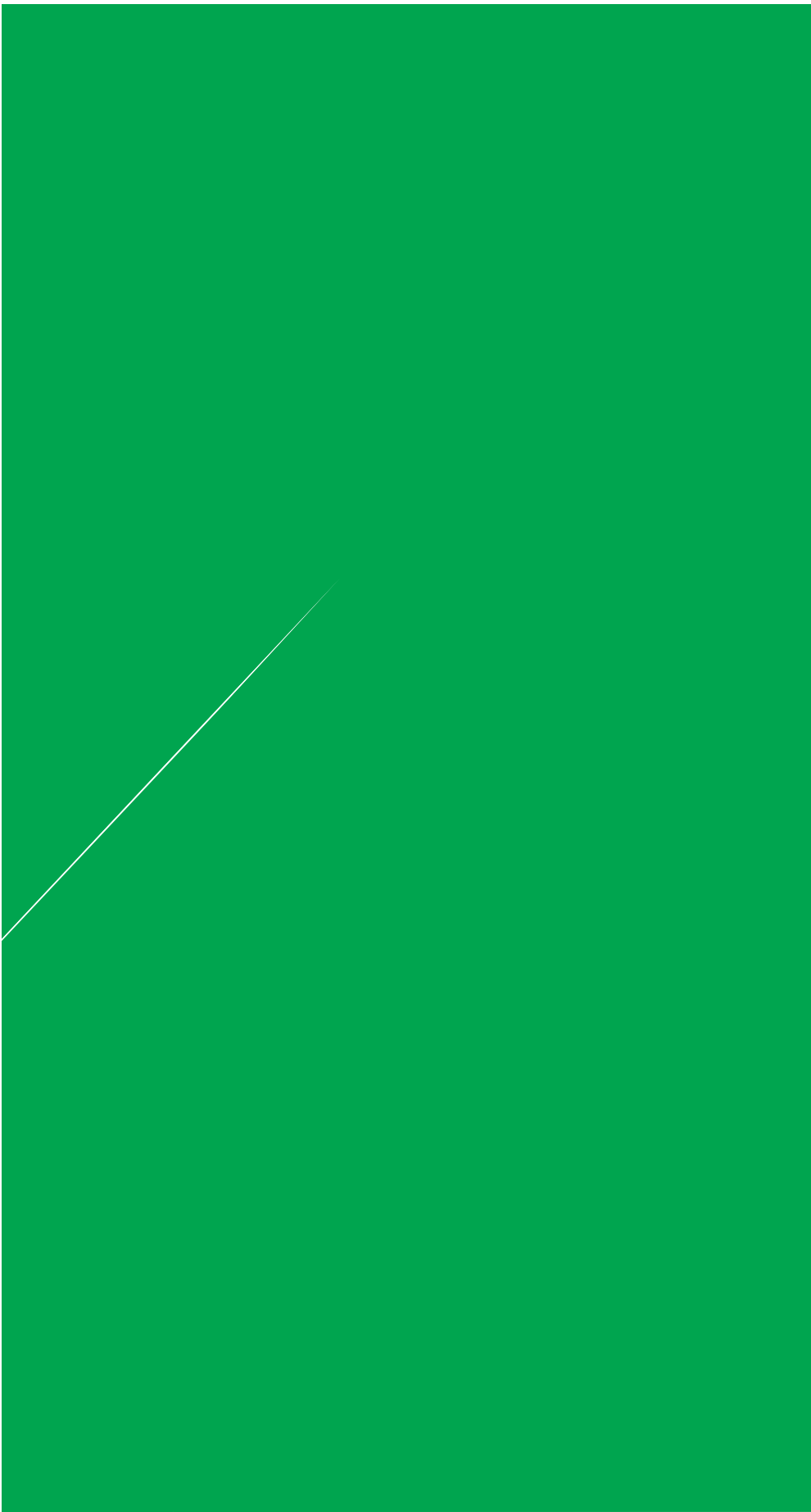
# Fostering Change

The word "change" has gained traction over the past few months as Americans look for new developments in the economy, international relations and more. Closer to home, change is taking place at SOS Children's Villages Illinois, where three innovative programs are bringing new hope.

- > **New foster-parent outreach**
- > **New help for families**
- > **New program for teens**

*continued on page 6*





# 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOS Gala

## Villages of Champions



**Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, instrumental in the creation of SOS Children's Village Chicago, accepts the Gold Medal Champion for Kids Award at the 12th Annual SOS Gala.**

Festive standards lined the ballroom entry, and flags of the world bedecked each table at the 12th Annual SOS Gala, flying under the banner Villages of Champions.

A black-tie crowd of more than 300 welcomed guests of honor Chicago Mayor and Mrs. Richard M. Daley to the event, at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago. The festivities, orchestrated by the Women's Board of SOS Children's Villages, included performances by the talented SOS Children's Choir and Praise Dancers. NBC news co-anchor Anna Davlantes hosted a live auction featuring a getaway to

Park City, Utah; an exploration of Chicago by land, sea and air; and a golf package at the Rich Harvest Farms. Throughout the evening Michael Lerich and his orchestra provided musical entertainment, while the Four Seasons served a superb international menu with elegance and style.

The evening culminated in an awards presentation. Mayor Daley was honored with the Gold Medal Champion for Kids Award for promoting help for neglected and abused children and tirelessly supporting SOS efforts to provide secure homes for hundreds of

**Special appreciation goes to these generous benefactors, sponsors and donors:**

### Benefactors



### Gold Sponsors

DeGeus & Klafter  
 Marta and Bill Krug  
 Magellan Development Group  
 Skender Construction  
 Studio Gang Architects  
 UBS

### Silver Sponsors

Jewel-Osco  
 Northridge Group



**Gala guests of honor Mayor Daley and wife, Maggie (at right), received recognition for their tireless efforts to help Chicago's children. Joining them are (from left) SOS Board President Ted Weldon, Board Vice President Lynn Kiley and SOS CEO Tim McCormick.**



children. Maggie Daley, wife of the mayor and a strong advocate for children's well-being, was recognized for her passionate commitment to offering Chicago teens opportunities to gain career skills and educational experience. Cheryl and Joe Skender of Skender Construction received the 2008 Lynn M. Kiley Distinguished Leadership Award for their longtime community and business leadership on behalf of SOS Children's Villages.

In addition, four young residents of the Lockport and Chicago Villages were presented with the 12th Annual Gala Achievement

Awards. Nathaniel, Rosa, Salome and Diane each received a \$1,000 continuing education award for their outstanding achievement in leadership, arts, sports and academics. The 2008 scholarships were generously donated by Jewel-Osco and the Northridge Group.

The remarkable success of this year's SOS Gala was made possible by the dedication and effort of the Women's Board and the extraordinary generosity of our special contributors and supporters. ♿

### Donors

Arlington Park Race Track  
Terry Athas  
Mr. and Mrs. Cortez Carter  
Chef John Coletta of Quartino  
Four Seasons

Jasculca/Terman & Associates  
Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois  
Lynn and Jim Kiley  
Steve Lombardo of Gibsons

Michael Lehrich and his Orchestra  
Shelbourne Development Group  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thompson  
Urban Real Estate Research

## Women's Board

### Honorary Founding Chair

Kathleen Buck

### Officers

Charlye Hawk  
Lynn Kiley  
Marta Krug  
Dara Bidwell Olsen

### Directors

Cheryl Skender  
Lee Trebels  
Dee VanSomeren

### Members

Sharon Barton  
Tracy Healy Beard  
Marcia Bergstrom  
Lee Blackwell  
Eileen Chambers  
Mary Ellen Cooney-Higgins  
Susan Crowley  
Audrey Davis  
Mary Jo Fasan  
Melanie Furlan  
Laurie Holmes  
Danita Jaurigue  
Catherine Lohan  
Debra Maddux  
Maureen Matthews  
Iris McCaffery  
Maureen McKeough  
Jody Metter  
Deirdre Nardi  
Tanya Rivers-Carter  
Alix Schneider  
Sharon Sharp  
Julie Skulborstad  
Mary Spada  
Judy Stevens  
Laura Sudler  
Eve Taming  
Sarah Tetzlaff  
Wendy Thompson  
Haley Weldon  
Kathleen Whitfield  
Dianne Zaubi

## Hispanic Foster Parenting

More Hispanic children enter foster care each day, many speaking only Spanish or limited English. They need foster parents attuned to their language and culture. To address this change, SOS Children's Villages is recruiting Hispanic foster parents.

"Foster parenting is a new concept in the Latino culture," says Celia Martinez, Hispanic Services Coordinator and Family Advocate. Celia commits herself to sharing with this vital community the SOS mission of providing stable homes in a nurturing environment. Meeting with community groups across the city, she talks about the need to give Hispanic children in foster care a safe place to call home.

On April 1, SOS Children's Villages Illinois welcomed our first Hispanic foster parent, Arnaldo Amalfi. Today, Arnaldo is heading a family of five, experiencing a loving and caring life together. To find out how they're doing, see Someone You Should Know on page 7.

## Fostering Families Program

Fostering Families is changing life for the better. Developed in partnership with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, this innovative program serves substance-abusing parents and their children just entering the DCFS system. As an alternative to separating the siblings from their parent, SOS provides four homes staffed with professional foster parents who care for the children. The biological parent lives in an apartment in the same building, receiving intensive treatment and training. This arrangement maintains the integrity of the family while promoting independence and self-sufficiency.

Through the program, biological parents experience change in their personal and family life. One of the participating fathers, a recovering drug

addict, now reads books to his kids, cooks a down-home Southern meal for the family and lives in his own apartment in the Village.

"I never thought my mom and dad would do activities with us that did not include drugs," says his oldest daughter. She credits the Village with helping her father change his life and opening doors to bring her family back together in a safe and secure home.

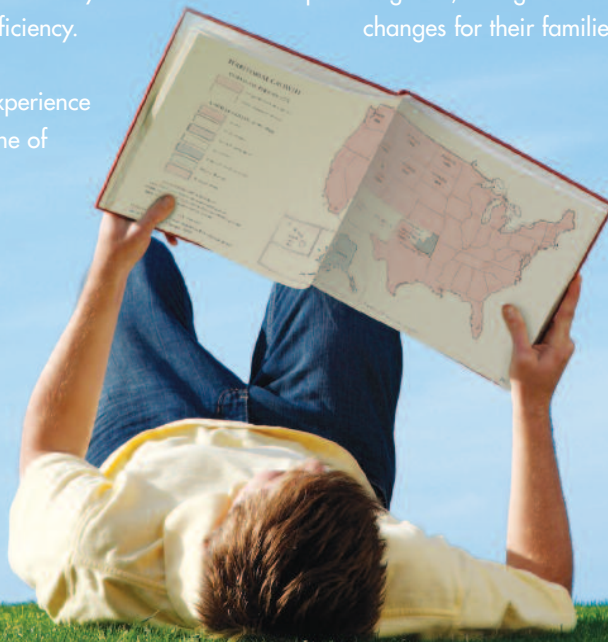
"SOS changed my life for the better," her father agrees. "Every day that I am with SOS, I wake up and feel like it is a dream come true."

## Transitional Living Program

On June 2, SOS Children's Village in Lockport began helping young men age 17 to 21 navigate a time of change in their lives. The new Transitional Living Program provides intensive services to help a group of up to six young men achieve independence through work, school or both. Program participants are responsible for their own cooking, cleaning, budgeting and scheduling as they learn to be self-sufficient, responsible adults. "We are excited to provide these young adults with an opportunity to reach their career goals and dreams for their future," says Ardyth Holbrook, Director of Program and Services at Lockport Village.

Through Hispanic foster parenting, the Fostering Families Program and the Transitional Living Program, SOS Children's Villages Illinois is providing safe, loving homes for children and creating positive changes for their families and their lives. 🧑

**"SOS changed my life for the better. Every day that I am with SOS, I wake up and feel like it is a dream come true."**





*Walking inside a life-size model of the human heart...*

*Roasting marshmallows around a campfire and telling ghost stories...*

*Learning how to bowl...*

Do you remember the fun you had on summer vacation? From visiting the Museum of Science and Industry to making friends at camp, summertime lets children enjoy new opportunities and meet new people. These special moments create memories children carry with them for a lifetime.

Each summer we strive to give all the children at SOS Children's Villages a chance to participate in a summer enrichment activity that could be a life-changing experience. But to reach that goal, we need your help.


With your gift of **\$36**, an SOS child can learn to swim. A **\$110** gift will cover the cost of a day at a museum for a family of five. And giving **\$245** will allow an SOS child to attend summer camp for a whole week.

You can transform the summer into a more hopeful and joyful time for each child by enclosing your gift in the envelope provided by this newsletter. Make "what I did on my summer vacation" more than an essay; make it a great memory to carry through life. 



Around the world, SOS Children's Villages is helping children claim their basic human rights. Alongside international organizations and nations, SOS is working to give children the protections advocated by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child:

- The best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children.
- Every child has the right to life, survival and development.
- The child's view must be considered and taken into account in all matters affecting him or her.
- Children have a right to a name, nationality and family ties; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; protection from all forms of violence; an adequate standard of living; quality education; and play and rest.

By raising awareness among decision-makers, SOS is striving to change policies and practices that undermine the well-being of children. Ultimately, SOS hopes to give children the confidence to claim their rights, not as objects of care or victims of circumstance but as actors on their own behalf. 

## SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW

### Arnaldo Amalfi


**foster parent**



Becoming a foster parent has given Arnaldo Amalfi more than an opportunity to change children's lives. It's given him back what he lost when he left Cuba seven years ago — a family.

Arnaldo read a newspaper article about SOS Children's Villages Illinois and immediately knew he'd found his calling. He opened the door to his first foster child in March, and in April a family of five came to live with him.

As a new foster parent, he wants to provide each child under his care with confidence, structure and responsibility. He hopes to instill in the children a love for what they do and the message that life is worth living.

Arnaldo credits the support of other foster parents and the SOS staff with helping him succeed. And he is grateful to SOS Children's Villages Illinois for the opportunity to have a family to care for and a chance to live the American dream. 

# Calendar of Events

**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL "DARE TO SOAR"  
HOT AIR BALLOON FEST, CRAFT FAIR  
AND CLASSIC CAR SHOW  
LOCKPORT VILLAGE  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2008**

**5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES GOLF CLASSIC  
HARBORSIDE INTERNATIONAL  
GOLF CENTER  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2008**



Thanks to DickinsonGroup (Copy/Project Management)

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ILLINOIS  
every child deserves a HOME

SOS Children's Villages Illinois  
223 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 412  
Chicago, IL 60606



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Chicago, IL  
Permit No. 4840