



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES  
ILLINOIS

# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ILLINOIS TO RECOGNIZE LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS ON NATIONAL SUPERHERO DAY – APRIL 28

*As part of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Foster Care Awareness Month, SOS Illinois' #RaisingSuperheroes campaign creates a service opportunity for children in foster care, superheroes in their own way, to thank local superheroes—firefighters and police officers in the community.*

**Chicago, IL (April 25, 2017) – SOS Children's Villages Illinois**, a non-profit, child-welfare agency that serves children in foster care and at-risk youth in communities surrounding its sites, will recognize local police officers and firefighters on **National Superhero Day, April 28, 2017**.

National Superhero Day is an important part of SOS Illinois' #RaisingSuperheroes campaign during Child Abuse Prevention Month and Foster Care Awareness Month (April and May respectively). The #RaisingSuperheroes campaign recognizes children in foster care as superheroes, and allows an opportunity for the children at SOS Illinois to honor the real-life superheroes that keep the communities surrounding the SOS Illinois Villages safe. The children will create lifesaver tumblers to thank police officers and firefighters for their courage. The gifts will then be delivered to police and fire stations near each Village on National Superhero Day.

The SOS Illinois #RaisingSuperheroes campaign focuses on advocating for and championing the power and bravery of children in foster care. At the very heart of the SOS Illinois model of care is a commitment to keeping brothers and sisters in foster care together. The reality is that many of the children who come to SOS Illinois have faced unimaginable hardships in their young lives, including separation from siblings. SOS Illinois strives to provide a sense of family, safety, and every opportunity for healing and growth.

"The children in our care accomplish great feats of courage on a daily basis. They do so with the love and support they receive from their Foster Parents and staff," said Tim McCormick, CEO of SOS Children's Villages Illinois. "I look forward to this opportunity for the children at SOS Illinois, who are all heroes in their own right, to meet and celebrate local heroes in the community."

The #RaisingSuperheroes campaign began in April for Child Abuse Prevention Month and will continue in May during Foster Care Awareness Month. For more information on the #RaisingSuperheroes campaign, please visit our blog:

<https://www.sosillinois.org/raisingsuperheroes-supporting-strength-of-children-in-foster-care/>.

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

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