



Metropolitan Family Services

e-family

Issue 28

METROPOLITAN NAMED OUTSTANDING AGENCY PARTNER OF THE YEAR BY UNITED WAY OF CHICAGO



In recognition of its leadership in the human services industry, Metropolitan Family Services was given the Outstanding Agency Partner of the Year Award by the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago at the recent United Way 2012 Community Celebration breakfast. Throughout the year, Metropolitan participates in corporate speaking engagements on behalf of the United Way and provides hands-on volunteer opportunities to United Way corporate partners at Metropolitan's seven community centers in areas spanning education, economic stability, emotional wellness and family empowerment.

FAMILY WORKS SUPPORTS CLIENTS WORKING TOWARD THEIR GED

The Family Works program provides employment readiness services and counseling to families on Chicago's South and Southeast sides. It is part of the City of Chicago's comprehensive program to provide supportive services that lead to self-sufficiency for residents transitioning from traditional public housing to alternative affordable housing located throughout the city. Helping clients obtain their General Equivalency Diploma (GED) is an important step in increasing their employment options. Here are two stories of success:

Tesha Hentz and Damien Hentz:

Tesha Hentz is a 40-year old mother of six from the Trumbull Park Homes who dreamed of obtaining her GED. Since 2004, she had taken the test six times and unfortunately failed each time. Tesha realized she had some things to work through that were barring her from achieving her goal. That's when she contacted Metropolitan's Family Works staff for counseling and access to GED preparation. On her seventh attempt, she successfully received her GED. "The support I received from Family Works kept me from not quitting," Tesha said. Tesha plans to obtain her A.A. in Social Work from Harold Washington College.

Tesha's 19-year old son, Damien, faced a similar situation a year later. Damien realized early on that being a high school dropout didn't leave him with very many options. Damien set out to change his life and enrolled in a GED class at Olive-Harvey College. Family Works staff arranged for Damien to take the GED exam. He passed and now has his sights set on college.

DUPAGE PARTICIPATES IN INNOVATIVE SIX SIGMA PILOT PROJECTS

Metropolitan Family Services DuPage was selected among local nonprofits to be a part of an innovative business management training pilot project by the Choose DuPage economic development organization. The New Tools for New Times program will train a select group of DuPage non-profits in the Lean Six Sigma series techniques for increasing efficiency and productivity. "Doing more with less is vital in the human services sector where demand is at an all-time high due to the sluggish economy and an increase in the low-income population here in DuPage, amid declining funding resources," said Theresa Nihill, Executive Director of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage and member of the Choose DuPage Human Services Task Force.

U.S. CELLULAR VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE CHILDREN'S BIKES AND MORE TO THE SOUTHEAST CHICAGO CENTER

Thank you to the 100 U.S Cellular employees from the Customer Service Operations Team who took part in three volunteer activities last month. The volunteers assembled new bicycles that were donated to children in need in Chicagoland. The team also stuffed backpacks with school supplies and wrote several inspirational notes. Our own Southeast Chicago Center was the lucky recipient of eight brand new bicycles. Each bike was equipped with a helmet and a backpack loaded with school supplies. Many of our clients also received one of the thoughtfully written notes.



KENDRA REINSHAGEN HONORED WITH THE ESTHER ROTHSTEIN AWARD

Congratulations to Kendra Reinshagen, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society, who was presented with the Esther Rothstein Award by the Lawyers Trust Fund at the Fund's Annual Meeting on June 20. The Award recognizes the contributions of an attorney who has dedicated a significant portion of his or her legal career to the cause of equal access to justice. It is named in honor of Esther R. Rothstein, the first woman to serve as president of the Chicago Bar Association and former director and officer of the Lawyers Trust Fund.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT LUNCHEON

Where would we be without volunteers? Volunteers are our advocates, our ambassadors, our cheerleaders. This year at the Annual West Suburban Philanthropic Network Awards Luncheon, Metropolitan Family Services DuPage showed appreciation to several volunteers by publicly recognizing them as Outstanding Volunteers. Honored were: Anne Samsami, Robert and Laura Hyde, and Doris Raynor, Treasure House volunteers; Bob Hutchinson, Associate Board Member; and William Jennrich and Leslie Wilson, Board Members.



WHITE SOX CHARITIES SUPPORT HEALTHY FAMILIES

Thanks to Chicago White Sox Charities, which presented Metropolitan Family Services with a check during an on-field presentation at the May 15 game vs. the Detroit Tigers. Metropolitan President and CEO Ric Estrada (far right), Metropolitan Board Chair Martha Melman (third from right), and Metropolitan volunteer/former state Sen. William A. Marovitz (fourth from right) are shown receiving the check, which will support the Healthy Families program. Healthy Families works with young, first-time parents to promote positive parenting skills to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect. The program is offered at Metropolitan's Midway, North and Southeast Chicago community centers. Chicago White Sox Charities is a fund of the McCormick Foundation.

STAFF RECEIVE AWARDS AT EMPLOYEE SUMMIT

Congratulations to these Metropolitan staff members who were recognized with services awards at the All-Staff Summit June 11:

35 Years : Kathleen Antos

30 Years : John Wolff

25 Years : Denise Horton, Tana Paul, Theresa Nihill

20 Years : Angela Carter, Gayle Gatewood

15 Years : Aminah Weaver, Corinne Burns, William Hall, Marina Fleytlikh

10 Years : Janet Biscan, Richard De Frank, Peter Lewis, Michelle Churchey, Shirley Williams-Bains, Carrie Pullie, Jocelyn Howard, Eliane Stefango, Kathryn Mays, Barbara Ellson, Carolyn Little



5 Years : Linda Mayo, Marina Cajas, Tyshon Clark, Kim Greene, Heather Flett, Karen Hedrick, Ann Pinkney, Quincy Roseborough, Julie Jedrzejak, Linda Pionto, Malinda Lee, Tamara Sutton, Delilah Walker, Kristen Hofman, Janece Ortiz, Tracy Fondren, Grace Newgard, Maria Pacheco, Yolanda Fullilove, Felicitas Miranda, Kathleen Drouin, Janet Kelly, Lareatha Funches, Maribel Diaz, Morgan Williams, Tiara Winston, Alex Fabini, Maria Loya, Heather Bourgeois, JulioCapeles, Christina Murphy, Maria Sosa

In addition, the following staff members were honored:

**2011 Fetzer Award
For Non-Direct Services:**

Jamie Tolbert, Human Resources Representative, General Office

For Direct Services:

Kim Greene, Case Manager III, Calumet Center

Mike Brady Award

Vivian Moore, Program Manager, Calumet Center

Juanita Lepe Award

Lilia Gutierrez, Case Manger II, Southeast Chicago Center

2011 Betty Williams Award

Joyce Weston, Program Supervisor, Southeast Chicago Center

METROPOLIS 2012 RAISES SUPPORT FOR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

The Metro Board is proud to announce that, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and guests, metropolis 2012 raised more than \$147,000 in gross revenue to support Metropolitan's child abuse prevention programs and the Legal Aid Society! On June 1, nearly 400 young professionals gathered at Gallery 1028 for a night of live music by 'Stach!, a delicious buffet, cocktails, a silent auction and raffle. Photos can be seen on our flickr page by clicking here.



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS!

Thank you to the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation for its grant supporting Metropolitan's work to sustain select programs of the former Jane Addams Hull House. Also, Metropolitan's mental health programs received support from Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Upcoming Events Click below to learn more!

DAY WITH DAD!
a family fundraising event
Sunday, September 9th

10.11.12
EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE
AWARD LUNCHEON
HONORING PAULETTE DODSON