



# Metropolitan Family Services

e-family

Issue 22



## Metropolitan Family Services' Raises \$1M at the Holiday Celebration

Generous sponsors and guests helped Metropolitan Family Services raise more than \$1M gross in proceeds at the 30th Annual Holiday Celebration, Dec. 3 at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago. The gala was emceed by WGN-TV's Mark Suppelsa, where the Knuepfer Family was honored as Metropolitan's "Family of the Year" for its many contributions to Metropolitan Family Services and Metropolitan's DuPage Center.

More than 500 guests enjoyed performances by Sammie Torres and The Pilsen Art Ensemble, the Reinberg Elementary Ensemble and the Calumet Out-of-School Time Community Choir. There also were live and silent auctions, a wine raffle featuring select vintages, and a Holiday Tree raffle, the latter benefiting Metropolitan's parenting programs.

A special thank you to event co-chairs, members of the event host committee and our media sponsors, whose support was integral in making this year's event such a success. Read more about the event, view event photos or the video shown that evening.

## "All You Need Is [g]LOVE" Clothing Donation Keeps Little Ones Warm

More than 300 new winter coats, hats and gloves brought a little holiday warmth to 72 pre-schoolers during the 5th Annual "All You Need Is [g]LOVE" Winter Clothing Drive Dec. 7 at the Metropolitan Family Services Midway Children's Center.

The donations were made possible by Coats For Kids-Chicago, started in 2007 by Glen and Amy Busch, and The Horton Group insurance agency, through the All You Need is [g]LOVE program, a charitable initiative of Chicago's legal community, led by Metropolitan's Karina Ayala-Bermejo.

## Holiday Dinner Donations Make the Season Merry for Families in Need

All the makings of a terrific holiday dinner – turkey, ham, chicken, canned vegetables, stuffing, rice, cranberries, cheese, pies and cakes – helped make the season merry for more than 400 families at the Metropolitan Family Services North Center Dec. 17. Thank you to sponsors Town & Country Distributors, MillerCoors, Strack & Van Til Super Market, Nuestro Queso, and to all event donors for their generous support.



## Associates of the Legal Aid Society Hold Annual Holiday Toy Drive

The Associates of the Legal Aid Society held its second Annual Happy Hour Holiday Toy Drive Dec. 8 at Monk's Pub in Chicago. The event collected \$365 and plenty of toys to help brighten the holiday season for families served by Metropolitan Family Services' Legal Aid Society.

## Windy City Live Chooses Metropolitan Family Services

ABC7's Windy City Live program selected Metropolitan as a Windy City Live Cares Charity this season! Metropolitan will receive 200 children's books for the Midway and North Children's Centers, and a \$500 donation from Chicago Green Office Company, which helps businesses, schools, and individuals achieve more sustainable patterns of production and consumption. Metropolitan president and CEO Ric Estrada also was interviewed on the show Dec. 9. Click here to read about the donations Metropolitan received (scroll down to Dec. 9). Special thanks to Board Member Diana Palomar, who suggested Metropolitan as a charity beneficiary.

## Thank You to our Generous Funders

We are very grateful to all of our generous funders who support Metropolitan Family Services and our vital programs that help those in need in the Chicago area. The Community Memorial Foundation granted \$25,000 for "Mental Health Across the Lifespan," including child counseling, general counseling and senior counseling. John and Jeanne Rowe donated \$25,000 in support of the John and Jeanne Rowe Family Crisis Support Fund, which offers financial support to families facing crisis situations with heating services. The Max Goldenberg Foundation granted \$7,500 for general counseling. The Jay Johnson Charitable Trust donated \$6,643 in Camp Echo summer camp scholarships for Evanston Center youth. And the TJX Foundation gave \$4,500 in support of Southeast Chicago Center's I Can Problem Solve program, which teaches elementary school students nonviolent problem-solving skills.

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