



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
ILLINOIS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ILLINOIS ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH MAESTRO CARES FOUNDATION

SOS Illinois Community Center project secures a transformational gift from Maestro Cares Foundation, Co-Founded by music icon Marc Anthony and entrepreneur Henry Cardenas, which will bring the foundation's mission of helping vulnerable children in Latin America to the children and families of Chicago.

December 7, 2016 (Chicago, IL) – SOS Children's Villages Illinois, a non-profit, child-welfare agency that serves at-risk youth and children in foster care, proudly announces its partnership with Maestro Cares Foundation for the foundation's first U.S. project.

On Sunday, December 4, 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 Cardenas, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cardenas 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 organization's 14-home Village.

The Community Center project offers SOS Illinois and Maestro Cares Foundation an important opportunity to partner and expand both organizations much-needed services to vulnerable children in the City of Chicago. The center will serve the children and families of SOS Illinois, while also providing critical resources to the surrounding communities.

"The Community Center is a priority for the organization and is a fundamental element to all our Villages, as it becomes the hub of services for the children in our care and the surrounding community," said SOS Children's Villages Illinois CEO, Tim McCormick. "We are proud to be partnering with Maestro Cares who shares our commitment to care for children abused and abandoned. Our common efforts to create this new Center will make a significant impact and truly transform the lives of thousands of people."

The construction of the Community Center is key to completion of the Roosevelt Square Village. The Center will house academic, therapeutic, social, and recreational activity for the children and youth in the organization's care. It also will be a central gathering place for neighborhood residents – a safe space where they can meet in the community and connect to public resources. In all, the building will include a large multi-purpose room, a learning annex with a computer lab, a children's support room, a family enrichment room, a recreational playroom, lobby space, a conference room, class/ meeting rooms, and several staff offices. SOS Illinois projects serving over 5,000 people annually at the Community Center.

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“We are serving hundreds of children in Latin America, and for our first project in the United States, we could not be more excited about working with an organization that carries out a mission so closely aligned with that of Maestro Cares,” remarked Zaidy Cardenas, Maestro Cares Foundation Executive Director. “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.”

About SOS Children's Villages Illinois:

SOS Children's Villages Illinois, founded over 25 years ago, is a 501(c)3 child welfare agency that provides a stable home in a supportive, community environment designed to help children in need grow into caring, productive, and self-reliant adults. The SOS Children's Villages model differs from 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, 4) Children are supported by the Village, designed as an intentional community of care.

SOS Children's Villages Illinois unites brothers and sisters in foster care and provides a safe space to heal for at-risk youth. Currently, the organization operates four sites: three Villages providing sibling group foster care at an 18-home Village (opened in 1993) in Lockport, Illinois; a 19-home Village (opened in 2004) in the Auburn Gresham, Englewood neighborhood of Chicago; a 14-home Village (opened in 2014) in the Roosevelt Square Community of Chicago, as well as Casa Tepeyac (acquired in 2011), a facility that offers preventative and in-home services in the Back of the Yards neighborhood of Chicago.

SOS Children's Villages Illinois celebrates a 100% high school graduation rate, compared to a national average of 50% for children in foster care. In November 2015, *Chicago Magazine* named SOS Children's Villages Illinois one of the “Best Charities in Chicago.” For more information on SOS Children's Villages Illinois visit: sosillinois.org

About Maestro Cares Foundation:

Maestro Cares Foundation (MCF) is a non-profit organization founded in 2012 by music icon Marc Anthony and entrepreneur Henry Cardenas to support the housing and education needs of orphaned and underprivileged children in Latin American countries. The Foundation's projects provide basic needs such as housing, nutrition, clean water, educational facilities and healthcare while also developing academic, recreational and agricultural programs so that these children can grow up to become self-sufficient individuals. MCF inaugurated its first project in April, 2014 – an orphanage that is home to over 50 boys in the Dominican Republic. The foundation currently has 4 construction projects in the works: Ponce, Puerto Rico, Mexico-Guadalajara, Bolivia-La Paz, and U.S. Chicago. For more information on Maestro Cares Foundation visit: maestrocareds.org

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