

IN THE HOUSE

The Chicago House & Social Service Agency Newsletter

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MAY 2010

First Chicago House Youth Graduates College

This August, Chicago House will be celebrating the college graduation of its first Family Support program youth! Before moving to Chicago House, "Jasper" and his mother relied on the assistance of various church



members who kindly offered the family temporary shelter.

Although Jasper was grateful for the generous support, the reality of sleeping on a stranger's couch or floor left him weary and impinged on his ability to concentrate on schoolwork. As a direct result, his grades suffered and his self esteem dropped. It was a struggle to never know where his next shower would come from and to face the daily embarrassment of being the only kid who wore the same clothes to school each day. Finally, when Jasper was high school freshman, he and his mother moved into the Family Support Program at Chicago House. They carried with them two garbage bags filled with their sole possessions. At Chicago House, Jasper was provided with stabilized housing and supportive resources, including one-on-one tutoring. Soon he was back on track and his grades dramatically improved. He received several scholarships to Loyola University and now has academic ambitions to pursue a MBA degree afterwards.

2010 Birdhouse Art Auction & Cocktail Party Is *Unleashed!*

The Birdhouse Art Auction & Cocktail Party presented by Room & Board Home Furnishings is about to be unleashed! In keeping with the event's 14 year



history of exhibiting distinctive artwork by regional artists, "Birdhouse: Unleashed!" will also reveal a fresh, artistic concept displaying decorative homes for all of our most loved pets! Join us at the event's new home, Room & Board for delectable Grey Goose cocktails and original art you will want to take home!

When: Thursday, June 24th

Time: 6-9PM

Where: [Room & Board Home Furnishings](#)

Tickets: \$65 Advance/\$75 Door

Call (773) 248-5200 x303 to purchase tickets or [click here](#) to book online and view a full list of our sponsors and artists.

Local *Billy Elliot* show donates \$5,000 to Chicago House

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS made a generous \$5,000 donation to Chicago House after a week long collection at the local production of *Billy Elliot* at the Ford Oriental Theatre. They also provided relief funds to families affected by the recent West Virginia mine disasters by dropping donations into buckets held by our dedicated staff and volunteers. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time and most of all thank you to *Billy Elliot*'s local production cast and crew!



Chicago House Staff Profile, Andrea Tashiro

Andrea Tashiro joined the Chicago House team in 2001 and has since dedicated her career to the concept of social change through equitable educational opportunities. Andrea received her Masters of Teaching degree from National-Louis University. Her goal has been to provide programming that engages youth in positive academic and recreational activities while preparing them for higher education or entering the work force.



When she first began working with youth in the Family Support Program, there were no high school-aged youth enrolled in high school. "We began with an exciting challenge," she admits. "The first step was to get families stabilized in supportive housing, and then comes education. You can't teach a child who is spending their emotional energy trying to survive."

The "Homework Help" tutor/mentor program has led to summer programs which keep kids engaged in positive activities. As of today, four of the former program participants are currently attending college. Andrea attributes the success of the Family Support Program and "Homework Help" to the one-on-one attention from volunteers. Andrea confesses, "Our newest challenge is to find a way to integrate college level youth into professional jobs- thereby breaking the cycle of poverty in the next generation."

If you would like to help support Chicago House youth or visit the Family Support Program facility, please contact Michael Herman at (773) 248-5200 ext. 308

Thank You For Making the 2010 Spring Brunch and Fashion Show and the Families for Families Brunch a success!

A huge thank you to Co-Chairs Mark Liberson, Brad Sahl, and Rich Saucedo in addition to all of the sponsors, donors, volunteers, and performers who made the 2010 Spring Brunch and Fashion Show a huge success! Models strutted the runway in front of a sold out crowd, as we were able to raise \$100,000 in support of Chicago House.



Many thanks also go to Michael Elkes and Peter Krika, Co-Chairs of the Families for Families Brunch! This new Chicago House tradition

was a hit with all of the children and families who attended.

[Click Here](#) to see photos by Bret Grafton. Or visit the [Chicago House Facebook](#) page.

