

# family

**News from Metropolitan Family Services**

Winter/Spring 2010

## In this Issue

A Call to Action **cover**

Reshaping Human  
Services **page 3**

State Legislators Support  
Safety **page 3**

Community Forum **page 4**

Children's Centers Win  
Quality Awards **page 5**

Center News **pages 6 - 7**

Events **pages 8 - 9**

Donor News **pages 10 - 11**

Staff Kudos **page 11**

Save the Date **back cover**

## A Call to Action Against Youth Violence Galvanizes a Community

The shocking beating death of Fenger High School student Derrion Albert in September 2009 thrust the tragic issue of youth violence into the national spotlight, causing everyone to stop and take notice. The stark brutality of the incident, which was caught on video, rocked not only the Chicago community of Roseland, but the entire country.

Metropolitan's Calumet Center staff immediately responded to this tragedy by swiftly focusing the community's grief and willingness to come together to take on the issue of youth violence. They went straight to those with the most at stake to find out what would be the most effective means of tackling this growing problem.

"We pulled together focus groups of high school students, 7th and 8th graders, parents and community providers," said Audrena Spence, Calumet Center Executive Director. "We asked them: 'What is the problem? What would you like to see happen? What is the solution?' Parents told us they wanted to see more community services and to know what services different agencies provide. Youth wanted to see more respect among students, adults, parents and police."

## Youth and Family Summit Takes Shape

Armed with input from those closest to the crisis of escalating youth violence, Calumet Center staff organized the Breaking Barriers Youth and Family Summit. The Summit, held at Olive-Harvey College on Dec. 5, 2009, offered a dynamic forum for area youth, parents and a diverse panel of community supporters and advocates to address the violence in today's youth culture, its potential causes and destructive effects. Special sessions on mentoring, health and wellness, teen job skills, and post secondary schooling options also were presented.

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## Metropolitan Participates in Roundtable on Youth Violence Called by U.S. Rep. Jackson

Dr. Richard Jones was asked by U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. to facilitate a roundtable discussion in January 2010 dealing with youth violence. The meeting was part of an ongoing effort to develop strategies that reduce violence which lead to the death of teenager Derrion Albert near Fenger High School.

## A Call to Action Against Youth Violence *continued*

The Summit represented a true reflection of a community stirred to action, joining together to fight a common, devastating problem. Support for the event was widespread. Eleven sponsors and 16 community partners from a variety of government, non-profit, community and public agencies banded together to assist with the event. Parent volunteers canvassed the neighborhoods, passing out flyers door-to-door to encourage families to attend. “We had the buy-in of all the entities involved,” said Spence. “It truly was a community event that the whole community took ownership of.”

Three buses were dispatched to pick up students and parents from various locations throughout the community and bring them to the Summit. Metropolitan’s Calumet and Trumbull Park offices, along with area elementary and high schools, including Fenger High School, served as pick up points.

The Summit was a resounding success, drawing more than 150 adults and youth.

### Honest, Frank Talk

In one of the event’s most powerful moments, parents and their children heard straight talk from two men known as the Midwest Brothers of Opportunity. These men have criminal records and an extensive history of gang involvement. They grew up in public housing and each served an average of 10 years in prison.

Their presentation included frank talk to parents and kids about making the right choices and avoiding a life

of violence. They commanded the complete attention of the crowd as they relived that point in their lives when they were 15 years old and at a crossroads, confronted with different life options. These men were very open in painting a clear picture of the path they chose, which determined the eventual life they would lead.

They also candidly addressed the parents, pointing out the influence parents have on their children. They clearly stated that the bad choices parents make often hinder their children from making the right choices themselves. Their discussion was sobering as they stressed the need for parents to be positive examples for their children.

“It’s not so much that the parents and youth hadn’t heard these messages before,” said Spence, “but it made such an impact because of who they were hearing it from.”

### Next Steps

Because the Breaking Barriers concept was a grass-roots effort in which all the community stakeholders participated in its planning and implementation, the spirit of the event lives on in the Roseland community. Another Youth Summit was planned for April 2010 and organized by the Nehemiah Restoration Coalition, an association of urban church ministries in the Roseland neighborhood.

“Holding the Breaking Barriers Youth and Family Summit wasn’t just a one-time event,” said Spence. “We are putting things in place in this community for a long time to come.” ■



### Chicago Bears’ Israel Idonije Supports African American Initiative

**Chicago Bears Player Israel Idonije (left) met Metropolitan Calumet Executive Director Audrena Spence (center) and Larry Phillips (right), Counselor with Metropolitan’s Calumet Center, at a presentation Phillips made to 5th through 8th grade students at Haley Elementary School. The presentation, which captured the attention of the students, dealt with gang violence and the importance of making good choices. Metropolitan thanks Idonije for his support of the African American Initiative, a program that focuses on positively impacting Black males in the Greater Roseland community.**

## Reshaping the Future of Human Services

Helping families live strong, safe and fulfilling lives is what Metropolitan Family Services is about. And families rely on the services we provide – human services – to help them realize their best potential. Whether it's keeping a troubled youth or teen out of gangs and getting them back on track in school, helping a client with mental illness get medication that allows him to live independently, or helping a mother and her children escape a violent home situation, human services help make the difference in lives every day.

Illinois' human services are largely funded by state and federal sources. Yet when budget time comes, human services are typically at the bottom of the priority list. This, along with the State of Illinois' multi-billion dollar debt, means that the well-being of thousands of families remains in jeopardy.

To address this problem head-on, Illinois Partners for Human Services, a statewide coalition that advocates for a human service infrastructure based on quality services, adequate funding and measurable results, proposed to Governor Pat Quinn that a Human Services Commission be appointed. It would begin by examining the current system, which has developed haphazardly over the past three decades in response to court orders, federal directives and advocacy from concerned citizens. The work would lead to recommendations about the redesign of the system.

In December 2009 the Governor appointed members to the Commission and asked Toni Irving, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Office of the Governor, and Ngoan Le from the Chicago Community Trust to co-chair it and to oversee the analytical work. Metropolitan Family Services is part of the core Commission team that is conducting related research. From January 2010 until November 2011, the Commission plans to provide the following deliverables in four reports, which will be presented to the Governor and the General Assembly:

### First Report: June 2010

- Facts on Illinois' current human service programs and service delivery systems
- Trends related to human service needs

### Second Report: November 2010

- Implementing best practices
- Maintaining efficient management of publicly funded programs and services

### Third Report: June 2011

- Creating outcome measures and accountability mechanisms

### Fourth Report: November 2011

- Determining adequate appropriation levels for the provision of human services
- Establishing a fair process for determining fair, adequate and timely reimbursement for services ■

- The current human service system grew haphazardly over the past three decades in response to different forces – court orders, federal mandates and concerned citizens advocating for laws to protect vulnerable residents.
- In 2002, funding for human services began to tighten because of competing needs from other parts of the State of Illinois budget, such as education, health care and pensions.
- Over the last year because of the recession, demands for human services have increased at the very time when State funding is decreasing. There is much hope that the Commission will redesign the system so that resources are directed in a way that will help bring about better results for all.

## State Legislators Help Support Safety for Metropolitan Clients and Staff

Sen. Donne Trotter (D-17) joined Metropolitan Calumet Center staff and Community Board Members at the Center's holiday gathering in December 2009, where he was thanked for earmarking \$100,000 for Metropolitan after hearing the Center had to replace all of its windows with bulletproof glass.

Violence has been a growing concern in the area, especially since a bullet casing was found in glass blocks formerly located on the back of the building. Those blocks have been replaced with bricks. Bulletproof glass also was

installed throughout Metropolitan's Southeast Chicago Center, when a bullet hole was found in a window before the building even opened.

Despite budget considerations, Metropolitan President and CEO Dr. Richard Jones did not feel Metropolitan could wait for bulletproof glass because delaying installation would have placed staff and clients in danger. The agency hopes that when capital funding becomes available, Metropolitan will be at the top of the list, thereby allowing it to recoup what it has expended. This is

expected to happen once bonds related to capital funding are made available, requests for proposals are released for the bonds, and State of Illinois departments contact Metropolitan and other nonprofit organizations to request related contracts.

Metropolitan sincerely thanks State Rep. Bob Rita (D-28) and Sen. Emil Jones III (D-14) for also contributing to earmarked funds for Metropolitan Calumet. ■

## Illinois General Assembly Members Participate in Southwest Side Forum



Pictured from left to right: Kedar Coleman (Southwest Youth Collaborative), State Rep. Daniel Burke, State Rep. Andre Thapedi, State Rep. Mattie Hunter, State Rep. Esther Golar, Suzanne Strasberger (Metropolitan), Jennifer Alexander (Metropolitan), State Sen. Jacqui Collins, Rabbi Joshua Salter (Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation) and Father Tony Pizzo (St. Rita of Cascia Church).

Members from Illinois' General Assembly came to speak with more than 150 residents from Chicago's Southwest Side at a community forum held January 20, 2010 at Holy Cross Hospital and presented by a group of area organizations including Metropolitan's Midway Center.

State Senators Mattie Hunter and Jacqui Collins, House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie, and State Representatives Dan Burke, Esther Golar and Andre Thapedi came to hear residents share how last year's state funding reductions led to an increase in the rate of random violence in their neighborhoods and decreased their access to important human services programs. They talked about how, as a result of the recession, unemployment rates have gone up significantly on the Southwest Side and the number of uninsured served by Holy Cross Hospital has expanded by 150 percent over last year. Residents and community leaders shared their support for a tax increase, provided that it did not have a disproportionate impact on lower-income families.

Assembly members listened to the concerns, but emphasized the challenges they face in making changes due to the budget impasse in Springfield.

Organizations joining Metropolitan's Midway Center to host the event include the Greater Southwest Development Corporation, Holy Cross Hospital, Southwest Youth Collaborative, Southwest Organizing Project, Gage Park/Chicago Lawn Safety Networks Coalition and the 8th District Community Policing Office. ■

## Metropolitan's President/CEO Named to Illinois Human Services Commission

Metropolitan's President and CEO Dr. Richard Jones is among a statewide group of leaders that has been named to the Illinois Human Services Commission. The Commission, appointed by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, is comprised of chief administrators from eight of Illinois' major human services agencies, human services advocates, community leaders and state legislators.

The Commission will address issues such as the process for determining fair, adequate and timely reimbursement for human services, efficient management of publicly funded programs and services, and projections for Illinois' future human services needs.

### Members include:

Joseph Antolin	Maggie Laslo
Denver Bitner	Rep. David Leitch
Dr. Byron Brazier	Valerie Lies
Dr. Mary Ellen Caron	Soo Ji Min
Sr. Rosemary Connelly	Rep. Rosemary Mulligan
Sen. William Delgado	Sen. Carole Pankau
Eileen Durkin	Maria Pesquira
Art Dykstra	Gregory Pierce
Rep. Sara Feigenholtz	Nancy Ronquillo
Pam Heavens	Dee Ann Ryan
Gary Huelsmann	Kathy Ryg
Sen. Mattie Hunter	Nancy Shier
Anne Irving	Sen. Dave Syverson
Marco Jacome	Laura S. Thrall
Rep. Naomi Jakobsson	Ray Vazquez
Shawn Jeffers	Maria Whelan
George Jones	David Whittaker
Richard L. Jones	Diane Williams

## Midway and North Children's Centers Earn Quality Awards and Additional State Funding

We have always known the importance of offering quality, affordable child care to the families we serve. Now the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies has recognized the Midway and North Children's Centers with quality awards as part of the network's "Quality Counts – Quality Rating System." The System assesses eligible infant and early childhood care providers based on extensive reviews of key quality indicators including administration, leadership, personnel and environment.

Under normal circumstances the quality awards would lead to funding increases for both centers, increases totaling approximately \$55,000. The awards are funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services. However due to the state budget crisis the State of Illinois has capped Metropolitan's ability to bill for services. So Metropolitan cannot, as the situation stands, secure the new funding. These funds would have been used to subsidize the investments that help establish a reputation for quality child care. The situation underscores the deep and pervasive effect the state budget situation has on Metropolitan's ability to provide quality human services to families who need them. ■

## Family Works Promotes Independence

Every morning Metropolitan's Family Works office in the Trumbull Park neighborhood is up and running at 8:30 a.m., and it's Cecelia Morton who makes it happen. "She's the first person everyone sees when they walk through the door," says her supervisor, Evelyn Williams. "Cecelia is my right hand who takes care of the office. She's an excellent employee. When she's out, we go crazy here."

Cecelia, 22, has been working in the Family Works office since August 2008. She assists with scheduling clients, data entry and general office work. She understands the issues clients face and knows exactly what they want and need.

Ultimately, Cecelia would like to be a nurse. She is in her second semester at Olive-Harvey College in Chicago. Once she completes her general requirements, she plans to study nursing at Saint Xavier University in Chicago. She also is a doting aunt to her nieces and nephews, always looking out for what is best for them.

Cecelia has worked since she was 16. Before joining the Family Works program, she managed a Family Dollar store. She left that job, looking to be a part of something bigger, something more. She wanted to make a difference and work at a job that would be a source of pride for her. That's how she became interested in Metropolitan Family Services.

When a Family Works case worker made a house visit to talk to Cecelia's sister, it was Cecelia who ended up talking to him and mentioning that she was looking for a job. When the case worker returned to the office, he gave Evelyn Cecilia's

resume. "I interviewed Cecelia and loved her," said Evelyn. "I wanted to hire her on the spot!" That was about a year-and-a-half ago. Cecelia has been an integral part of the Family Works office ever since.

The Family Works program provides supportive services to more than 1,000 families in far southeast Chicago as they move into new housing under the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation. Family Works provides case management, employment and counseling services for families to help ease the transition into their new homes and communities and to help them become more independent. Linking clients to employment is a cornerstone of the Family Works initiative.

"I could honestly say that this is the best job I've ever had in my life," said Cecelia. She enjoys working in a professional atmosphere and appreciates the positive influence her office position provides. "I don't see too many people my age who are acting right and doing what they're supposed to do," she said.

And there is no question Cecelia is making a difference. "Over just the past three months we helped place over 25 people in jobs—mostly full-time jobs," she said with pride. "It's wonderful working here." ■

## Teen Moms Treated to Fun Makeover

Some teen moms got to be princesses for a day thanks to the teen volunteers, moms of the teens and the generous owners at Frankie's on the Park boutique, 2322 N. Clark Street, Chicago. The trendy store, which caters to teens, treated 11 teen moms from Metropolitan's Mentors of Mothers program to a fun, stylish makeover. After having their make-up done, the girls



picked out new outfits and took photos with their babies. Frankie's on the Park was founded by Lisa Rolf-Burik and Mary DeRose Carter. These caring women are friends of Metropolitan Board Member and ardent supporter Lisa Schenkman. The team at Frankie's on the Park believes strongly in the importance of businesses giving back to the community and is committed to offering opportunities for customers to be involved in philanthropic activities. ■

## 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 in which they live. Whether it is providing premier child care services or helping families navigate needs for counseling, Metropolitan provides a wealth of programs and services designed to meet the needs of people of all ages.



**Sixty-four happy and grateful children received free shoes for the holidays from the Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids program, courtesy of Payless ShoeSource.**

### Calumet

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

#### A Gift of Heart and Sole

Sixty-four excited and thankful children were able to shop for a free pair of new shoes for the holidays, courtesy of Payless ShoeSource. The donations were part of the Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids program, a grassroots effort aimed at providing more than \$1.2 million in free shoes to children of low-income families during the holiday season. Payless launched the program in 2008 in response to the growing economic crisis and uses local nonprofits to offer immediate, direct access to those in need. Metropolitan Family Services applied and was selected to be a U.S. Nonprofit Partner for 2009.

The children and their parents were very grateful and so excited to be able to shop for shoes. One mother expressed that a “weight was lifted off her shoulders,” because now her children would have new shoes.

### DuPage

222 East Willow Avenue,  
Wheaton, IL 60187

#### Welcome New DuPage Community Board Members!

Four representatives have been named to the Community Board of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage and will be serving three-year terms:

- **The Honorable Michael Gresk, Mayor of Wheaton, and the Assistant Vice President at First Choice Bank in Wheaton.** Mayor

Gresk also is actively involved in the Lion's Club, the Exchange Club and St. Michael Church.

- **William Jennrich, Director of Retail Banking for West Suburban Bank in Darien.** Jennrich also serves as the President of the Frankfort Baseball Association.
- **Michael Mazza, Owner and Principal at Michael P. Mazza LLC, in Glen Ellyn.** Mazza is a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association and the Union League Club.
- **Dr. Susan Rose, Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, School of Social Welfare, and Elmhurst Alderman.** Dr. Rose has published numerous articles and has served as an Editorial Advisory Board Member of Social Work Education for an international social work journal.

“I would like to welcome these dedicated individuals to the DuPage Community Board,” said Theresa Nihill, Executive Director of Metropolitan DuPage. “This Board has always been an active part of the community, providing vital input in responding to the needs of families we serve.”

### Evanston/Skokie Valley and North

820 Davis Street, Evanston, IL 60201  
3249 North Central Avenue, Chicago, IL 60634

#### Leader Retires, New Director Named at North and Evanston/Skokie Centers

A new year has brought leadership transition to Metropolitan's North and Evanston/Skokie Centers.

**Sandra Stumme, LCSW**, former Executive Director of the North Center and the Evanston/Skokie Valley Center since 1998, retired from Metropolitan at the end of 2009 after 21 years of exceptional service and leadership. Stumme joined the agency in 1988 as a social worker.

During her tenure, the North Center, which serves a large Polish population, expanded its programming to serve the area's growing number of Latino residents. Under her leadership, a new North Center facility was created and the new North Children's Center was constructed.

A member of the National Association of Social Workers and the Academy of Certified Social Workers, Stumme was recognized with the Fetzer Award for Program Development in 1992.

**Fernando Freire, LCSW, LCPC** will succeed Stumme as Executive Director of the North Center and Evanston/Skokie Valley Center.

Freire came to Metropolitan Family Services in 1990 as a social worker. He later served at different Metropolitan locations until 1997, after which he left to work with another human services agency. Freire returned to Metropolitan in 2001 at the North Center. Since 2008, he has been program manager for the North Center and Evanston/Skokie Valley.

Freire received his Master of Social Work from the University of Puerto Rico and his Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Illinois Certified Domestic Violence Professional.

*Metropolitan welcomes Fernando Freire to his new Directorships and thanks Sandra Stumme for her dedicated service to the organization.*

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## Midway and Southeast Chicago

**3843 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60629**  
**3062 East 91<sup>st</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60617**

### Midway and Southeast Chicago Honor Community Partners

Within Midway and Southeast Chicago communities, there are individuals who are deeply committed to making their neighborhoods thrive and to delivering help to those who need it most. Metropolitan is grateful to partner with these individuals as we work together to help families succeed. The following people were named Community Partners of the Midway and Southeast Chicago Centers in 2009:

#### Midway

- Delia Cortes, Midway Head Start Parent Volunteer
- Dekitha Jackson, Midway Children's Center Parent Volunteer
- Peggy Holmes, Chicago Department of Family & Support Services, Senior Services Contract Liaison
- Lisa Maggiore, Marquette Elementary School Social Worker

#### Southeast Chicago

- Ann Moore, Illinois Department of Human Services, Mental Health, Contract Manager
- Graciela Robledo, Claretian Associates, New Communities Organizer
- Jackie Samuel, Claretian Associates, New Communities Director
- Marcey Sorensen, New Millennium School of Health, Bowen Campus, Principal

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## Southwest

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

### Southwest Poverty Law Project in Great Demand

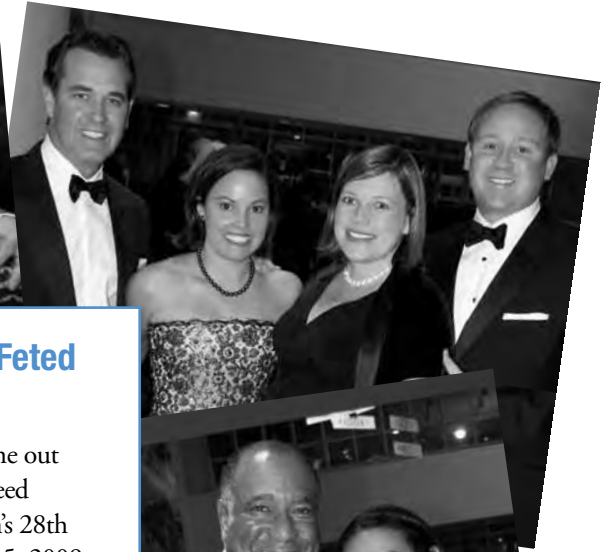
The financial hardships our clients face in this difficult economy often are filled with legal challenges as well. Metropolitan's Poverty Law Project is there to assist clients with free legal advice and representation on a variety of housing and financial issues.

The Poverty Law Project began at Metropolitan's Midway and Calumet Centers. Last year, thanks to a generous seed grant from the Lawyer's Trust Fund, Metropolitan expanded the Poverty Law Project to the Southwest Center where one attorney is on staff. The demand for services at Southwest is great. Clients are seen at our Blue Island and Palos Hills locations, as well as one morning each week at the Markham courthouse. Metropolitan provides assistance with housing evictions, foreclosures and a wide range of consumer financial disputes, as well as provides advice and advocacy on public entitlement issues. Metropolitan also helps families work through complex public systems to retain their housing subsidies. ■

# Events



Jim Fogerty/Exelon Photography



## Frank and Vera Clark & Family Feted at Holiday Celebration

More than 300 business and civic leaders came out to celebrate the season and help families in need throughout the Chicago area at Metropolitan's 28th annual Holiday Celebration, held December 5, 2009 at the Chicago History Museum. The Celebration raised more than \$400,000 gross benefiting Metropolitan and the 50,000 families it serves.

Metropolitan Family Services was pleased to present the Family of the Year Award to long-time Metropolitan Family Services Board Member Frank Clark, his wife, Vera, and their family, who were honored as Family of the Year for their significant contributions to Chicago-area families and communities. Mr. Clark also was recognized for his extraordinary philanthropic leadership on the Metropolitan Family Services Board of Directors.

Event Co-chairs included Wallace Harris, Jr., Metropolitan Board Member and Senior VP, South District Executive Harris Bank; James Reynolds, Chairman & CEO, Loop Capital Markets, LLP; and Cordell Reed, Former SVP, ComEd.

Special thanks to all of the sponsors and guests who made the evening a success. ■



Jim Fogerty/Exelon Photography



Jim Fogerty/Exelon Photography

## DePaul University College of Law Honored at LAB Dinner

More than \$40,000 was raised at the 2009 Legal Aid Bureau Awards Dinner, held December 10, 2009 at the Chicago Club. The event, made possible through the generous support of law firms, corporations and individual sponsors, enables the Legal Aid Bureau to provide legal representation and assistance to thousands of clients and their families in cases of domestic violence, family law, consumer and housing issues, elder abuse and financial exploitation.

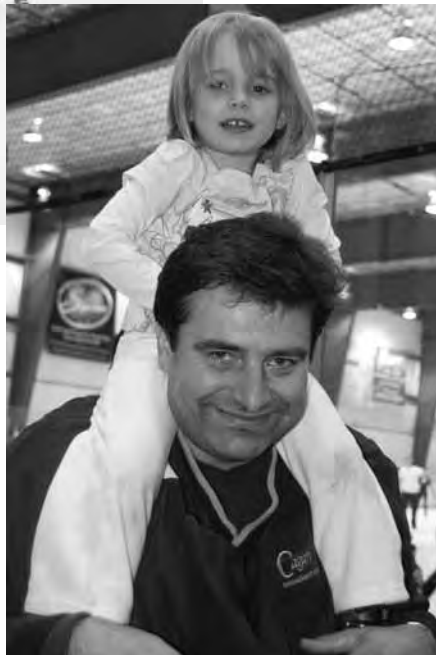
The event also honored the DePaul University College

of Law with the William H. Avery Award for Equal Access to Justice. The College of Law is a proven leader in providing critical legal services for individuals and families, doing so through its family and public interest centers and clinics.

The College of Law's alumni also play an integral role in advocating for families in need, both through their careers in public interest as well as their leadership and commitment to pro bono volunteerism. ■

## Families Enjoy the Ice at Winter Carnival

More than 130 attendees came out to enjoy fun on the ice at the Winter Carnival, held January 24, 2010 to benefit Metropolitan DuPage's MetroMentors program. More than \$15,000 was raised at the event, which featured ice skating, food, face painting and arts and crafts. MetroMentors is a youth mentoring program provided in partnership with schools and community organizations in DuPage County. ■



## 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 many generous individuals and organizations like these that we are able to continue our mission of building strong families and vibrant communities.

### The McCormick Foundation Provides \$400,000 to Support Counseling

Metropolitan has received a \$400,000 grant from the McCormick Foundation spanning 2010 and 2011. This grant, awarded through the Foundation's Special Initiatives program, will benefit Metropolitan's General Counseling services. General Counseling provides urgently needed preventive services which help to avert more intensive, and costly, mental health conditions.

General Counseling has been a core Metropolitan strength for many years. Yet it also has been one of the hardest-hit service areas due to the recession. This grant will greatly help Metropolitan continue to provide counseling to vulnerable clients who otherwise would lack access.

The McCormick Foundation has historically been a key Metropolitan supporter, and it is an honor to collaborate with them again as a major partner.

### Charter One Foundation Provides Grant for Young Fathers

Charter One has provided a \$50,000 one-year grant to Metropolitan benefiting the Young Fathers program. Young Fathers addresses the barriers to success young fathers face by helping them increase their job search skills, as well as find and keep employment. In the process, the program helps young men to stabilize their lives and in turn their communities, along with strengthening the relationships the men have with their children and families.

Upon entering Young Fathers, most participants have never had steady full-time employment. Forty-five percent have had criminal backgrounds with felony convictions, but are now ready to make positive changes in their lives.

Programs that support young fathers are rare, and Metropolitan is proud of the strong outcomes that this unique program produces. Nine in 10 Young Fathers participants retain jobs or find other jobs, and eight of those nine are employed for at least one year or longer. Charter One Foundation's strategic partnership with Metropolitan will be meaningful as we work together to provide young men with the skills they need to lead productive lives.

### Grace Bersted Foundation Benefits In-Home Senior Respite

The Grace Bersted Foundation has awarded \$20,000 supporting Metropolitan DuPage's In-Home Senior Respite program. The program offers respite services for family caregivers of frail and elderly seniors. Volunteers from throughout DuPage County participate and are carefully screened and trained. In-Home Senior Respite enables seniors to age in place; reduces stress, depression and anxiety among family caregivers; strengthens the relationship between caregivers and those cared for; and provides a meaningful volunteer opportunity for DuPage residents.

### Nathan and Emily Blum Fund and the Bank of America Foundation Support Metropolitan

Grants of \$65,700 from the Nathan and Emily Blum Fund and \$40,000 from the Bank of America Foundation will provide much needed general support for Metropolitan as it continues providing and mobilizing the services needed to strengthen families and communities. Support from these longtime partners helps Metropolitan sustain programs and activities that are designed to help individuals and families learn and put into practice skills needed to meet and overcome life's challenges.

### Federation for Community Schools and the Polk Bros. Foundation Strengthen Metropolitan Community Schools Partnerships

Metropolitan was honored to learn that the Federation for Community Schools, a collaborative that advocates for policies that develop and sustain community schools, awarded a Dimon Distinguished Community School award of \$10,000 to the community school partnership between George M. Pullman Elementary School and Metropolitan. This is the second time that Metropolitan has been recognized for its achievements in implementing the community school model, which works to bring resources into partner schools and provide academic support and enrichment activities, transforming the school into a community-wide resource.

As part of its work in community schools, Metropolitan

continues to play a leading role in high school partnerships. The Polk Bros. Foundation, at the forefront of the Chicago community schools movement since launching the Full Service Schools Initiative in 1996, has provided \$100,000 in support of Metropolitan's partnership with Bowen Campus, a high school campus made up of four small high schools in Southeast Chicago. This award is part of a \$600,000, three-year grant.

## Citi Foundation Helps Upward Bound Students Prepare for College

The Citi Foundation has awarded \$20,000 to Metropolitan's Upward Bound program, which prepares high school students for college by equipping them with skills and motivation needed

to succeed. Upward Bound is working with 50 first generation college-bound students at Corliss High School on Chicago's far South Side. Through the program, students are getting additional instruction time in class work, academic counseling, cultural programming and summer academic instruction along with support in researching and applying to colleges.

## TJX Companies Provide Grant to "I Can Problem Solve"

TJX Companies, which includes Marshalls, awarded a \$5,000 grant to Metropolitan's "I Can Problem Solve" program. The program teaches children ages 3-11 skills needed to solve interpersonal problems without responding aggressively. ■

## Staff Kudos

In addition to being named to the Illinois Human Services Commission by Governor Pat Quinn (see page 4), **President and CEO Dr. Richard Jones** participated in a Donors Forum panel discussion titled "Dialogue with Donors – In Times Like These ... Coping in a Slack Economy One Year Later," in December 2009. The discussion focused on trends related to nonprofits' response to the economy. The Donors Forum is the premier resource for networking and education, information and knowledge, and leadership on behalf of philanthropy in Illinois.

Dr. Jones also participated in "Career Opportunities in Non-traditional Health Care," a panel discussion held February 25, 2010 that addressed good governance practices and the role boards play in recruiting young talent. The presentation targeted students, those just starting their careers and other professionals. Dr. Jones also met with students after the panel to discuss career opportunities in social services. The American College of Healthcare Executives' Chicago Health Executives Forum sponsored the event, held at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

**Colleen Jones, Executive Vice President and COO**, was awarded a major scholarship in February 2009 to the four-week residential Advanced Executive Program at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. The program is one of the flagship executive education programs Kellogg offers, featuring their most senior faculty to introduce the latest management research and thinking. Jones was among an international group of senior executives who participated.

The program provided insights applicable to the challenges and opportunities that Metropolitan faces moving forward.

**Suzanne Strassberger, VP of Government Affairs and Strategic Initiatives**, was re-appointed by Illinois Department of Health and Family Services Director Barry Maram to chair the Child Support Advisory Council, a position she had first assumed in February 2009 when then-Chair Jerome Stermer became Governor Quinn's Chief of Staff. She also spoke on advocacy within a tight economy and the new necessity of collaborating across interest groups at the Federation for Community Schools Advocacy Training Day in January 2010.

Strassberger conducted a workshop in February 2010 at the Donors Forum titled "Understanding the Illinois State Budget." She led a discussion for colleagues from the nonprofit and philanthropic communities on the budget and provided information on how to read the budget with an eye towards human services. Participants of the workshop came away with pertinent information on how to monitor the budget as it evolves, connect available funding streams with appropriate programs, and where to go within state government for assistance.

**Audrena Spence, Executive Director of the Calumet Center**, has been named to the City of Chicago's Commission on Human Relations. The Commission is charged with enforcing the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance. The Commission also investigates complaints to determine whether discrimination may have occurred, and uses its enforcement powers to punish acts of discrimination. ■

# Metropolitan Family Services

150 years of amazing strength

One North Dearborn, Suite 1000  
Chicago, Illinois 60602-4322

*Address Correction Requested*

## family

A publication for the friends of Metropolitan Family Services. Call 312/986-4000 or visit our website at [www.metrofamily.org](http://www.metrofamily.org). For more information, contact Ann Pinkney, Senior Director of Marketing and Communications, at [pinkneya@metrofamily.org](mailto:pinkneya@metrofamily.org).

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## Save The Date

### 2010 Annual DuPage Gala

**May 7, 2010**

Spring means it's time for the DuPage Gala! Metropolitan's DuPage Community Board presents this evening of auctions, dinner, music and dancing. Proceeds will benefit Metropolitan DuPage. For information visit [www.metrofamily.org/dupagegala](http://www.metrofamily.org/dupagegala) or contact Patricia Mathis at [mathisp@metrofamily.org](mailto:mathisp@metrofamily.org).

### metropolis

**June 4, 2010**

Launch the summer at metropolis, a night that touches thousands of lives. Enjoy an evening of dancing, cocktails and dinner; proceeds will help support Metropolitan's child abuse and protection programs and the Legal Aid Bureau. Presented by the Metro Board, Metropolitan's young professionals group. For information visit [www.metrofamily.org/metropolis](http://www.metrofamily.org/metropolis) or contact Brian Paladie at [paladie@metrofamily.org](mailto:paladie@metrofamily.org).

### Make a Child Smile

**June 21, 2010**

Rock into summer with this family FUNdraiser! Make a Child Smile features fun for all ages – teen and adult bands, inflatables, art and crafts, face-painting, food and the ever-popular Jesse White Tumblers! Proceeds will benefit Metropolitan's programs that nurture strong and healthy relationships between mothers and their at-risk children. For information visit [www.metrofamily.org/mac](http://www.metrofamily.org/mac) or contact Barbara Ellson at [ellsonb@metrofamily.org](mailto:ellsonb@metrofamily.org).

### Jazz at the Met

**June 27, 2010**

Experience an afternoon of jazz, blues, food and fun! Music will be provided by Calumet Community Board member Liane Williams and The Beverly All-Stars. Proceeds will benefit Metropolitan's Calumet Center, serving families in the Greater Roseland area. For information

visit [www.metrofamily.org/jazz](http://www.metrofamily.org/jazz) or contact Ann Pinkney at [pinkneya@metrofamily.org](mailto:pinkneya@metrofamily.org).

### Day with Dad

**September 12, 2010**

Join us at U.S. Cellular Field for our second annual Day with Dad fundraiser! Fathers and their families will come out to see the White Sox take on the Kansas City Royals. They'll also take part in an on-field parade. Proceeds will help fund parenting programs that promote strong families and economic stability in their communities. For more information visit [www.metrofamily.org/dad](http://www.metrofamily.org/dad) or contact Allison Steinhauser at [steinhauser@metrofamily.org](mailto:steinhauser@metrofamily.org).