



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
ILLINOIS

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Kristine Kavanagh
(312)372-8200, ext. 1002
(312) 388-0242 (cell)
kkavanagh@sosillinois.org

SOS ILLINOIS' VINES TO VILLAGES GETS THE TABLE SET FOR HELPING CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Chris Benziger of Benziger Family Winery, California will provide a premier wine showing for attendees

On **Thursday, September 19, at 5 p.m.**, SOS Children's Villages Illinois, a 501(c)3 child-welfare agency that serves at-risk youth and children in foster care, will gather corporate partners to enjoy an exclusive reception and premier wine showing from Chris Benziger of Benziger Family Winery, California. The premier showing will include a rare opportunity to be among the first to try three wines from the Benziger Family 2017 reserve collection.

The event will be hosted by Snaidero at 210 Design House, a stunning luxury kitchen cabinet showroom in River North. Additionally, food will be provided by Chef Tony Priolo of Piccolo Sogno. **Vines to Villages** will help kick off SOS Illinois' efforts to make the organization's signature spring gala, Dining & Conversation, presented by Sodexo, a record-breaking success.

WHAT: Vines to Villages, an exclusive reception and premier wine showing from Chris Benziger of Benziger Family Winery, California.

WHERE: Snaidero, 210 Design House, 210 W. Illinois St., Chicago, IL 60654

WHEN: Thursday, September 19, at 5:00 p.m.

WHO: SOS Illinois Leadership and Corporate Partners, including Sodexo, Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, Jefferson Sportsman Society, and more

BENEFITS: SOS Children's Villages Illinois' events benefit the children and families served at SOS Illinois' four sites, located in the Chicagoland area.

Media are invited to arrive at 4:45 p.m. for set-up. Parking garage available at SP+ Parking, 220 W Illinois St, Chicago, IL 60654.

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About SOS Children's Villages Illinois:

SOS Children's Villages Illinois, founded nearly 30 years ago, is a 501(c)3 child welfare agency that provides an individual licensed home in a supportive, community environment that marshals all the resources needed to help children heal and achieve their permanency goals. The Village Model of Care prioritizes the following: 1) Children live together with their siblings, 2) Children receive care and support from a full-time, professionally trained and licensed Foster Parent 3) Children thrive in a private, single-family home, 4) Children are supported by the Village, designed as an intentional community of care; and 5) The entire family is supported through our Family Strengthening Services to keep families in-tact whenever possible.

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 Chris Benziger:

Chris Benziger, Vice President of Trade Relations, Benziger Family Winer

Still in high school when the Benziger family moved from White Plains, Chris finished his senior year in wine country. He went on to earn a degree in marketing from the University of San Francisco while spending summers, weekends and every spare moment working at the winery. He officially joined the Benziger Family Winery in 1993 as a Brand Manager. In addition to sales, Chris also oversees the home ranch and its many farm related duties, i.e. shepherding the Benziger flock of sheep and cows, tending to the estate vegetable and fruit trees, and producing the Biodynamic preparations for all our vineyards. Chris feels that the only way to communicate the quality of the wines he promotes is by having the soil from the vineyard in which he's endorsing under his nails. The best impression a winemaker can leave on his wines are his footprints in the vineyards.

For more information about SOS Children's Villages Illinois, please contact:

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Office: (312)372-8200, ext. 1002

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