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SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
ILLINOIS

state of THE HEART

Annual Report 2019



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SOS Children's Villages Illinois is building a legacy in foster care.

At SOS Children's Villages Illinois, we build Villages that unite brothers and sisters in foster care, surround them with a community of hope, and help them grow into caring and productive adults.

For 30 years, SOS Illinois has offered an innovative alternative to traditional foster care in emphasizing the following five 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; and 5. Children and families in the community are supported through preventive services and resources.

SOS Illinois operates as its own 501(c)3, with four sites in Illinois:



Lockport Village



Chicago Village



Roosevelt Square Village



Casa Tepeyac

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SOS Children's Villages Illinois is committed to addressing systemic poverty in communities by marshaling the resources to train, educate, and advocate for at-risk youth and children in foster care. By doing this, we create a different social narrative for families and communities across our city, state, and country.

2019 was a year of breaking new ground, both literally and figuratively, for SOS Illinois. The Groundbreaking Ceremony at the site of the future Roosevelt Square Community Center this past July and as we develop our programs and services to further support our children and families. By helping children heal and achieve their permanency goals, we work to create a cycle of opportunity that is key to us building the future of foster care.

When we consider words like "innovation," "groundbreaking," and "state-of-the-art," we think of businesses and organizations that are at the forefront of their fields to make better and lasting change. At SOS Illinois, as we are changing the narrative of what it means to be a child in care to ensure that every child receives the love and support they both need and deserve. We also support the entire family through our Family Strengthening Services to keep families in-tact whenever possible.

Through our Village model of care, we create safe, stable homes in communities of hope. We surround siblings with the care of full-time Foster Parents, caseworkers, clinicians, and Village staff. This outpouring of resources allows children to heal, grow, and rebuild their lives . . . and with that, we do the incredible work of transforming the state of each child's heart.

This very real and important work could not be done without you, our supporters, no matter if it is building a new center or offering a safe, stable home where children can share a meal and stories at the dinner table. In the second half of 2019, as construction on the community center progressed, a light was shed on the hope and goodness already present in our

communities. Each of you continue to be a key part of our ability to create new opportunities that highlight existing hope and bring forth greater optimism for the children in our care, as well as for residents surrounding our Villages.

As partners of SOS Illinois, you contribute to our ability to create trustworthy and inclusive Villages that bring communities together through the power of our common love. An SOS Illinois Village ultimately stands for the notion that we as a people will not and cannot be separated by geography, race, ethnicity, or social locations. Thus, the Village becomes a place where we stand as one, united in a love that is known through service. These charitable works are transformative and allow us to develop authentic friendships that pave the way for innovation and justice.

Thank you for being a part of this most noble effort of caring for the heart of each child and for sharing our journey of reviewing a successful 2019. We look forward to our continued partnership in 2020.





PIECES OF OUR HEART

top 10 highlights
of 2019

10. Empowering Creativity | 9. Vines to Villages Sets the Table for Dining & Conversation | 8. SOS Illinois Youth and Alumni Shine | Major Foster Parenting Milestones Achieved | 6. Record-breaking Fundraising | 5. New Website Launched | 4. Three Cheers for the Chicago Bears | 3. OneRepublic Promotes the "Good Life" for SOS Illinois | 2. SGround Breaks at Roosevelt Square Community Center | 1. "Voices 4 Foster Care" Amplifies our Mission: Dining & Conversation 2019

read about all these stories and more at sosillinois.org/top2019



A HEART OF

a special look into three

SOS Children's Villages Illinois seeks to pursue a model of foster care where children experience stability in home and in care. One way this is put into action is by having full-time Foster Parents in our Villages whose top priority is to dedicate their time and service to the children placed in their care. This year, we celebrate three such Foster Parents who have dedicated their lives to this mission.

Greg Harris from U.S. Navy Veteran to Professional Foster Parent

Over a decade before joining SOS Illinois, Greg Harris served in the Navy for eight years. Greg completed Fleet Marine Force training at Camp LeJeune, served at the Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan at Evans Clinic, and served in San Diego at the Naval Medical Center Balboa.

Even after his time serving our country through military service, Greg continued to give back. He attended Southern Illinois University Carbondale and gained a degree in Elementary Education, and later went onto teaching junior high.

In 2018 Harris took his next step in serving his community and country by becoming a Foster Parent at the SOS Illinois Chicago Village. He attributes

his inspiration for this decision to his grandmother who fostered many children while he was growing up. Harris states, "I wanted to be an advocate, provider, and protector for those who need it most: children coming into care. Now that I am a foster Dad, I would not have my life be any different! This impactful, rewarding work is the most important thing I have done with my life."

Sandra Marbeth Fosters over 50 Children

In 2019, Sandra Marbeth of Lockport Village celebrated fostering her 50th child. Sandra was one of the initial individuals to become a Foster Parent at Lockport Village and continues to be a part of the backbone of the community after beginning this journey in her thirties with a group of eight



DEDICATION

professional Foster Parents

siblings, whom she later adopted.

One of her adopted sons, Tevin, looks back fondly on his childhood as he expresses that Sandra gave each sibling space to be fully themselves.

While speaking of Sandra, Tevin says, "My mother's my hero because she's shown me what unconditional love looks like and to me that's been the most important thing because I always tried to be a perfect kid - and that's not the case - nobody's perfect, you end up making a lot of mistakes. But even in my lowest moments, she was there to hold me and comfort me.."

Tevin credits Sandra in his ability to pursue his dreams and find success, sharing, "I wouldn't really have all that if I didn't have my mom in my corner telling me that I can do it and giving me that unconditional love."

Minnie Reed offers 24 Years of Service

1995, recently retired from her position at Lockport Village after 24 years of selfless service. Formerly a traditional in-home foster parent, Minnie speaks

to the support network and community that makes SOS Illinois different by saying that "they offered so much more than one social worker for the children and parents. Here you knew you had a therapist, they provided everything, and all you had to do was show and express love to the children."

Minnie has served as a mother to many. She remembers the countless children that have come through her home saying, "The family came through the door calling me 'Mama.' It appeared that they were longing for a Mom figure, someone to call Mom. I thought that was pretty special, I did." Minnie recognized that many children in foster care merely want to be able to call someone "mom," and she was glad to be that for them.

Not only has Minnie opened her home to sibling groups, but she has also brought in and cared for a biological mother who was battling a terminal illness. We celebrate the many years Minnie has dedicated to serving children in foster care and for the sacrificial love that she showed to each child and family along the way.

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ACTION-DRIVEN COMPASSION

Daughters of Charity embody selfless love

When working with children in foster care and at-risk families, compassion is one of the most essential qualities in order to build connection. The Daughters of Charity wholly embody this gift by supporting us generously as corporate partners and mentors, thus tirelessly investing in the lives of SOS Illinois' Foster Parents, children, and staff. The Daughters of Charity provide not only essential resources to our community, but the embodiment of selfless love.

Tremendous Financial Support to SOS Illinois

For over 20 years, Daughters of Charity through their foundation, Mission and Ministry, and provided major financial contributions to help SOS Illinois provide top-notch service to the children and families in our care.

As one of our partners, gifts from Daughters of Charity have propelled the Roosevelt Square Community Center forward.

The Daughters of Charity have also shown compassion for children in foster care by awarding a grant to SOS Illinois' College Bound and Beyond Program through Mission & Ministry, Inc., a program

that awards grants to organizations consistent with the values of Daughters of Charity.

Gifts of Time and Mentorship

This year, the Daughters of Charity graciously hosted a retreat for Foster Parents and social workers who felt called to help children in foster care. This retreat allowed several sisters at the Daughters of Charity, including Sister Mary Ellen Lacy who is on the SOS Illinois Board of Directors, to share the ways in which they show compassion and inspire others to act similarly.

Reflecting on her choice to work with SOS Illinois, Sr. Mary

Ellen Lacy remarks that supporting children in foster care allows their future to move "from one of predicted chaos and restrictive poverty to one of possibilities and options; and that is a piece of the heaven on earth that belongs to every child."

Immense Gratitude for the Daughters of Charity

As the Daughters of Charity aim to serve those that have been marginalized and live in poverty globally, we are thankful that they have chosen to support our work at SOS Illinois. Their compassion inspires us to touch the hearts of each of the children and families we serve with tenderness, fierceness, and grace.

THE SOUND OF FRIENDSHIP

PHMG creates more than audio

SOS Children's Villages Illinois is continuously honored to have such dedicated, passionate, and thoughtful corporate partners and volunteers willing to dive right in with our children and families. PHMG, the world's leading audio branding agency, has showed SOS Illinois more than generosity, but authentic friendship.

Throughout 2019, PHMG continuously showed a commitment to the children and families served at SOS Illinois. Beyond raising contributions for our community, members of the PHMG Chicago office were routinely among the first to get their hands dirty at events and programs alongside our families.

PHMG were powerful advocates for our cause throughout 2019, including assisting as volunteers at events and opening PHMG's office for the teens in our care for a career day.

PHMG Hosted SOS Illinois Teen Career Day

four SOS Illinois teens were graciously given the opportunity to spend a full day at PHMG's downtown Chicago office to meet multiple employees,

enjoy a lunch and goodies provided by the company, shadow a department of the student's choice, and create a branded audio clip of their own.

The audio clips made by the teens ranged from jazz to funk, all similar to clips companies would use in elevators or on-hold music. The clips were produced by PHMG professionals, and our teens received a copy of their new beats.

Samples of these sounds can be heard on our blog at sosillinois.org/connect and looking for "Futures Not on Hold."

Working Alongside Our Younger Children

Whether helping to assemble projects with our smallest children during Harvest Day in the fall or playing tons of field games with our middle

schoolers our our Annual Graduation Celebration, our friends at PHMG knows what it means to get fully immersed in our community.

Regardless of the program, our child are all smiles when they see the team from PHMG arrive on site, ready to assist with another day filled with learning and fun.

We can tell that the fruits of this partnership are true acts of love. According to PHMG, "SOS Children's Villages Illinois is particularly close to the hearts of our U.S. staff, and they came together to champion the amazing work of the charity."

Throughout the many ways that their staff are involved, PHMG encompasses what it means to a corporate partner and committed friend. We're grateful for their giving hearts!







Dining & Conversation 2019

Pictured above: SOS Illinois Foster Parents Jenny Wray and Tony Moyet gather with Gloria Steinem and Christian Bale during a Roosevelt Square Village visit the morning of Dining & Conversation.

On May 30, 2018, the stars came out in support of SOS Children's Villages Illinois. Serving as the culmination of Foster Care Awareness Month and as a foundational event for the Roosevelt Square Community Center Capital Campaign, Dining & Conversation offered the opportunity to gather alongside key supporters and friends during a milestone moment in SOS Illinois history.

Our friends at Wintrust Financial helped kick off the afternoon of Dining & Conversation by generously hosting a leadership lunch for special guests and supporters of SOS Illinois, including Academy Award winning actor Christian Bale; Feminist Activist, Gloria Steinem; and President & CEO of Wintrust Financial, Ed Wehmer.

Celebrities Tour Roosevelt Square

Following the luncheon, Christian Bale and Gloria Steinem joined a small group of staff to tour a Roosevelt Square Village home and visit

with two SOS Illinois Foster Parents. Bale and Steinem were able to hear first-person testimony from the Foster Parents on the rewards of our Village model of care, the daily challenges of caring for large sibling groups, and their hopes for the future of the organization.

Dining & Conversation

That evening, SOS Children's Villages Illinois hosted Dining & Conversation, a unique event where 120 supporters met and conversed with Luminaries, well-known celebrities from various professional fields. Dinner

consisted of courses prepared by Celebrity Chefs from Chicago's most well-respected restaurants. Luminaries shared a course at each table so as to dine and converse with all guests in attendance. As the event progressed, each guest had the opportunity to talk with all the Luminaries. The night truly resulted in a wonderful evening of dining and conversation.

Special thanks to all our Luminaries, Celebrity Chefs, and guests! Read more at sosillinois.org/connect.



OUR LOVE IN NUMBERS

STATISTICS AT-A-GLANCE

Alongside a star team of Foster Parents, staff, corporate partners, and generous donors, 2019 proved once again that legacies abound at SOS Illinois. We are proud to share the following figures that were achieved by the last quarter of 2019. These figures and all our successes are only achieved with your help. Thank you!

56,854 days of service provided to youth and families

500 children served through our programs and services

69 children found forever homes

100% high school graduation rate

2,620 hours of training for staff and Foster Parents

5.1 years, on average, of service provided by Foster Parents

BUILDING A LEGACY RESPONSIBLY

FY2019	
Assets	
Current Assets	\$7,146,316
Property & Equipment Net	\$21,540,189
Other Assets	\$8,895,914
TOTAL ASSETS	\$37,582,419
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	\$1,864,000
Long-Term Liabilities	\$12,781,821
Net Assets	\$22,936,598
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$37,582,419
Income	
Government Support	\$9,453,870
Private Support and Special Events	\$6,797,816
Total Other Income	-\$285,604*
TOTAL INCOME	\$15,966,082
Functional Expenses	
Program Services	\$9,885,268
Management & General	\$1,424,027
Fundraising	\$827,880
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,137,147
Net Assets	
Change in Net Assets	\$4,061,810
Beginning Net Assets	\$18,847,788
ENDING NET ASSETS	\$22,936,598

* Total "Other Income" includes factoring in an unrealized loss on investment assets.

STRENGTHENING THE HEARTS OF DREAMERS

**YOUR LOVING GENEROSITY HAS HELPED
SUSTAIN THE DREAMS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

SOS Children's Villages Illinois strives to help the children in our care reach their full potential. Even with our successes, there still is more hard work to be done. With the support of our dedicated partners and donors, we are able to continue our commitment to helping children in foster care grow into caring, productive, and self-reliant adults.

150 new donors

\$1.8M raised from
special events
alone

Over 100
volunteers
at special events



With its unique structure, SOS Illinois is able to offer an incredible level of support to our local children in need. We have been a proud, long-time partner of SOS Children's Villages Illinois and we can't wait to see the lasting impact [the Roosevelt Square Community Center] will have on the communities it will serve.

- Edward J. Wehmer, CEO, President, & Founder, Wintrust



SOS [Illinois], they have a legacy, not just for their buildings, but buildings that make a difference in people's lives, buildings that instigate change . . . so this center is going to break ground in many different ways

- Juan Moreno, JGMA President and Roosevelt Square Community Center Architect





The Roosevelt Square Community Center

Pictured above: Children at SOS Children's Villages Illinois decorated the special shovels used for the Roosevelt Square Community Center Groundbreaking. The shovels were gifted to the project's partners and major contributors..

SOS Children's Villages Illinois unveiled the final design and plans for the Roosevelt Square Community Center at a special announcement on Wednesday, October 28, 2018 at 13th Street and Blue Island Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. In attendance were corporate partners, Board Members, and staff in support of the project, which will serve the SOS Illinois Roosevelt Square Village and surrounding neighborhoods.

As CEO Tim McCormick gathered attendees under a white tent in the middle of the current garden space, he expressed a deep appreciation for the community center benefactors being at the site to stand together in celebration of the project. "Because of your commitment, we will begin a process of transformation, and not just of this land and this space, but of this community. Here will be a gathering place for all so that everyone who brings their journey can begin to share a common narrative to help each

other to heal, grow, become more, and to share what is a common life of a Village."

Updates Since the Announcement

In the months following, SOS Illinois worked diligently to prepare for the Center's Groundbreaking ceremony in June of 2019, when supporters, staff, Board Members, and SOS Illinois families were invited once again to gather on the land of the upcoming community center to listen to updates on the project and participate

in the symbolic act of breaking ground together. Read more about both milestone moments in the development of the Roosevelt Square Community Center at sosillinois.org/connect.

SOS Illinois looks forward to being a part of the ever-changing landscape of the City of Chicago. The new center at 13th and Blue Island will infuse a community with hope and healing, and most important of all continue to provide services promoting permanency to help build the future of foster care.



