

family

News from **Metropolitan Family Services**

Winter/Spring 2007

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150 Years of Amazing Strength

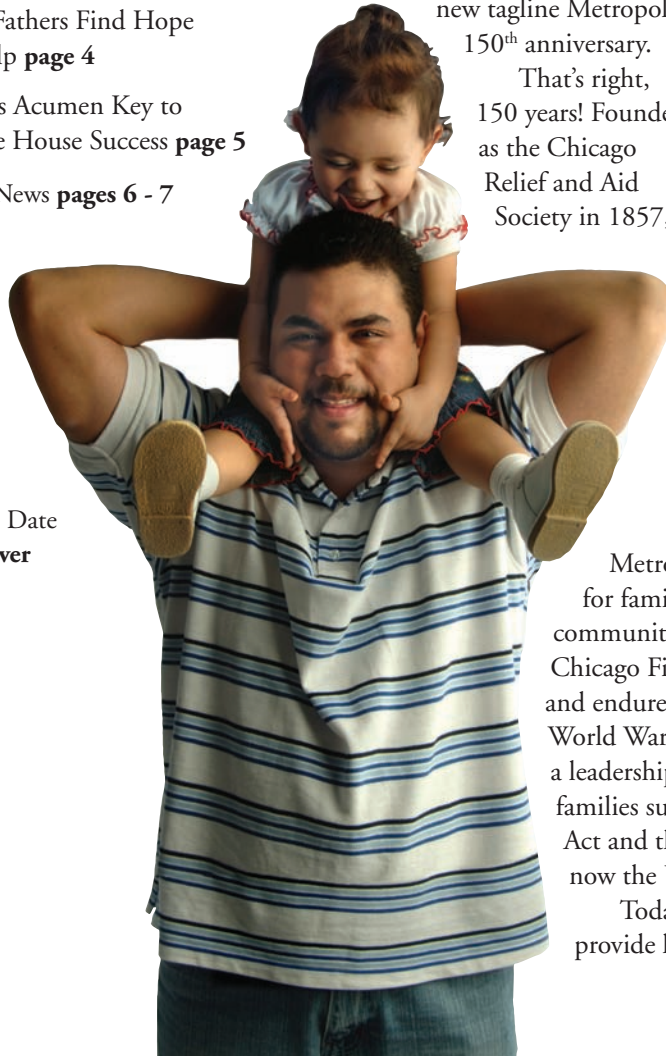
“There’s a voice in Chicago that speaks for the families who are no longer heard. The ones living in the other America. It’s the voice of Metropolitan Family Services—one that never stops believing in the amazing strength of families.”

These are just a few lines from the new video that captures the spirit of Metropolitan Family Services and celebrates the role Metropolitan has played in the lives of hundreds of thousands of families in Chicago and the suburbs for 150 years. “150 Years of Amazing Strength” is also the new tagline Metropolitan will be using throughout 2007 to mark its 150th anniversary.

That’s right, 150 years! Founded as the Chicago Relief and Aid Society in 1857,

150th Anniversary Events:

- **Community Forums**
January – March 2007
Metropolitan Family Services
Community Centers
- **Summit on the Metropolitan Family**
May 30, 2007
University of Chicago Gleacher Center
By invitation only
- **150th Anniversary Dinner**
October 3, 2007
Ritz Carlton, Chicago



Metropolitan Family Services has been a resource for families and a champion for building strong communities — helping families recover from the Great Chicago Fire, survive the hardships of three depressions and endure the economic and emotional stress of two World Wars. In the 20th century, Metropolitan assumed a leadership role in developing social policies to benefit families such as the Social Security Act, Domestic Violence Act and the creation of the Community Fund of Chicago, now the United Way.

Today, Metropolitan Family Services continues to provide high quality programs and services and advocate

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for low-income families in Chicago and the suburbs to help them realize their full potential.

Metropolitan Family Services will celebrate this significant milestone anniversary through commemorative events taking place in 2007.

A cornerstone event is the inaugural *Summit on the Metropolitan Family* to be held on May 30, 2007. “We are convening prominent leaders from diverse fields to discuss key challenges and opportunities for low-income families in the Chicago area, how these issues are being addressed today and what initiatives, services and policies are needed in the future,” notes Dr. Richard L. Jones, president and CEO of Metropolitan Family Services. “Panelists and speakers will explore four topic areas including economic opportunity, education, parenting and family systems, and challenges of young urban youth.”

Metropolitan’s President and CEO Dr. Richard Jones, along with Frank M. Clark, chairman and chief executive officer, ComEd, who also is chairman of Metropolitan’s board of directors, are working with Summit Task Force co-chairs and board members Therese M. Bobek, partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Allen A. Rodriguez, senior vice president and director of community affairs, Charter One bank, and Metropolitan’s staff to develop the framework for this full-day Summit.

The opening keynote speaker for the Summit is Juan Williams, one of America’s leading journalists, senior correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR) and author of several books including his newest book, *Enough: The Phony Leaders, Dead-End Movements, and Culture of Failure That Are Undermining Black America--and What We Can Do About It.* Another keynote speaker is Clarence Page, Chicago Tribune editorial board writer and columnist.

Attendance at the Summit will be by invitation only and will be comprised of leaders and experts from academic and research-based organizations, government partners, foundation and corporate representatives, human service and social service agencies and the media.

Partners in the Summit include Dr. Waldo Johnson and Dean Jeanne March of the School of Social Service Administration of the University of Chicago; Owen Youngman of the Chicago Tribune; Catherine Brown of the McCormick

Tribune Foundation; and Janet Froetscher, chief executive officer of the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. This event is made possible through the generosity of our corporate sponsors ComEd, An Exelon Company, Charter One Foundation, Chicago Tribune, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and The Boston Consulting Group.

“To ensure we bring the voice of the community into the Summit, we held a series of community forums in which participants shared their thoughts and local perspectives on the challenges of today’s metropolitan families,” says Bryn Reese, executive vice president, External Affairs, for Metropolitan. The community forums took place January through March at each of our centers. Using a special concept mapping process,

statements and input gathered from forum participants will be scientifically categorized and summarized and shared with Summit participants to inform the discussion.

Results of the inaugural Summit will first be revealed at the 150th Anniversary Dinner for corporate and civic leaders and Metropolitan’s donors. This exciting evening event will be held at the Ritz Carlton on October 3, and pay tribute to some very special guests and long-time community supporters.

“We’ll then bring the dialogue from the Summit into the public domain and into classrooms to inform and inspire the critical thinking of our next generation of business leaders, social service practitioners, academicians and social policy makers,” adds Reese. Metropolitan’s External Affairs staff are also considering other ways to continue the discussion and build awareness of these important issues including the publication of the findings and initial recommendations and the creation of other community, public and electronic forums.

The 150th anniversary is also a time for donors to renew their commitment and support to help families throughout the Chicago area as Metropolitan Family Services launches an “Amazing Strength” fundraising campaign. These efforts are targeted to raise funds to support the vital work of MFS.

Other events and activities throughout the year will tie in to the 150 Years of Amazing Strength theme and allow our boards, donors and community supporters throughout Chicago to celebrate Metropolitan’s 150th Anniversary and its dynamic role in the history – and the future – of families throughout the Chicago area. ■

Metropolitan Family Services

150 years of amazing strength

150 Years of Amazing Strength

There's a voice in Chicago that speaks for the families who are no longer heard. The ones living in the other America. It's the voice of Metropolitan Family Services. And this is what we hear.

We hear the father struggling with the rising cost of living.

We hear the mother struggling to keep her kids in school.

We hear the grandparents struggling to raise their grandchildren.

We hear the teenager struggling with the responsibility of a newborn.

We hear the child struggling with violence on the street.

We hear the immigrant struggling with the isolation of a new language and culture.

And for 150 years Metropolitan Family Services has spoken for them. Keeping their struggles in the head and heart of our city.

There's hope in Chicago for families who feel lost and alone. The people worn out by changing economics, inadequate education, and mental health issues.

And for 150 years we have supported the strength that lies inside them.

Helping them reclaim their dignity and purpose.

There's a shoulder in Chicago – a big shoulder – for families to lean on. The working poor with limited access and options.

And for 150 years we have supported them with the counseling, legal, education and financial services they could never find.

There's compassion and counsel in Chicago for families where they need it. Families who live in the communities we care about. In the city including Belmont Cragin and Portage Park, Roseland and West Pullman, South Chicago and Calumet Heights, Englewood and Chicago Lawn. In the suburban communities of Evanston and Skokie, Blue Island and Calumet Park and DuPage County.

And for 150 years we have provided the highest quality human services that best meet the needs of the communities we serve.

There's a leader in Chicago who is intolerant of complacency and indifference. An advocate for families who are disenfranchised by politics and poverty.

And for 150 years we have championed social policies that protect and defend people's right to live as a family – safe and secure, with hope for a brighter future. There's a voice in Chicago who has never stopped believing in the amazing strength of families.

And for the next 150 years Metropolitan Family Services will create a stronger community, city and nation. Empowering families and working with corporate leaders, legislators, and citizens. People who believe that the measure of our society is how we protect our families.

There's a voice in Chicago – an amazing voice – who never stops believing in the amazing strength of families. It's the voice of Metropolitan Family Services.

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Legal Aid Bureau Launches Poverty Law Program

Legal help can mean the difference between living in substandard housing or becoming homeless and having a safe and affordable place to live. It can ensure that a disabled child gets the medical benefits and financial support to which they are entitled, prevent the wrongful repossession of the family car, correct an erroneous credit report or protect a battered spouse from further abuse.

According to a recent legal needs study, one out of six low-income families in Illinois cannot afford the legal help they need to address these serious and potentially devastating problems.

To help provide critical legal services to residents of Chicago's South and Southwest sides, our Legal Aid Bureau (LAB) will open a poverty law program in 2007, offering education, assistance and representation on housing, consumer and public benefits issues. Thanks to funding provided by Bank of America's Neighborhood Builders Award and the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, LAB will provide a lawyer who will

split time between Metropolitan's Midway and Calumet centers, and two paralegals, one devoted full-time to each center.

The legal team will meet with and advise clients about their rights on unfair collection and sales practices, predatory lending, foreclosure, recovering security deposits, and wrongful denial of public benefits. Paralegals also will be on the alert for domestic violence and elder law issues that can be handled by current LAB staff.

In addition, each member of the legal team will present legal rights workshops at our centers for community residents focusing on housing, consumer and public benefits issues. They also will work with community organizations to identify behavior patterns by predatory lenders, landlords, mortgage companies and others.

Recognizing that legal problems often are connected to other problems clients face, our legal clients will be referred to other services at Midway and Calumet as needed. ■

Young Fathers Find Hope and Help Through Innovative Program

While fatherhood is never easy, many do not realize the tremendous obstacles many fathers in violent, poverty-stricken neighborhoods must overcome.

Metropolitan's Young Fathers Initiative is helping fathers become good parents. The program offers 18-to-30-year-old fathers the support, encouragement and skills they need to connect with their children and contribute to their communities.

Young Fathers addresses challenges these dads face such as low educational achievement, minimal employment history and past criminal records. Through educational placement testing, job skill assessments and career coaching, participants get assistance in creating a resume, looking and interviewing for a job. Results include more than 60 percent of program participants finding employment in 2006. That same year program applications also doubled through recruiting and marketing efforts, including guest appearances of staff on various radio stations.

James Robinson, a Young Fathers participant, shares the dedication that staff had for him and his future with his family. "If I missed a meeting, they would call me and sometimes even show up at my door to bring me to the meeting," he comments. "I knew right there, I was in a good place." Now in his 30s, with Young Fathers' help, James has left a life of crime and unemployment behind and is a dedicated father to his children.

The Young Fathers Initiative hopes to continue its work in helping fathers become self-sustaining and active members of their children's lives. ■

New Outcomes Leading to New Solutions

Metropolitan is applying research applications in ways that are new to human services through the African American Initiative, a United Way-supported effort aimed at helping at-risk African American males ages 10 -16 successfully transition from childhood to adulthood.

Under Metropolitan's direction, residents from Chicago's Roseland community – including youth – identified 225 issues facing young African American males. Criminal activity and victimization emerged as the most serious and prevalent issues – the difficulty of finding safety and security in the community. Analysis also revealed 10 top additional problems including issues with reputation, communication problems, parenting issues, unemployment and underemployment, and lack of community support.

The Initiative will use the research to develop programming that will help African American males progress from grade school to high school. ■

Business Acumen Key To Treasure House Success

Savvy business acumen, a dedicated volunteer force and generous donors have spelled success for Metropolitan's Treasure House, a resale shop affiliated with Metropolitan DuPage for five decades.

Treasure House generates an average of \$170,000 in sales annually. The shop, located at 497 Pennsylvania Avenue in Glen Ellyn, has created a winning formula by offering avid antiquers and regular resale shoppers a world of undiscovered treasures at bargain prices. The shop boasts a wide variety of products, from clothing and household decorative items to china, crystal, sterling silver services and antique furniture.

Treasure House was started in the late 1950s



Left: Diane Mattison of the Glen Ellyn Family Services League with manager Tillie Thorpe during the 2006 holiday season. Above: Exterior of Treasure House Resale Shop.

by a small group of women who had a desire to help struggling families and those who were less fortunate. So on a shoestring budget, they converted a two-room apartment to what is now the Treasure House resale shop. Their first donation? Two bags of clothing left over from one of their own rummage sales!

Today the Treasure House remains a strong and viable DuPage business. A large part of its success is due to the tireless efforts of its volunteers, many who have been working at the shop for more than thirty years. Also vital is the generosity of individual donors and DuPage businesses. Examples include paint store J.C. Licht, a Metropolitan DuPage donor for many years, which donated gallons of paint for resale this past holiday season, and Wheaton resident Joseph Salerno, who donated 78 boxes of holiday merchandise that paved the way for the 2006 opening of "Christmas Treasures," a special holiday-only shop next door to the Treasure House. ■

To help ensure Treasure House's success, donations are needed and accepted at any time. Please note that items not accepted are large or broken appliances, kitchen/bathroom cabinets, computers and computer accessories/books, used undergarments and bathing suits, mattresses/bed pillows and baby equipment. Additional volunteers of all ages also are needed and are always welcome; training is provided. For more information contact Tillie Thorpe at 630/469-6907.

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 strives to help families find the strength to work together and create positive lives and communities. Whether it is providing quality child care services or helping families navigate needs for mental health counseling, Metropolitan provides a wealth of programs and services.

Calumet

**235 East 103rd Street
Chicago, IL 60628**

Is redlining – discriminating against residents of certain areas by denying or increasing the cost of services – raising its ugly head in Chicago? That's the question that emerged during a legislative forum held by Metropolitan Family Services Calumet in October 2006. The forum, which attracted more than 100 community residents, four state legislators and a city alderman, addressed multiple issues but came to focus on Illinois House Bill 4050. The controversial bill was initiated to address the alarming rate of high-cost mortgages and property foreclosures on Chicago's South and Southwest Sides by implementing a pilot program that provides financial guidance to families who wish to take on a mortgage. In addition, the program allows the state of Illinois to gather information on the type, cost and term of loans being offered, so they can track the number and value of loans available in the communities.

As a result of the bill, many sub-prime mortgage lenders have stopped offering mortgages in the pilot area. Many residents are asking if discriminatory forces are at work that may negatively impact their property values. Meanwhile, the governor has temporarily suspended the pilot. Metropolitan's social policy staff has started a series of discussions in its Calumet and Midway centers to start advocating for the fair solution to the House Bill 4050 controversy in the 2007 Illinois General Assembly.

DuPage

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

There are 1.2 million family caregivers in Illinois who spend an average of 20 hours each week assisting aging parents or an impaired spouse. Respite programs such as Metropolitan's Suzanne Knuepfer Senior Guest House support these family caregivers by enabling them to take brief periods of relief from the stress of caregiving, and gives them time to take care of their own personal needs. The bed-and-breakfast style respite home located in Elmhurst provides short-term, overnight care to older adults who cannot be left alone. Family caregivers can rest assured knowing that their loved one receives around-the-clock TLC, home cooked meals, medication reminders and companionship.

Evanston/Skokie Valley

**820 Davis Street
Evanston, IL 60201**

Mental illness and social/emotional problems can affect children as well as adults, and early intervention is critical in helping children effectively deal with such challenges. *Project Thrive*, Metropolitan's newest program, assists children ages 3 – 8 in Skokie who are experiencing behavior problems or severe stress, are likely to have parents or siblings affected by mental illness or substance abuse, and who are themselves at risk of developing mental illness or social/emotional problems. Children and their families receive counseling, crisis intervention and are connected with services that aid their success. The program is a partnership of Metropolitan, Madison School and the Skokie Public Library. Metropolitan received the funding for *Project Thrive* through the Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Mental Health. Metropolitan was fortunate to be selected as the provider of this early intervention program for Region One – Cook County, given the immense competition for this funding in the Chicago area.

Midway

**3843 West 63rd Street
Chicago, IL 60629**

The diverse talents of more than 50 youth and teen artists took center stage at Midway's "Draw into Your Destiny" Art Fair, held in September 2006. Paintings, drawings and sculptures created by members of our youth and Teen Reach programs were featured, as well as skits, dancing, craft projects and homemade



Midway Teen Center member Jaime Ortiz displays his creation at Midway's "Draw Into Your Destiny" Art Fair.

foods from Arabic, Italian, African-American, Mexican and Columbian cuisines. The fair was held to celebrate the artistic abilities of community youth and to better expose them to each other's cultures. A follow-up art fair, building on the success of this event and including community partners, will be held in April 2007.

North

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

Groundbreaking for a new Child Care Center with Head Start and Early Education programs will take place in 2007 at Metropolitan's North Center, helping to meet the need for quality child care for Chicago's Belmont-Cragin and Portage Park areas on the city's Northwest Side.

The Center, a 6,000-square-foot-expansion of Metropolitan's North Center, is scheduled to open January 2008. Three preschool classrooms and two infant and toddler classrooms will accommodate 76 children from birth - five years. A low teacher/caretaker to children ratio will provide personal attention and a wide variety of activities will be offered, tailored to young children's development.

The new Child Care Center is the latest in Metropolitan's efforts to provide the highest quality services to families. Metropolitan's Head Start program is among only seven percent of early childhood education programs nationwide that are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Metropolitan thanks State Senator William Delgado for his early and enthusiastic support of the Child Care Center by rallying other legislators around the project and helping Metropolitan to secure \$200,000 in capital funds from the State of Illinois. State Representatives Richard Bradley and Joe Lyons were also helpful in securing capital funds. Metropolitan also thanks State Senators Iris Martinez and James DeLeo and State Representative Maria Antonia Berrios for writing to the governor in support of the Child Care Center.

Southeast Chicago

**3062 East 91st Street
Chicago, IL 60617**

Metropolitan's Southeast Chicago Center has been chosen as the lead partner in transforming Bowen High School into a community school. The three-year project, part of the Chicago High School Redesign Initiative (CHSRI), is funded by a \$200,000 per year grant from the Polk Bros. Foundation. CHSRI, also comprised of various organizations and Chicago foundations including Polk Bros., is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Bowen Campus is made up of four small schools within a school. Metropolitan's staff is currently working with an implementation team at Bowen to design the community school, which involves making the school more open to the community and emphasizes a holistic approach to student development, including academics and personal enrichment. Programming will focus on social and emotional learning, academic support, exposure to diverse learning opportunities, college preparedness and working to unite the four schools on campus.

Southwest

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

Throughout 2006, C.J. Erickson Plumbing Co. celebrated 100 years of serving the southwest suburban community by supporting Metropolitan Southwest, raising funds via corporate events and various activities. From a Mother's Day promotion with WLUP-FM personality Jonathon Brandmeier to a Breakfast with Santa event, management and staff at C.J. Erickson worked tirelessly to make the year successful under the leadership of Shawn Erickson, Metropolitan Southwest board member and company vice-president. Kudos to everyone at C.J. Erickson for partnering with Metropolitan and supporting our mission to help families become strong, stable and self-sufficient.

Events

Metropolitan's 25th Holiday Celebration Honors Fetzter Family

More than 300 guests gathered for Metropolitan's 25th Annual Holiday Celebration held in December at the Chicago Club. The event raised more than \$500,000 to support Metropolitan's programs via an important partnership with Chicago Tribune Charities, a McCormick Tribune Foundation Fund.

Metropolitan's Holiday Celebration 2006 was chaired by Stephen D. Steinour of Charter One, with co-chairs C. Kenneth Love of Kimball Hill Homes and Janet L. Dobbs of Chicago Tribune Charities. The chairs were assisted in planning



the event by the Holiday Celebration Committee, which included several members who were among the event's first committee 25 years ago.

Guests were welcomed to the festive affair with songs by the Roseland Teen Reach Youth Choir, which included students from Metropolitan's programs at Wendell Smith, Carver Middle and Kohn Elementary schools. The programs provide inner-city youth with social, educational and recreational opportunities. The Youth Choir's performance has become an anticipated Holiday Celebration tradition.

The Celebration's highlight was Metropolitan's inaugural Family of the Year Award, honoring Wade and Beverly Fetzter and family for their outstanding contributions to the agency. Spanning three generations of involvement, the Fetzters exemplify the philanthropic spirit and shared belief that strengthening families strengthens society. The Fetzters have served Metropolitan in numerous capacities, including as members of its Board of Directors and Associate Board, Women's Board, Holiday Celebration Committee, Legal Aid Society and Metro

Board. They led Metropolitan's Campaign for Families, which raised \$15 million and helped build several new community centers, and founded the Peter Fetzter Award to recognize Metropolitan employees who demonstrate commitment to working with vulnerable families.

In addition to the award presentation, the evening offered silent and live auctions. The live auction featured a lunch with noted sommelier and WTTW "Check Please" host Alpana Singh as well as a week-long getaway to a Puerto Vallarta villa. A champagne raffle recognized Metropolitan's 150th anniversary by inviting 150 guests to win a beautiful David Yurman diamond necklace. Following dinner, guests brought the night to a rousing end as they danced to music provided by the Bobby Schiff Band.

Metropolitan thanks the Holiday Celebration 2006 co-chairs Chicago Tribune Charities, a McCormick Tribune Foundation Fund, Charter One, Kimball Hill Homes, and the Holiday Celebration Committee. We also thank presenting sponsors CNA, ComEd, An Exelon Company, Goldman Sachs & Co., and Tim and Sharon Ubben for helping to make Holiday Celebration 2006 a success



Dr. Richard Jones (far left) joins Legal Aid Bureau honoree, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke, along with Event Chair Robert C. Kneuper Jr., of Baker & McKenzie and Nancy Kneuper.

Legal Aid Bureau Award Dinner

The Legal Aid Bureau, one of the first organizations in America to provide legal services for the poor, celebrated 120 years of serving Chicago-area families at its annual benefit held December 7, 2006, at the Chicago Club. Local law firms and businesses gathered to commemorate this milestone and the

launch of Metropolitan Family Services' 150th Anniversary. The evening's highlight was honoring Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke with the William H. Avery Award for Equal Access to Justice. The Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the legal needs of the poor and was established in memory of Avery, a leading equal-access-to-justice advocate. Benefit guests also enjoyed Christmas Spirits, an annual presentation of the Chicago Bar Association, which featured members of Chicago's legal community performing in "King Tort and the Golden Age of Lawyers."



C. Graham Gerst, Metro Board chair (second from left), with his wife Christy Gerst (far left), along with Amy Wright and a guest (third and fourth from left) at the 2006 Metro Board Holiday Party.

Metro Board Holiday Party

Celebrating the season was the focus as the Metro Board, Metropolitan's young professionals group, gathered for its Holiday Party held at the Hunt Club on December 7, 2006. Holiday cheer was well in supply as members and friends socialized and enjoyed a range of appetizers and cocktails. Metro Board member Rob Knuepfer chaired this year's event. Money raised went toward Metropolitan Family Services, Holiday Gift Program, which helped make the holidays merrier for more than 1,800 children and seniors in 2006.

New Leadership at Calumet and DuPage

Two executive directors whose guidance has been instrumental for four decades are retiring and are helping to usher in new leadership at the centers. Dian Powell, Calumet Executive Director, and Roger Johnson, DuPage Executive Director, are retiring in 2007. Program Managers Audrena Spence and Theresa Nihill are succeeding them.

In 35 years of service, Powell's many accomplishments include providing strong direction in stabilizing Roseland Hospital, as well as launching Metropolitan's Hurricane Katrina (K.A.R.E.) program and overseeing the agency's top-ranking participation in the Chicago Housing Authority's *Service Connector* program.

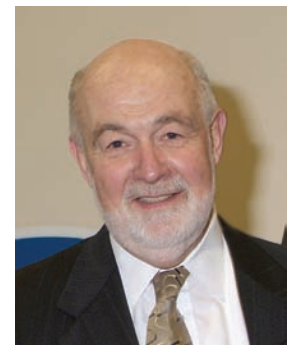
Johnson's career at Metropolitan spans 40 years. He was responsible for establishing Metropolitan's mental health services area – a core strength of the agency – and successfully integrating Metropolitan Family Services DuPage into the organization before it officially became part of the agency.

Audrena Spence, who is assuming directorship of Calumet, has been with the agency for 13 years. Her credits include the 1996 Fetzer Award for Direct Service and the 2006 Betty L. Williams Community Advocacy Award, recognizing her leadership of Calumet's *Service Connector* team.

Theresa Nihill, who will become executive director of DuPage, has been a Metropolitan staff member for 21 years. She was named a "50 Under 50" awardee in 2007, an honor that recognizes upcoming leaders in DuPage county.



Dian Powell



Roger Johnson



Audrena Spence



Theresa Nihill

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.



Officials from Bank of America, Metropolitan Family Services and Metropolitan's board of directors pose with a check from the Bank of America's Neighborhood Builders Award.

Bank of America \$200,000 Grant

The Bank of America Foundation honored Metropolitan with the Neighborhood Builders Award, a part of its Neighborhood Excellence Initiative that recognizes the work of nonprofit organizations in creating vibrant neighborhoods.

Metropolitan was one of only two Illinois recipients chosen to receive the award, which provides \$200,000 in operating support and leadership training for two senior staff members.

The Neighborhood Excellence Initiative understands that effective, local nonprofit organizations are the cornerstones of healthy neighborhoods and seeks to reward agencies that affect positive change in the communities they serve. Metropolitan will use the award to increase program capacity at our Calumet Center by providing employment training expertise for staff to help promote self-sufficiency among public housing residents, and offering housing and consumer legal services to residents of Chicago's greater Roseland area, located on the city's far South Side.

Allstate Foundation \$50,000 Grant

The Allstate Foundation awarded \$50,000 to Metropolitan to support financial literacy training for 5th - 8th graders, which is provided as part of Metropolitan's out-of-school-time programming.

The training, designed to impart money-management skills to at-risk youth, covered budgeting, saving, credit and banks, and how to balance competing financial demands. "It's never too soon for kids to learn the importance of saving and knowing how to distinguish *wants* from *needs*," says Vanessa Schwartz, financial literacy specialist at Metropolitan, who coordinates the program. "This is especially true as youth and teens have increasingly become targeted by product marketing campaigns and credit card companies."

Holiday Gift Program Makes the Season Brighter for Families

For families struggling with poverty, the holidays can be a difficult time. Metropolitan's 2006 Holiday Gift Program helped brighten the season for more than 2,800 individuals in need, including more than 1,800 children and seniors.

Those families include "Melonie" and her two children, who came to Metropolitan for help after fleeing Melonie's abusive husband. Gifts were provided for the children, including "Nelson," Melonie's young son. As a tricycle was wheeled toward Nelson, his eyes widened with surprise and excitement. "Is that for me?" he asked. "It says 'Nelson,'" replied a staff member. Nelson grinned widely, "Yes! I am Nelson! Mom, tell her my name is Nelson!"

Such moments were made possible by generous corporate donors such as Deloitte & Touche and Bank of America, as well as hundreds of individuals, who served as sponsors. Organizations also held gift drives to benefit families. In addition, U.S. Cellular's Business Support Services assembled 16 bikes, and the Young Leader's Society of Metropolitan Chicago United Way contributed toys to Metropolitan's Legal Aid Bureau clients.

Children and Families Benefit from “Keep Kids Warm” Coat Donation

Close to 900 coats for children were provided for families through the “Keep Kids Warm” coat donation, held in December 2006 and sponsored by ComEd. A kick-off event was held at Metropolitan’s Calumet Center where more than 300 individuals came and secured coats for their families. On hand to greet families were ComEd Vice President of External Affairs Fidel Marquez, along with Metropolitan President and CEO Dr. Richard Jones and Audrena Spence, Calumet Manager. Honored guests who also participated included Alderman Anthony Beale, representatives from local Chicago Public Schools and Chicago State University, and students from Alex Haley Academy.

A team of ComEd volunteers handed out coats at the event. Families also received donated energy-efficient light bulbs.

Knuepfer Family Contributions Honored

Metropolitan is pleased to recognize the contributions made by the Robert Knuepfer family to the agency that span two generations, starting with the late Robert C. Knuepfer, Sr.

Knuepfer’s accomplishments include establishing the Suzanne W. Knuepfer Guest House, a short-term respite center that offers a “home away from home” for clients and in turn provides temporary respite for caretakers. The Guest House, founded in honor of Robert’s late wife Suzanne, is part of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage.

Robert C. Knuepfer, Sr. passed away in September 2006. Many gifts have been made to the Guest House in his honor and memory, totaling more than \$10,000. Metropolitan thanks these friends and family members for recognizing Robert’s commitment to Metropolitan, as well as the Knuepfer Family, including past Metropolitan Board President Robert C. Knuepfer, Jr. and Metropolitan DuPage Associate Board Member David R. Knuepfer for their ongoing example of community investment and support.



ComEd Vice President of External Affairs Fidel Marquez joins volunteers from ComEd to help hand out coats at the “Keep Kids Warm” coat donation event.

Consider Making a Gift from Your IRA in 2007

If you are 70 ½ or older, legislation now allows you to use IRA proceeds to benefit charity. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows such donors to transfer funds directly from their IRAs to a public charity without tax penalties. The Act is in effect through December 31, 2007.

Donors may contribute IRA funds to public charities if they:

- Are age 70 ½ or older
- Contribute \$100,000 or less each year
- Make the gift on or before December 31, 2007
- Transfer funds directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA
- Make the gift to an eligible public charity

To find out about making Metropolitan a beneficiary of your IRA, contact Luanne Irvin at 312/986-4130 or irvinlu@metrofamily.org.

Metropolitan Family Services

150 years of amazing strength

One North Dearborn
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. For more information, contact the communications department at 312/986-4172.

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Save The Date

DuPage Annual Gala

May 4, 2007

Grab your wine glasses and mark your calendars! Metropolitan DuPage will hold its Annual Gala Dinner and Auction benefit. The Gala will be held at Bobak's Signature Events at Seven Bridges in Woodridge, Ill. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information contact Kate Sutfin at 630/784-4834 or sutfink@metrofamily.org. Information also is available at www.metrofamily.org.

Steppenwolf Theatre Benefit — "The Diary of Anne Frank"

June 6, 2007

You're invited to join Metropolitan in a special benefit performance of Steppenwolf Theatre's "The Diary of Anne Frank." The production is a striking new adaptation of the

well-known story of a young Jewish girl's harrowing account of hiding with her family from the Nazis in a tiny attic in Amsterdam. Passages originally deleted from the diary will be featured, offering a richer look into this extraordinary young woman's coming of age. For ticket information, visit www.metrofamily.org and view the upcoming events listing or call Andrea Pietrocarlo at 312/986-4255.

metropolis

June 8, 2007

Attention young professionals! You're invited to join your peers at this summer benefit, taking place at Galleria Marchetti. Sample a scrumptious Italian buffet, dance to the music provided by a live DJ and bid on silent auction items including a Sky Suite at Arlington Park Racecourse. Funds will benefit Metropolitan's child abuse prevention programs and the Legal Aid Bureau. For more information call Dana Gehlhausen at 312/986-4174.

Jazz at the Met

June 22, 2007

Prepare to experience a night of dazzling entertainment at Calumet Center's annual "Jazz at the Met." Enjoy the sounds of the Beverly All-Stars featuring vocalist Liane Williams (Calumet Community Board Co-Chair), as well as dancing, food and fun. Guest also are invited to bid on silent auction items; proceeds will benefit Metropolitan Family Services Calumet. For more information call Andrea Pietrocarlo at 312/986-4255.

Make a Child Smile

June 25, 2007

Celebrate the school year's end with your kids at the annual Make a Child Smile block party, held in Chicago's Lincoln Park on Racine between Webster and Belden streets. Highlights include games, arts and craft stations, a DJ, magician, silent auction and raffle, as well as food and beverages provided by John's Place. Proceeds benefit Metropolitan's Mentors of Mothers program. Please check www.metrofamily.org for additional details.