

# family

News from *Metropolitan Family Services*

Summer/Fall 2006

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WLS-TV's Harry Porterfield (far left, back row) joins members of the Midway Center's *Learn and Serve* team. Featured with youth are (next to Porterfield, back row) Marvin Saunders, father of organ donor Asia Saunders-Toney; Duane Martin, *Learn and Serve* Program Supervisor; Mark McHugh, Midway Center Executive Director; and (front row, far right) Ollie Smith, *Out-of-School-Time* activity worker.

## Empowering Youth to Make Change

At the Teen Center located inside Midway Center, the conversations used to revolve around music, sports and homework challenges. But for the past two years, the teens have spent most of their time talking about dialysis, organ donors and kidney transplants. That's because their *Learn and Serve* community service project focused on the challenges faced by one of their team mates, Guadalupe Huerta.

When they learned Guadalupe had to undergo dialysis treatments, it spurred them to learn about dialysis, transplants and the need for donated organs.

"The kids love Guadalupe, and once they discovered her situation, they wanted to learn more," comments Duane Martin, the program coordinator.

For the past three years, Duane, along with Ollie Allen, *Out-of-School-Time* activity worker, have been directing the *Learn and Serve* program at the Teen Center. *Learn and Serve*, a national initiative, allows youth to assume the lead in

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## Honorable Mention for Managerial Excellence

Metropolitan Family Services staff were thrilled to learn that Metropolitan received an Honorable Mention for the 2006 Alford-Axelson Award for Nonprofit Managerial Excellence from North Park University. This award is considered the “Oscars” of the local non-profit managerial world. Dr. Richard L. Jones personally accepted the recognition on Metropolitan’s behalf at a special awards ceremony.

Metropolitan was selected within the category of organizations with budgets of more than \$5 million. More than thirty non-profit organizations were nominated this year for “embodying the full range of managerial excellence criteria,” ranging from having a coherent organizational strategy that aligns programs and services with mission and goals to solid financial management and a diversified funding model. ■

## Letter from the President

“Since the Chicago Fire, this organization has had a close relationship with the community. It is trusted and respected, and holds a well-deserved prominent place in the community.”

“The agency’s biggest strength – the work being done in finding the best way to use resources through Project LEAPS.”

“All of these programs are exceptionally well run.”

These were just some of the wonderful comments we heard at the conclusion of our recent re-accreditation process conducted by the Council on Accreditation (COA). The COA partners with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by delivering, applying and promoting accreditation standards.

Following our completion of the required self-study, the COA conducted an extensive site visit with a team of peer reviewers who rated Metropolitan on all critical and mandatory organization, management and service-specific standards. We are proud that Metropolitan Family Services continues to be accredited by the COA and recognized for its operational excellence and its accomplishments and contributions to the community.

Metropolitan Family Services has recently been recognized by several organizations for our leadership, innovation and commitment to helping families and communities.

We were chosen by the United Way as one of five agencies in the United Way African American Initiative. The goal of this collaborative effort is to help at risk African American males ages 10-16 in the Roseland community develop and succeed as young adults. Each partner agency is developing a strategy for a specific community based upon input and needs expressed by the neighborhoods. Our *Young Fathers’ Initiative*, which has broken new ground in helping young men overcome the tremendous obstacles they face in violent, poverty-stricken neighborhoods to become supportive and involved parents, was recognized with an honorable mention for “Highly Innovative Program” by the United Way.

Our recognized success in delivering effective and meaningful



**Dr. Richard L. Jones,**  
President and CEO

community-based programs and services is exemplified by our Southwest Community Center being named the 2006 “Outstanding Agency Partner of the Year” by United Way. I offer my sincere congratulations to Mike Brady, executive director for Southwest, and his entire team for achieving this tremendous honor.

We are proud to be recognized as a successful, visionary leader in human services. It is a reflection of our commitment to our mission, our strong organization and board of directors, a cohesive strategy and solid financial management that we also recently received an honorable mention for the 2006 Alford-Axelson Award for Nonprofit Managerial Excellence from North Park University.

You’ll learn more about these awards and the recognition we have received in this edition. I wish to congratulate all of our staff for these achievements!

I am also pleased to announce that Colleen Jones, our executive vice president and chief operating officer, was selected as the National Association of Social Workers Illinois Chicago District Social Worker of the Year. As a licensed clinical social worker and 32-year employee of Metropolitan Family Services, Colleen helped pioneer many of our family and school-based programs, develop new service models and adopt new and innovative practices. Her vision in expanding our *Head Start* program and firmly establishing programs to help teen parents prevent family violence and address the needs of the growing elderly population has made a tremendously positive impact on thousands of families throughout the Chicago area. Colleen also plays a vital leadership role as we undergo an organizational transformation related to the state’s shift from a grant-based to a fee-for-service environment.

In closing, I wish to thank everyone who joined us at our open house to celebrate our new headquarters at One North Dearborn. It was wonderful to have so many long-time and new supporters, board members and local dignitaries come by to see our new contemporary office space. Now all staff members are located on one floor – creating increased efficiencies and fostering greater interdepartmental collaborations.

I continue to marvel at all that we have to celebrate at Metropolitan Family Services and this is just the beginning. Soon we will kick off a year-long celebration of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of helping families throughout Chicago and the suburbs grow stronger. I invite you to join us in these upcoming celebrations and thank you for your continued support of Metropolitan Family Services.

*Dr. Richard L. Jones*

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## United Way African American Initiative in Roseland

Metropolitan Family Services was one of five organizations selected by United Way of Metropolitan Chicago to be a community partner of the United Way African American Initiative, a unique effort aimed at helping at-risk African American males, ages 10 to 16, make a successful transition from childhood to young adulthood.

Metropolitan’s Calumet Center will serve as the chief coordinator in the Roseland neighborhood cultivating community collaborations and relationships with schools, churches, neighborhood businesses, government officials, law enforcement and the youth themselves. This is an effort to construct community-wide activities and approaches specifically tailored for the community and the young African American males living there.

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## Young Fathers’ Initiative Receives Honorable Mention at United Way Community Celebration

Metropolitan’s *Young Fathers’ Initiative* received an Honorable Mention in the Highly Innovative Program category at the United Way Community Celebration. The program helps young fathers become financially self-sufficient and raise healthy children. Included are job readiness training, job placement, parent education and support, and money management training.

## Focused on Community

Communities and their components – families and neighborhoods – are the lifeblood of Metropolitan Family Services. From the Northwest Side, Evanston/Skokie and DuPage County to the South Side, Southwest Side and southern suburbs, Metropolitan is rooted in community and in addressing community concerns.

Metropolitan's mission to help families reach their fullest potential positively impacts the communities they live in. Whether it is providing premier child care services or helping families navigate needs for mental health counseling, Metropolitan provides a wealth of programs and services designed to meet the needs of people of all ages.

### Calumet

**235 East 103<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60628**

Two Calumet Center programs that help clients establish new beginnings are experiencing tremendous growth: *Katrina Assistance Relief Efforts* and *Service Connector*.

Through the *Katrina Assistance Relief Efforts* program, Metropolitan Family Services Calumet Center helps displaced families holistically, going beyond basic needs of food, clothing and shelter to address Katrina's emotional and financial impact with services such as counseling, financial assistance and job readiness training.

This integrated approach also has been pivotal to the success of *Service Connector*, a city-wide public housing program in which Metropolitan assists former Chicago Housing Authority residents relocate from CHA housing to settle in new communities. The Metropolitan program started in January 2006, and within a few months the number of clients served doubled, placing Metropolitan second among fourteen Chicago *Service Connector* providers in May 2006.

*Service Connector* individuals and families often struggle with issues such as mental health challenges, family violence and substance abuse. Metropolitan starts by assessing the families' needs and gives the support needed to handle related issues, to help them successfully integrate into their new communities.

### DuPage

**222 East Willow Avenue  
Wheaton, IL 60187**



This year Metropolitan Family Services DuPage celebrated 75 years of recognizing that families are at the heart of a community's strength.

Starting in 1930 with a core of women volunteers led by agency president Edith Bruckner, the agency sought to improve the quality of local welfare services and to help those who had nowhere else to turn.

Metropolitan Family Services DuPage first served as a welfare agency for the county during the Great Depression, distributing Federal Emergency Relief funds to families in need of food, shelter and medical attention. As financial issues for families lessened in the 1940s, the agency transitioned from providing material relief to providing counseling. Metropolitan Family Services DuPage was one of the first area charitable organizations to apply a multi-discipline approach using social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists to help working-poor families thrive.

Supported by private donations and local volunteer service leagues, the agency continued to grow to meet the needs of DuPage's expanding population. In 2005, Metropolitan Family Services DuPage helped nearly 9,000 families and individuals. Services include senior services, student and marital counseling, financial literacy education and youth mentoring. Family services include programs promoting strong parenting and preventing child abuse, respite for family caregivers and support for adoptive families and grandparents.

## Evanston/Skokie Valley

**820 Davis Street  
Evanston, IL 60201**

This spring, Evanston launched *Project Roots*, a new program drawing on the strengths of Evanston and the experiences of African American men and boys. Thirty boys ages 11 to 14 years from Evanston middle schools participate in the program. They discuss cultural identity, alternatives to violence, the impact of negative media influences, making positive decisions, stigmas attached to academic excellence and positive career choices.

A team of young African American men serve as group facilitators. The team of leaders, friends since elementary school, grew up in Evanston and draw on their own experiences to guide this new generation of boys in achieving successful life skills.

*Project Roots* gives participants the opportunity to share their experiences in a safe and supportive setting. Through group discussions, personal reflections and stories, role-plays, hand outs and homework, the boys broaden their options and learn new skills in communication, conflict resolution and decision-making. Through *Project Roots*, they also are building a network of friends and mentors to support their efforts once they have completed the program.

## Midway

**3843 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60629**



Metropolitan Family Services' Children's Center has been included among the top seven percent of the nation's highest quality child care providers, receiving accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children.

NAEYC accreditation, launched in 1985, was established to help set national standards for quality child care. States across the country have widely varying child care standards; some states have no standards at all. The accreditation is a special honor

because the Children's Center opened in 2004 and NAEYC typically advises organizations to have been in operation for *at least* four years before applying. The Center joins Metropolitan's *Head Start* program, accredited since 1998.

"Families across the country and the Chicago area are feeling the pressing need for affordable, high quality child care," says Ruth Prescott, team leader at Metropolitan's Children's Center. "All of the staff members at the Children's Center are excited about receiving this distinction. We look forward every day to being with the children who come to the Center for care, and delight in that we are helping children grow and realize their potential ... being recognized by the National Association for the Education of Young Children in addition to this is really wonderful."

## North

**3249 North Central Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60634**



Immigrant women often face many obstacles as they establish new lives in America. For more than 20 years, *Entre Amigas*, a support group for Spanish-speaking immigrant women located at the North Center, has been helping women succeed who are challenged by relationship difficulties, isolation, loneliness, economic challenges and the struggle to balance family and work.

*Entre Amigas* began at North Center's original location above a store in Chicago's Lakeview community. The program, led by a Metropolitan counselor who was a Panamanian immigrant, was designed to help immigrant women empower themselves and cope with family life stresses by sharing experiences.

Over time, participants not only discussed their problems and formed friendships, but became active in planning their meetings and scheduling experts to speak on topics such as child care, domestic violence and substance abuse.

"The group changed my life completely," says long-time *Entre Amigas* member and volunteer Virginia Maravillas. "I come from a different culture in Mexico, and being in the group has made me a stronger person and helped me to see things in different ways. It works. It did for me and a lot of other people."

## Focused on Community continued

This dynamic group of Latinas from Mexico, Puerto Rico and South and Central America meets weekly at North Center and holds an annual retreat every October.

### South Chicago

**3062 East 91<sup>st</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60617**

*Assertive Community Treatment Program* (ACT) members recently ventured into the woods — literally.

ACT is an intensive, community-based adult mental health program designed to reduce the number of psychiatric hospitalizations for individuals with severe mental illness. Their struggle with mental illness is frequently compounded by their residence in South Chicago, a community besieged with extreme poverty, gang violence and very limited resources.

To help ACT participants gain a different perspective and relief from lives burdened by stress and hopelessness, Theresa Long, an ACT community service worker, suggested taking them to Camp Algonquin, owned by McHenry County Conservation District and located along the Fox River Valley.

For two days and nights, ACT participants enjoyed nature hikes, a team-building challenge course, camp fires and a series of workshops to help them increase their level of functioning and focus on their personal strengths. Workshop topics included proper nutrition, budgeting on a fixed income, and strategies to stay mentally healthy.

According to ACT team supervisor Tina Austin, “This is the closest thing to a vacation, and being able to simply focus on recovery, that many of our clients will ever experience.” Linda H., an ACT participant for three years concurs, “Camp has made me realize that I do matter and that I can get better and stay healthy.”

*“Metropolitan is an important part of the network of people and programs that improve the quality of life for families and whose programs have been strengthening communities throughout the Southwest region for many years.”*



### Southwest

**10537 South Roberts Road  
Palos Hills, IL 60465**

Metropolitan Family Services Southwest was recently named Outstanding Agency Partner of the Year by United Way of Metropolitan Chicago and was one of forty recipients honored at the Community Celebration and awards banquet held May 19 at the Chicago Hilton.

“United Way of Metropolitan Chicago is honored to recognize Metropolitan Family Services as an Outstanding Agency Partner,” says Pamela Tully, United Way executive vice president of Resource Development and Community Building. “Metropolitan is an important part of the network of people and programs that improve the quality of life for families and whose programs have been strengthening communities throughout the Southwest region for many years.”

Metropolitan Family Services Southwest was honored in the category of agencies with budgets of less than \$5 million.

The agency was recognized for mental health service programs in which United Way invests: Family and Individual Counseling and Outpatient Psychiatric Services. Both programs provide professional care for low- and moderate-income people who do not have medical health insurance.

## continued from front page

the program as they follow five “Take Charge Action Steps,” which include exploring one’s community, identifying problems, evaluating policy, exploring options and taking action.

The first year the team tackled teen pregnancy, which culminated in a rally attracting more than 300 community members who supported the effort. Two years ago, the team found their next issue

when they discovered that Guadalupe needed a kidney. “They did research and got people from the kidney dialysis center to come in and speak,” notes Duane.

The *Learn and Serve* team also decided to help in the community by visiting dialysis centers, one of which was utilized by kids their age and younger. The team brought checkers and other games with them to play with the youths for fun and to get their minds off their daunting medical situations.

Guadalupe received a donated kidney two days before Christmas 2005. That donation was made by Asia Saunders-Toney, a 19-year-old member of the Air Force who was home on leave from duty in Iraq. While home, Asia was the victim of a hit-and-run driver. Asia had made provisions that if anything ever happened to her, she wanted her organs donated to help others. Her husband and father consented to Asia’s wishes, and the donation was facilitated by Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network, an agency that coordinates organ and tissue donations for most of Illinois and Northwest Indiana.

“What the Teen Center team has accomplished through their efforts on behalf of organ donation is clearly life-changing – for both their personal experience and for the people who desperately wait for a donated organ,” says Jack Lynch, director of community affairs at Gift of Hope. “We know that education is the key to helping people overcome their misconceptions and make the lifesaving decision to be a donor, and we are proud to be a small part of this important initiative.”

The mutual care between the Huerta and Saunders families was evident as Guadalupe and Marvin Saunders, Asia’s father, took part in interviews by WLS-TV’s Harry Porterfield. In the feature, Guadalupe said she considered the Saunders to be her “second family.” Marvin spoke of his respect and admiration for Guadalupe, and for how she is giving back to others. Metropolitan also held a special banquet for the Saunders and Huerta families, which included guests from the Office of Secretary of State Jesse White, a major advocate of organ donation, and Gift of Hope.

Metropolitan’s *Learn and Serve* program shows the powerful difference youth can make when they’re involved and inspired to contribute. “When the kids start, they don’t know what to expect,” says Duane. “Later, you can’t get them out of their chairs – they won’t leave because they love the program so much,” he says.

*Illinois’ First Person Consent law, signed January 1, 2006, makes a person’s wishes to be an organ donor legally binding. To learn more, visit [www.lifegoeson.com](http://www.lifegoeson.com). ■*

*“What the Teen Center team has accomplished through their efforts on behalf of organ donation is clearly life-changing...”*

Jack Lynch, director of community affairs at Gift of Hope

## Events

### DuPage 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala



**Pictured from left to right: The Honorable Tom Marcucci, Mayor of Elmhurst and Co-chair of the Gala Committee and his wife, Mimi Marcucci; Judi Jacobs, Co-chair of the Gala Committee, Wheaton League President and her husband, Bruce Jacobs, LaSalle Bank.**

On May 5, 2006, Metropolitan Family Services DuPage celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a spectacular gala at Seven Bridges in Woodridge. Event proceeds topped \$105,000 and will help fund crucial programs and services at DuPage including *Youth Intervention*, *In-Home Respite* and many others. Special thanks to presenting sponsor, LaSalle Bank and Ruby Sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Imburgia, IBM Corp. and Mr. and Mrs. George Muccianti for their generous support.

### Make a Child Smile



**U.S. Cellular's John Cochran (far left) presents a check for \$35,000 to Suzie Golub, (far right) Event Chair and Dr. Richard L. Jones, President and CEO of Metropolitan Family Services.**

An enthusiastic Chicago volunteer group of moms determined to help moms in need joined together once again to raise funds while providing fun for families at the fifth Annual Make a Child Smile Street Fest. In the tradition of a classic Chicago street fair, the event had great music, food, lively entertainment, a raffle and silent auction and lots of family-friendly activities. More than \$114,000 was raised in support of Metropolitan's *Mentors of Mothers* (MOMS) and *Holiday Gift* programs. Special thanks to presenting sponsor, U.S. Cellular. Also thanks to John's Place, Denise Orlin Photography and Suzie Golub, event chair.

### Jazz at the Met



**Liane Williams and the Beverly All-Stars entertained at Jazz at the Met.**

The Calumet Center Community Board presented its annual "Jazz at the Met" fundraiser on Friday, June 23, 2006. This year's theme was *The Cotton Club*. More than 150 guests from the Greater Roseland community enjoyed an evening of live jazz performed by the Beverly All-Stars featuring Liane Williams, Calumet Center Community Board member. Howard Green, a case manager with the Service Connector program at Calumet, joined Liane and the All-Stars as a special guest and sang solos and a duet with Liane. Alvin (Wasi) Young, a counselor with the STRIVE program, played congas. Truly a community effort, the event helped raise \$15,000 to benefit Metropolitan Family Services Calumet Center programs.

### metropolis

The Metro Board held its annual fundraiser, *metropolis*, at Galleria Marchetti on June 2, 2006. The event raised more than \$72,000 for Metropolitan Family Services. "The Chicago Tribune's *Red Eye* edition highlighted the event as one of its two 'Best Bets' for the evening, which brought in some new faces," says Angela Mersch, *metropolis* chair. Guests enjoyed



**Angela Mersch, Metro Board member and *metropolis* 2006 Chair, with Sherie Duggan.**

cocktails donated by Grey Goose and beer by Goose Island, great conversation, a delicious Italian buffet and a fantastic silent auction. Special guest Susan Carlson of CBS 2 Chicago awarded door prizes to several lucky guests. DJ Jason Adams volunteered to keep the revelers dancing for hours. Thanks to Richard Shay for photographing the event.

### Father Victor J. Sivore Annual Golf Invitational



**Pictured from left to right: Neil Sullivan; Jeff Cholewa; Ray Zarack; Greg Ludwig, Funjet Vacations, and Dan Glaza.**

The sun shone brightly on George W. Dunne National Golf Course on June 7 for Southwest's annual golf invitational. Golfers bid on twenty silent auction items and enjoyed an old fashioned barbecue dinner. Our special thanks to CJ Erickson for organizing a putting contest and for their generous sponsorship. Thanks also to Funjet Vacations and Harris Bank. The event raised more than \$13,000 in support of the programs and services of Metropolitan Family Services Southwest.

### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Invitational



**Pictured from left to right: John Hooker; George Lofton; Frank Clark, Golf Invitational Honorary Chair, and Metropolitan Family Services Board Chair; and Harry Jones of ComEd.**

Hardy golfers braved the chilly spring weather at the 2006 Golf Invitational to benefit the child abuse prevention programs of Metropolitan Family Services. This year the event was held at Lake Barrington Shores Golf Club and raised nearly \$40,000. Congratulations to Harris Bank's foursome on their first-place team finish. A very special thank you to our generous presenting sponsors, Edward R. James, ComEd and CB Richard Ellis for making the outing a success.

### Bowl for Kids' Sake



**Big Brothers Big Sisters board member Jim Carter (second row, left) and the Carter-Johnson team.**

Young and old – from police departments and softball teams to DuPage Board members and “big and littles” – came out to bowl in support of *Big Brothers Big Sisters* on March 11, 2006. More than \$25,000 was raised by some 200 bowlers in attendance. A great big thank you to top sponsors Naperville Exchange Club, Packaging Personified, the Naperville Jaycees and Royal American Bank.

## Thank you to our funders!

We would like to acknowledge our donors who consistently give so generously to Metropolitan's programs and initiatives. It is through the kindness of organizations like these that we are able to continue our mission of building strong families and vibrant communities.

### Polk Bros. Foundation \$85,000 Grant

Metropolitan's *Out-of-School-Time* programs received an \$85,000 grant from the Polk Bros. Foundation. The programs, held at nine Chicago Public Schools, broaden children's academic and recreational horizons. They also help students, parents, teachers, school administrators and community members engage with their schools as a community resource.

### Hedge Funds Care \$25,000 Grant

*Mentors of Mothers* (MOMS) will benefit from a \$25,000 grant from Hedge Funds Care, an alliance of hedge fund industry professionals committed to protecting children from abuse and neglect. MOMS pairs at-risk first-time teen mothers with experienced mentor mothers and helps teen moms finish high school and pursue higher education. The Hedge Funds Care grant supports a new initiative to increase MOMS program enrollment.

### Prince Charitable Trusts \$15,000 Grant

Metropolitan secured a \$15,000 grant from the Prince Charitable Trusts to support the *Parents Plus* program. Parents Plus is a drop-in session offered three mornings a week to families with children from birth to 5 years old. Parents learn methods that help stimulate children's cognitive, physical and emotional development. The sessions also allow parents to benefit from discussing the joys and challenges of parenting with fellow participants.

### WGN Radio 720 Neediest Kids Fund \$20,000 Grant

The WGN Radio 720 Neediest Kids Fund, a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, awarded \$20,000 to Project S.T.R.I.V.E. (*Strategies to Rejuvenate Interest and Value in Education*). Metropolitan partners with Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to offer Project S.T.R.I.V.E. at four public schools on Chicago's South Side, targeting children and adolescents who are wards of the state and at risk of school failure. Program goals include assisting student stabilization; reducing truancy, suspensions and expulsions; improving academic performance; increasing caregiver and caseworker involvement; and enhancing partnerships between DCFS, CPS and the community.

### Charter One Bank Contributes \$25,000 for 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

*Also Provides 3,000 Backpacks to Chicago Public School Students*

Charter One Bank is awarding a \$25,000 grant for Metropolitan's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. During a year of activities and programs in 2007, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will honor Metropolitan's ongoing legacy of strengthening families and communities.

In addition, Charter One Bank launched its Tools for School program in August. Charter One donated 3,000 backpacks to Chicago-area students who take part in Metropolitan's *School-Based* programs. Concert attendees at the Charter One Pavilion donated school supplies on-site as well as donations at branch banks as part of Charter One's Making Music Matter program during the first two weeks of August. Organizations represented by Metropolitan's board of directors also contributed supplies for the backpacks. Backpacks will be distributed at the beginning of the school year.

## Two \$25,000 Gifts for 2006 Holiday Celebration

The 2006 Holiday Celebration, an event benefiting Metropolitan Family Services and Chicago Tribune Charities, a McCormick Tribune Foundation Fund, is receiving a \$25,000 gift from Charter One Bank and another \$25,000 gift from Kimball Hill Homes, a major U.S. homebuilder. Metropolitan appreciates the support of Board members Allen Rodriguez of Charter One and Ken Love of Kimball Hill Homes in securing these contributions.

## \$35,000 Grant From U.S. Cellular

Continuing their support of Metropolitan Family Services, U.S. Cellular awarded a \$35,000 grant to support the implementation of *Learning Basket*, an educational program for children ages 0 – 3 years. *Learning Basket*, which features actual baskets that hold 18 categories of objects ranging from diversity dolls to measuring cups, will be used to help promote early childhood development progress for infants and toddlers in Metropolitan's *Mentors of Mothers (MOMS)*, a child abuse prevention program for at-risk teen mothers.

*Learning Basket* focuses on increasing family literacy and encouraging stronger cognitive, social, personal and imagination skills in young children through simple play activities that promote learning and strengthen parent-child interaction. *Learning Basket* will supplement the MOMS program's lessons on child development stages, encourage early reading skills, reinforce and bolster the mothers' reading skills, and give young children a head start on school readiness.

## Attention Young Professionals: Be a Part of the Metro Board

The Metro Board welcomes all young professionals and volunteers who are willing to contribute their time and talents to support Metropolitan Family Services' programs and initiatives. "Metropolitan Family Services is a terrific organization that offers many different programs for children, families and seniors," says Ashley Duchossois



**Pictured from left to right: Christy and Graham Gerst, Metro Board Chair, and George Hickey, Chicago Partners at metropolis.**

Joyce, board member. "If there's a particular area you are interested in supporting, Metropolitan most likely has a program for it."

The Metro Board also offers a great chance to network with future leaders in business and the community who share your values. "Being a part of the Metro Board offers a great opportunity to get involved in the community and truly make a difference," says Graham Gerst of Kirkland & Ellis and Metro Board chair. "It's also a good introduction to the way a board operates."

"I got involved in the Metro Board to contribute to a worthy cause while making friends with other young professionals," says new member MaryRay Breen of CBS. "As a member of the Metro Board, I feel a part of a remarkable group making a difference in Chicago."

See page 8 to learn more about the Metro Board signature event, *metropolis*.

# Metropolitan Family Services

Value families.

One North Dearborn  
Chicago, Illinois 60602-4322

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## family

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## Save The Date

### Metropolitan Family Services Calumet Center Annual Meeting September 8, 2006

For more information, call  
773.371.3600.

### Metropolitan Family Services Annual Meeting September 12, 2006

Metropolitan Family Services' 149th Annual Meeting. For more information, call 312.986.4174.

### Metropolitan Family Services DuPage Annual Meeting October 26, 2006

This year's meeting features the 2006 Gold LEAF awards, which recognize leadership and excellence in advocating for families. Metropolitan Family Services will also celebrate 75 years of providing services in DuPage County. For more information, call 630.784.4800.

### Metropolitan Family Services Southwest Annual Meeting November 2006

For more information, call  
708.974.2300

### Metropolitan Family Services South Chicago Annual Meeting and Holiday Luncheon November 28, 2006

For more information, call  
773.371.2900

### 25th Annual Holiday Celebration 2006 December 2, 2006

Join us for this spectacular holiday gala as we kick off Metropolitan Family Services' 150th anniversary. Sponsorship and ticket packages available. For more information call 312.986.4174.

### Legal Aid Bureau Awards Dinner and Christmas Spirits Benefit Performance December 7, 2006

An annual holiday favorite, this delightful evening recognizes leaders in Chicago's legal community who have made significant contributions to equal access to justice for all. For more information call 312.986.4098.

### Holiday Gift Program November 26, 2006

The deadline to adopt a family from Metropolitan's *Holiday Gift* program is November 26, 2006. For more information call 312.986.4018.