



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
ILLINOIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2014

Contact: Lainey Tick

720-338-4079

Lainey_tick@jtpr.com

SOS Children's Villages Illinois Opens Second Chicago Village for Foster Children

Charity provides loving homes in a community environment for children in need

CHICAGO—Dozens of children in need will find security, love and a new place to call home today, as nonprofit SOS Children's Villages Illinois opens its second Chicago Village for foster children, the third in Illinois. Located along the 1200 and 1300 blocks of West Washburne Avenue, in the Roosevelt Square neighborhood, the new Village is a unique community of 14 individual homes to support up to 84 children in foster care, ages birth to 21 years old.

SOS Children's Villages Illinois offers an innovative alternative to traditional foster care that focuses on keeping siblings together, while being cared for by a full-time, professionally trained foster parent. National statistics show children in traditional foster care move on average twice for every year they are in care. SOS Children's Villages Illinois creates stability by developing a purposeful community of support, which helps each child grow into a caring, productive, and self-reliant adult.

Alderman Daniel Solis welcomed the Village to his ward. "Every child deserves stability and permanency in a home that is grounded in love and support," said Solis (25th Ward). "SOS Children's Villages Illinois plays a vital role in enriching the lives of foster children and connecting them to our larger community."

The Roosevelt Square Village was made possible through the generous support of numerous partners. The City of Chicago contributed \$1.9 million for the development of the Village, and the land on which the homes are built was donated by the Chicago Housing Authority. WinTrust Financial Corporation provided construction financing and a grant of \$500,000 to be used for the development of a new community center. Additional in-kind donations totaling approximately \$500,000 were made by Related Midwest, Amberleaf Cabinetry, Delta Faucet, Added Sales, Snaidero Chicago, Republic Services, Crawford Supply, Bosch, Thermador, and Imperial Crane.

In addition to reuniting siblings, SOS Children's Villages Illinois offers extensive wrap-around services for foster children including comprehensive individual and

group counseling, mentoring, as well as educational and cultural enrichment opportunities. Children gain a sense of safety, security, and self-confidence in a highly supportive Village setting where they develop a sense of community.

“Our unique approach to foster care has had great success with hundreds of children transitioning into adulthood,” said Tim McCormick, CEO of SOS Children’s Villages Illinois. “The new Village will provide an even greater number of Chicago children with same opportunity to live with their siblings in a loving home and supportive community environment.”

SOS Children’s Villages Illinois has a strong track record of success. In 2013, 99 percent of children entered with or were reunited with their siblings. In addition, 56 percent of SOS children in middle school or high school were on the honor role. Since 2006, 100 percent of children living on the Villages have graduated from high school. National statistics indicate only 54 percent of children in traditional foster care graduate high school.

Joining the dedication ceremony at the new Roosevelt Square Village was 21-year old Terik Brown, an alumnus of the Chicago Village, located in the Auburn-Gresham neighborhood. Terik came to the Village nine years ago with five siblings. Growing up in a supportive community, Terik was a successful student, graduating as salutatorian from his high school. Today, Terik attends college at the Illinois Institute of Art and he is on track to graduate in December 2015.

SOS Children’s Villages Illinois operates two other Villages, in Lockport, Illinois and the Auburn-Gresham neighborhood of Chicago, as well as a short-term shelter for at-risk male youth in the Back of the Yards community. In 2012, SOS Children’s Villages Illinois was recognized by *Chicago Magazine* as one of only 15 “Gold Standard” charities in Chicago. Charity Navigator has awarded SOS Children’s Villages Illinois a 4-Star rating, the highest rating possible, since 2006. Only 2 percent of the charities rated have received at least seven consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that SOS Children’s Villages Illinois outperforms most other charities in America.

About SOS Children’s Villages Illinois

SOS Children’s Villages Illinois is a nonprofit, licensed child welfare agency that provides a stable home environment for children who are wards of the state of Illinois due to neglect, abuse, or abandonment.

SOS Children’s Villages Illinois is a member of SOS Children’s Villages International, an umbrella organization originally founded in 1949 in Austria in the aftermath of World War II. Today, SOS Children’s Villages International is the largest non-denominational, child welfare agency in the world with 555 Villages in 134 countries and territories worldwide.

###