

# building the future OF FOSTER CARE

Annual Report 2016



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

Every child deserves a home

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# DEAR FRIENDS

## a letter from our leadership

**Our story, like any story, has an origin.** The narrative of SOS Children's Villages Illinois is built on a 68-year-old tradition that started after WWII in Imst, Austria. A young medical student's idea focused on not simply finding homes for children, but building Villages that offered a new kind of commitment to nurturing children in foster care within an intentional and supportive community.

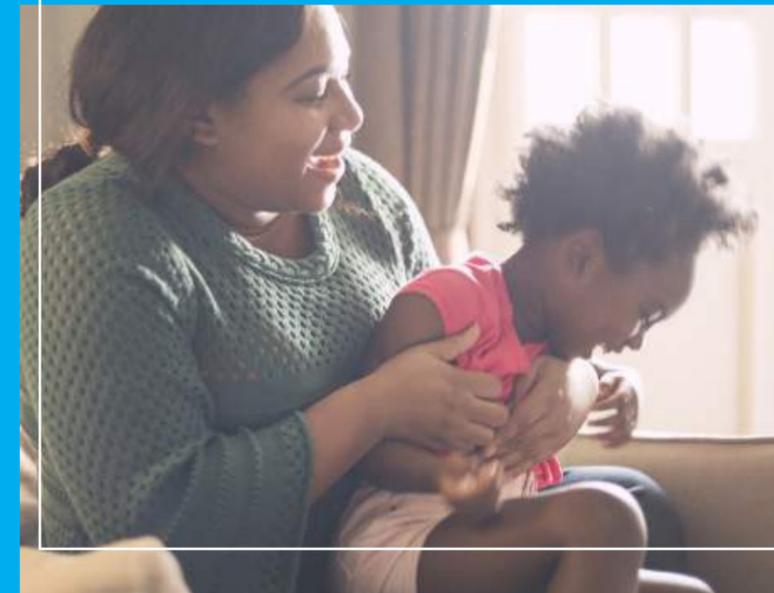
As we reflect on the beginning of our story, we recognize the progress and changes made throughout our 25-year history here in Illinois. Just as we construct Villages for brothers and sisters who come to SOS Children's Villages Illinois, we also build and contribute to the future of foster care.

In 2016, SOS Illinois' engagement with larger audiences and dialogues meant welcoming new opportunities for building our brand. Community and corporate partnerships have made it possible to gain exposure in the media and build a presence on platforms that encourage social networking and conversation. With each new opportunity, follower, or "like" we build on the foundation of something very important: our progress in educational programming, clinical care, and the quality of resources we provide.

As a result of your help, we witnessed amazing accomplishments in 2016. Education, a top priority at the agency, continued to be a point of celebration during the year. We once again celebrated a 100% high school graduation rate and the budding and bright futures of our recent graduates. Our Foster Parents continued to show their exceptional dedication to the mission of the organization and the vocation of caregiver to sibling groups. We welcomed Dream Makers, a special group of monthly supporters who

directly contribute to the educational and cultural enrichment opportunities that help our young dreamers realize their ambition.

In 2017 we see even more opportunity to build our narrative into one that becomes increasingly familiar to the Chicagoland communities we serve. We are excited to shape and strengthen



relationships with the communities surrounding our new Roosevelt Square Village Community Center. Together, with the tremendous support of corporate partners and individuals, we look forward to offering a safe, central gathering space and supporting the children of SOS Illinois as well as the families and residents of the community.

Sincerely,

**Don Biernacki**  
Board President

**Tim McCormick**  
Chief Executive Officer



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**2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS****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:



Children live together with their siblings



Children receive care and support from a full-time, professionally trained Foster Parent



Children grow up in a private, single-family home



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,**

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

**Building our future:  
Highlights of sharing  
our story in 2016****APRIL**

We launched our monthly giving program, Dream Makers, inviting our supporters to invest in the dreams of the youth in our care

**MARCH**

Wintrust Financial brought #OurHopeTheirDreams to life through a whimsical mural over the Kennedy Expressway

**JULY**

The *Chicago Tribune* featured SOS Illinois during "Giving Tuesday", broadening awareness of our organization's mission and needs

**AUGUST**

NBC Chicago highlights two of our Foster Parents in their "Making a Difference" segment



## 100% High School Graduation Rate

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

# BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

## accomplishments in education

"Without the stability of having a household where my siblings and I were together, I doubt that I would have had the motivation to accomplish what I have."

- **Rafael, age 18**

### **Inaugural All-Village Graduation Celebration Held in June**

In 2016, we marked a new tradition to honor our graduates as one collective Village. Children, Foster Parents, and staff from all our sites came together on June 24, 2016, at the Lockport Village for our first Village-wide graduation party sponsored by our corporate partner, Mosaic.

We acknowledged each graduate during a certificate ceremony where we also recognized partners who support our educational programming.

In addition to receiving a certificate and recognition, our corporate partner **Mosaic** formally

presented laptops to each of our high school graduates, part of the donation of 34 laptops Mosaic and **Dell** donated earlier in the year. Our high school graduates were thrilled to use their new computers for upcoming academic studies, staying connected to high school friends and family members, and searching for exciting new jobs to help gain professional skills.

The successful inaugural event was filled with field games and no shortage of treats, provided by the enthusiastic and generous Mosaic Cares volunteers, and set the tone for a wonderful new Village-wide tradition.

### **SOS Illinois Graduating Teen Named Posse Scholar**

Since Rafael and his brothers came to SOS Illinois three years ago, their transformation has been a privilege to witness. For Rafael, especially, the turn in his story has been a true joy to watch: he is graduating high school at the top ten percent of his class, as a participant in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, and as a recipient of a full-ride college scholarship from The Posse Foundation. After a rigorous nomination and interview process, Rafael earned the scholarship, beating out close to 3,000 other applicants.

## 4.9 Years of Loving Service

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

# CALLED TO BUILD THEIR FUTURES

## a glimpse into our Foster Parents

### A Different Type of Foster Care

Up by 5:30 a.m. to prepare breakfast, bag lunches, and load up the car. Then off to four different schools in four different directions. Six children. Six schedules. One professional Foster Parent who manages it all.

This is a mere snapshot of the very full and busy days our full-time, professional Foster Parents face on a daily basis. No matter the challenge or responsibility, they handle it with humility, positivity, and never miss a beat.

SOS Children's Villages Illinois Foster Parents don't clock in and clock out and return home at the end of the day: they make a very real

change to their lives when joining our team in this role. Our Foster Parents move into one of our three Chicagoland Villages and take care of up to six brothers and sisters in a single-family home in one of those Villages. SOS Illinois Foster Parents attend to the daily schedules and diverse needs of each of the children in their home, nearly 24/7 (our part-time, on-call Relief Parents provide weekly relief time). As full-time, professional SOS Children's Villages Illinois Foster Parents, their role is so much more than just a job; it is a vocation. Whether new to our organization or having served with us for decades, our Foster Parents are called to our unique community.

### Keeping Siblings Together

We believe in the importance of providing a sense of family. That's why we prioritize sibling bonds when placing children into our homes. Whereas three out of every four sibling groups are separated in traditional foster care, the Sibling Foster Care program at SOS Children's Villages Illinois centers on providing sibling groups the opportunity to live and grow together in the safety of a nurturing and intentional community environment. Siblings remain as a family unit in the care of one of our full-time, professional Foster Parents and are supported by Village care staff and team members.



"We took on the commitment to do what we do today together to help these children who need our help. And we're going to continue doing it for as long as we can."

- Antonio, Foster Parent

# BUILDING SUCCESS TOGETHER

## A YEAR IN NUMBERS

Alongside our dedicated Foster Parents, staff, corporate partners, and generous donors, 2016 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 2016. These figures, and all our successes, are only achieved with your help. Thank you!

99.5% of Village youth attended 90% or more school days

99.7% of Village youth recieved monthly family visits

95% of Village siblings are living under the same roof

495 children served through our programs and services

37 families served through programs at Casa Tepeyac

58 sibling groups reunited in our supportive Villages



First All-Village Graduation Celebration held to honor our graduates

# BUILDING THE FUTURE RESPONSIBLY

## 2016 Financial Report

We strive to be responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us, through both government and non-government funding. As a community, we work diligently to ensure that every dollar is used to its greatest potential in order to meet the diverse and expanse needs of the children and families we serve.

	FY2016
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	\$5,018,416.00
Property & Equipment, Net	\$23,673,845.00
Other Assets	\$4,952,327.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$33,644,588.00</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current Liabilities	\$1,053,322.00
Long Term Liabilities	\$14,254,772.00
Net Assets	\$18,336,494.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$33,644,588.00</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Government Support	\$8,396,597.00
Private Support	\$2,446,791.00
Other Income	\$111,817.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$10,949,205.00</b>
<b>Functional Expenses</b>	
Program Services	\$8,876,289.00
Management & General	\$1,313,631.00

# 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

- Bohne Foundation
- Caterpillar Foundation
- Chicago Blackhawks Charities
- Col. Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
- ConAgra Foods Foundation
- Generation IV Charitable Trust
- Helen V. Brach Foundation
- HSBC USA
- Huen Foundation, Inc
- Ignite a Better World Foundation
- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation
- Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- Maestro Cares Foundation
- Mazza Foundation
- McKenna Foundation
- Northern Trust Charitable Trust
- Skender Foundation
- The Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation
- Union Pacific Foundation
- Corporate Support
- ABT Electronics
- Advance Mechanical Systems
- ALL Sealants/American Hydrotech
- All-Tech Decorating
- AltusWorks, Inc.
- Amberleaf Cabinetry
- AT&T Business
- Automated Parking Technologies, LLC
- Bonus Electric Company
- BridgePoint Technologies, LLC
- CivCon Services, Inc
- Civiltech Engineering, Inc.
- Comprehensive Construction Consulting, Inc.
- DLA Piper LLP (US)
- The Edrington Group USA
- Elite Electric Co., Inc.
- Enterprise Holdings, Inc.
- F.E. Moran Inc.
- First Midwest Bank
- Flood Bros Disposal Co
- Globetrotters Engineering Corporation
- GSG Consultants, Inc.
- Hasbro, Inc
- Hayward Baker, Inc.
- HBK Engineering, LLC
- HNTB Corporation
- Huen Electric, Inc.
- Images, Inc.
- Kiewit Infrastructure
- Kirk Center for Healthy Living P.C.
- Kohler Company
- Lyn-Den, Inc.
- MBB Enterprises of Chicago, Inc.
- Millennium Advisors
- Modern Mosaic Ltd.
- Mosaic
- Norman Mechanical, Inc.
- Old Veteran Construction, Inc.
- Ozinga RMC, Inc.
- Patrick Engineering
- Plastic Omnium Auto Inergy (USA) LLC
- Related Midwest
- Royal Crowns And Trim Ltd
- Schindler Elevator Corporation
- Snaidero USA
- SQN Associates, LLC
- Stalworth Underground LLC
- Sub-Zero Group Midwest, LLC
- Swissôtel Chicago
- The Grove, Inc. (TGI)
- The Levy Company
- Titan Electric LLC
- TranSystems
- Verde Sustainable Solutions
- W.E. O'Neil Construction Co.
- Walsh Construction Company
- Wintrust Financial Corporation
- WSP - Parsons Brinckerhoff



*"We could not be more excited about working with an organization that carries out a mission so closely aligned with that of Maestro Cares. The Community Center project marks the beginning of what we see as a very long partnership that will positively affect the lives of so many in need and for years to come."*

**- Zaidy Cárdenas, Executive Director  
Maestro Cares Foundation**

# BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH MAESTRO CARES FOUNDATION

Growing and nurturing a sense of community is pivotal to the SOS Children's Villages model of care. It's here within the walls of each of our sites that we spread the importance of unconditional love, generosity, and giving back. We seek to not only provide each child in our care the feelings of security, confidence, and hope, but we also strive to teach them that they are not alone, just like SOS Children's Villages Illinois

is not and does not work alone. It is thanks to our incredibly generous and thoughtful partners that we are able to carry out our mission and improve the services we provide — like a brand new community center on the near West Side of Chicago, within blocks of our Roosevelt Square Village.

This final addition to the Roosevelt Square Village, from which we can build upon our relationships in the

surrounding community, will be made possible by the tremendous gift of \$500,000 from Maestro Cares Foundation. This transformational contribution designated for the construction of the new Community Center was officially presented to SOS Illinois on Sunday, December 4, 2016, before the start of the Marc Anthony concert at the Allstate Arena, in Rosemont, IL, by Maestro Cares Foundation Co-Founders

Marc Anthony, music icon, and Henry Cárdenas, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cárdenas Marketing Network. It marked a very special moment in our partnership, which began in the summer of 2016, with an organization whose mission works in harmony with the mission of SOS Illinois.

Maestro Cares Foundation, founded in January 2012 by Marc Anthony and Henry Cárdenas and his family, provides aid and critical resources to children in need in Latin America. The Foundation's mission is "to create a healthy and safe environment for vulnerable children, with an emphasis on supporting their educational needs." In Chicago, Maestro Cares Foundation places an emphasis on expanding outreach and much-needed services to vulnerable children.

The new Community Center, which aims to do just that as a safe

and central community gathering space, will be equipped with academic, therapeutic, social, and recreational services and activities for the Roosevelt Square Village and the greater neighborhood.

The Roosevelt Square Village Community Center project marks an important early milestone in the long partnership we look forward to forging with Maestro Cares Foundation. What we have seen in addition to this incredible contribution has been nothing short of inspirational and an affirmation of our closely aligned missions. That is in great part why we honored Maestro Cares Foundation at our 2016 Annual Meeting, presenting them with the Caring for Children Award, for everything they have done in their short time with SOS Illinois.

From holding a Christmas in July party to spreading warm-weather holiday cheer, offering support in

sponsorship at our 2016 Evening of Hope, hosting a family game night at the Roosevelt Square Village, to countless visits to our Villages where Maestro Cares Foundation staff and volunteers have become well acquainted with our Foster Parents and children, it is an honor to welcome these compassionate and dedicated individuals back again as familiar faces and friends.

Maestro Cares Foundation has done an infinite amount already in helping to teach our children that there is a community outside of the Villages supporting them. The children and Foster Parents feel their love and support and we, as an organization, feel immense gratitude for a partnership that will help further build community and hope.



**Above:** Maestro Cares Foundation Co-Founders Henry Cárdenas, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cárdenas Marketing Network, and Marc Anthony, music icon, presenting a \$500,000 check to SOS Children's Villages Illinois in the care of Tim McCormick, CEO of SOS Illinois.

## BUILD THE DREAMS OF YOUTH BY BECOMING A DREAM MAKER



*"I know I don't know each of your names, but I know I love you because of the support you give to our Village . . . it has helped me reach my goals. I try to explain this to the younger kids on the Village. Without you, we might not be as successful. Thank you for all you do." - Marcus, age 18*

**"My dream is to become a kindergarten teacher."**

**As a Dream Maker, your monthly contribution is the easiest and most efficient way to support SOS Children's Villages Illinois. As a current supporter, monthly giving allows a flexible option for contributing to our important programs and initiatives. To join, visit us at [sosillinois.org/giving](http://sosillinois.org/giving).**