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December

TO DO

12.1

AIDS FOUNDATION 10TH ANNUAL WORLD OF CHOCOLATE

Chicago's finest chocolatiers, restaurants and caterers come together to benefit the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. \$100-\$150. Hilton Chicago. <http://aidschicago.org>.

12.1

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Do we ever tire of the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge? The Goodman Theatre continues their grand tradition and presents *A Christmas Carol* to sprinkle us with the holiday spirit(s). \$33-\$80. www.goodmantheatre.org.



12.2-31

LINCOLN PARK ZOO LIGHTS

Take a chilly (but beautiful) stroll through the Lincoln Park Zoo lights. Kicking off on November 25-27, December 2-4 and December 9-11, then nightly from December 16-January 1, the Zoo decks their outdoor halls with over 2 million twinkling lights. Make crafts, watch ice sculptors work and toast the holidays with a mug of hot apple cider. www.lpzoo.org.

12.2

SPIRIT OF SAINT NICHOLAS BALL

Over 1,100 guests are expected to attend The Catholic Charities gala benefit. Dinner, dancing and good times. \$400. Chicago Hilton. www.catholiccharities.net.

12.2

CHINATOWN COMMUNITY DINNER

The Chinese American Service League hosts its 29th annual Chinatown Community dinner. Proceeds provide employment training, child and elder services, family counseling, housing and financial education to Chicago's Chinese-American community. \$85 and up. Furama Restaurant. www.caslservice.org.

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12.3

METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES 13TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

The Metropolitan Family Services will honor the Knuepfer family for their outstanding and inter-generational support of the organization at their 30th Annual Holiday Celebration. The proceeds will benefit almost 43,000 individuals and families the organization supports with legal aid, parent counseling and after school and violence prevention programs. Tickets \$350. Ritz Carlton Hotel at Water Tower Place. www.metrofamily.org

12.4

VITAL BRIDGES HOLIDAY BRUNCH

The Holiday Brunch features both a live and silent auction, plus a raffle with proceeds providing food, counseling and housing for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS. Four Seasons Hotel. www.vitalbridges.org.

12.6

SHOP IN CHICAGO

Talented local designers come together for this free shopping event, which offers deals on clothing, jewelry, accessories, beauty products, gift bags and more. Pick up some holiday gifts and a new holiday look by taking advantage of complimentary makeup applications from Dior. RSVP required. Drake Hotel. www.ceceandmelinda.com.

12.9-27

THE NUTCRACKER

The Joffrey Ballet's annual presentation of *The Nutcracker* dances its way into the hearts of both young and old. The performance includes

