



SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
ILLINOIS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

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

DEON BUSH HOSTS THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Chicago Bears Safety starts the holiday season with "Pass It on with Deon" at SOS Children's Villages Illinois, where a Thanksgiving dinner will be shared, as well as a service project to pass along the good will of the season

November 15, 2019 (Chicago, IL) – SOS Children's Villages Illinois, a non-profit, child-welfare agency that serves at-risk youth and children in foster care, will start the holiday season with Chicago Bears Safety Deon Bush, who will host **Pass It on with Deon**. The event, a celebration of a season filled with turkey, football, and giving thanks, will take place on **Monday, November 18 at 4:30 p.m. at the SOS Illinois Chicago Village, 7600 S. Parnell**, in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood of the city.

Deon Bush will help children in need start the holidays with an opportunity to "pass on" the good will of the season with a freshly prepared Thanksgiving dinner and service project to further spur a spirit of gratitude. **One hundred children and families** will be in attendance for **Pass It on with Deon**, which will include children writing thank-you notes to veterans that will be delivered to a nearby veteran's home, indoor games, football bingo, and other Thanksgiving crafts.

"We are proud to be an organization that shares the hometown of the Chicago Bears. The dignity each member of the team, equally on and off the field, offers the fans here a team of which they can be proud," said SOS Illinois CEO Tim McCormick. "The holiday season can often be a difficult time of year for many of our children, and to have Deon at our Village for a Thanksgiving meal reminds us that food is always better shared. When we eat together, the food provides both sustenance and value to our daily lives, and creates a much brighter season for our children and families."

"I am excited to be a part of Pass It on with Deon and meet the children and families at SOS Illinois," said Bears Safety Deon Bush. "Having this opportunity to share a meal is one way I can pay forward all that I am grateful for. I also am looking forward to seeing the children express their appreciation to our veterans. Having a space that allows the

PRESS RELEASE

children at SOS Illinois to pass on that feeling of thankfulness is empowering and changes what it means to be a part of the season of giving.”

Media Note:

This event will take place at SOS Children’s Villages Illinois, some restrictions apply to the use of images of children in foster care, per DCFS policies and procedures.

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.

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

KRISTINE KAVANAGH
Office: (312)372-8200, ext. 1002
(312) 388-0242 (cell)
kkavanagh@sosillinois.org

###