



Special points of interest:

- 2010 Holiday Gift Drive
- Child Link Agency Ranking
- Child Link Re-accreditation
- Foster Parent success stories & opportunities
- Upcoming events in 2011

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Holiday Gift Drive 2010

The holiday gift drive this year was an immense success! We would especially like to thank those who donated their resources and time to making the holiday season special for all of the Child Link children. You can now view the pictures from the holiday party on our Facebook by clicking [here](#). We were so happy with the turnout and can't wait to see what the 2011 Holiday Season Brings!



Special Thanks to:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| The Chicago Sinai Congregation | Jennifer & Thomas Crooks | Micah Franklin | Grace Kefer |
| The Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau | Susan Cummings | Emily Gable | Tammy Kettinger |
| Diane Asleson | Freyja Conrad | Hilda Gamboa | Linda Kohut |
| Amanda Atkins | Victoria Cultra | Mary Gibbons | Mary Kramer |
| Jeannie Blauw | Nancy Daum | AnnMarie Gignac | Carrie Kreydick |
| Kelly Brennan | Laura De Sa E Silva | James Glazebrook | Nikki Kuehl |
| Elizabeth Bristow | Kerry Del Giudice | Sherry & Joshua Glazov | Kelly Lenti |
| Gina Brown | Ana Dimailig | Sara Gutierrez | Maureen Liston |
| Shrell Brown | Katy Doyle | Laura & Brian Haggerty | Kelly Machaj |
| Margaret Bushman | Rene Yvonne Doroba | Renee Hamilton | Maria Maldonado |
| Katherine Campbell | Lisa Doyle | Allyson Hayes | Aimee Malpede |
| Megan Carmody | Laura Duelm | Dietre Hayford | Mary Maltese |
| Kim Christen | Katie Dunlap | Megan Hess | Sarah Martin |
| Leslie Comeely | Maggie Farnan | Sheri S. Junge | Mary McGovern |
| | Katie Filbin | | Halle McCormick |
| | Jana Fix | | Tara McGee |



Child Link Re-accredited!



Every four years, the standards and procedures of human service organizations, like Child Link, are reviewed and approved by the Council on Accreditation. This council seeks to improve the outcomes of these organizations by developing, applying and promoting accreditation standards. After this year's review, Child Link has been approved to continue its practice until August 2014, at which time another review will be conducted. Please join us in thanking our staff for all of their hard work and dedication to ensure that

all performance goals were met in accordance with COA standards.

In addition, Child Link has been re-accredited and "expedited through the [review process] as a result of not receiving **any** out of compliance ratings in any of the fundamental practice standards." -Richard Klarberg, President & CEO of the Council on Accreditation.

Congratulations, Child Link staff on this near-impossible achievement!

Child Link Ranked #1

Agency Performance Ranking Report Fourth Quarter FY2010

Agency	Score
CHILDLINK	97.5
LAWRENCE HALL YOUTH SERVICES	90.3
ADA S MCKINLEY COMM SERV INC	88.1
ONE HOPE UNITED NORTHERN REGION	85.9
UNITY PARENTING AND COUNSELING	85.2
AUNT MARTHAS YOUTH SVC CTR INC	84.4
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ILLINOIS	81.5
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY COMM	80.6
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA	78.5
LYDIA HOME ASSOCIATION	78.1
EVANGELICAL CHILD & FAMILY AGENCY	77.7
ABJ COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.	77.3
CENTERS FOR NEW HORIZONS CHILD WELFARE	71.7
CHILDSERV	67.4
UNIVERSAL FAMILY CONNECTION IN	65.8
DCFS COOK NORTH REGION	65.5
DCFS COOK SOUTH REGN	64.7
CHILDRENS HOME & AID SOC OF IL	62.4
DCFS COOK CENTRAL REGN	61.2
ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF CHICAGO	60.2
THE YOUTH CAMPUS	54.0
SHELTER, INC.	49.2
LUTHERAN CHILD & FAMILY SVC	47.4
UHLICH CHILDREN'S ADVANTAGE NETWORK	44.0
COOK AVERAGES	71.6

Child Link has once again been ranked number one in the state in both the third and fourth quarters of 2010 compared to other agencies like ours. These rankings are based upon 5 areas of performance, in which Child Link scored near perfect.

The hard work and dedication of Child Link staff is demonstrated

through these scores and we could not ask for more from them. Congratulations on your #1 ranking!

"Thanks Child Link for continuing to demonstrate leadership and ensuring that the children we support are successful!"

-Halema Townsend,
Supervisor of Foster Care

"Her Poem... went on to receive several awards in various amateur film festivals around the United States."

Poetry Contest Changes Teen's Life

Child Link is proud to announce that Tasana Hardy, a girl residing in the Transitional Living Program, has won several prestigious awards for her poem entitled "Where I Come From." Her poem was chosen for the class film project and ultimately went on to receive several awards in various amateur film festivals around the United States.

Tasana's victory was widely announced due to

the article that was published about her story in the Chicago Tribune. Since then, she has started classes at Truman Community College. Though she faces this next stage in her life unsure and feeling alone, the Child Link staff has been there to see her through until the end.

Her poem made its debut at Child Link's Annual Women's Initiative Luncheon in September 2009. You can view her performance at the Luncheon [here](#) or read the article about her posted in

the [Chicago Tribune](#).

The Child Link staff would once again like to congratulate Tasana on this wonderful accomplishment and wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors. There is no greater joy in what we do than seeing one of our very own flourish and accomplish a great feat in their life.

Beaujolais Nouveau 2010



Beaujolais Nouveau 2010 was a huge success as we raised nearly \$27,000 in donations. We would like to thank those that participate in this event.

Child Link and its staff greatly appreciate all of the

generosity bestowed upon us by our supporters.

Pictures from the event can be viewed on our Facebook Page. So check out all the action and don't forget to tag yourself and your friends!

Foster Parent Licensing Procedures

Any person wishing to become a foster parent must first meet several requirements set forth by the state in order to qualify for a license. Though all private agencies, like Child Link, follow the same minimum State requirements for licensing, many have additional requirements that must be met by the potential foster parent(s).

Child Link is very pleased to report that our Licensing Department receives a multitude of calls on a daily basis from people who are interested in becoming a foster parent(s). Once a licensing representative receives this call, a series of questions is asked in order to determine whether or not the

caller would be a good fit for Child Link's foster care program.

After the interested party passes this initial screening, a licensing representative schedules a home visit, at which time the candidate's living situation will be evaluated. After this is complete, the licensing process begins, which can take anywhere from a few weeks to three months. The process includes many precautions you would expect; including background clearances as well as personal information revelation. Child Link understands that we all have unique family experience. We believe the questions asked during this process are an important part of ensuring

that we all have the same information when it comes to the best parenting practices. To ensure that everyone is on the same page, training is provided to all potential foster parents prior to licensing.

Relatively soon after this licensing process is complete, the new foster parent(s) can expect a call asking for their support.

Child Link appreciates all of its foster parents and everything they do to help us provide our children with the best care and resources available.

Trans-racial Adoption: Is It An Option?

Excerpt from AnnMarie Gignac's Article:

"Where did she come from?' 'Is she adopted?' 'She's so cute!' 'Can I touch her hair?' 'How do you do her hair?' 'Is she yours?' These are only a few of the comments and questions that my family hears constantly.

Our adoption path is a little different from many of the families we have met in our adoption group. When we were embarking on our journey we had not realized that we would become a minority among families of adoption. I did not realize that adopting trans-racially through the Child Welfare System, specifically The State of Illi-

nois' Department of Family Services (DCFS), was not that common."

To read more from AnnMarie Gignac's Article, please visit the Newsletter tab on our website. All feedback should be sent to newsletter@childlink.org.

"...We had not realized that we would become a minority among families of adoption."

Special Holiday Thanks continued...

Courtney Menna
Becca Merchant
Traci Metke
Anne Metzger
Karen Mon
Nick Moncada
Chris Morkin
Katie & Tim Mulcahy
Kathleen Mungo
Rose Naseef
Heidi Novatny
Pam O'Hara
Colleen O'Hea
Laura Panos
Ann Panosh
Karen Pansing

Laura Pepol
Alicia Perkovich
Sara Peto
Colleen Prendergrast
Cathy Quinlan
Lori Reynolds
Evelyn Reed
Jasmine Reed
Kara & Tom Sandt
William Schmitt
Stefanie & Michael Schodrof
Michelle Sexton
Kerry Smith
Rose Sullivan
Nancy Sweet
Stephanie Thornton

Allison Walsh
Kendra Washburn
Megan Wenstrup
Ann Werner

Thank you again to all of those that participated in our Holiday Gift Drive. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and we are already looking forward to how great next year will be!



"What would you like for Christmas?" asked Santa

CHILDlink



Linking Children and Families since 2002.

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Child Link is a non-profit organization contracted through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services that works to provide foster care, adoption and counseling services to at-risk children and youth in the Chicago area and surrounding communities. It is the mission of Child Link to ensure that human services are available to all those in need. To learn more about Child Link and the services we provide, please visit our website at: www.childlnk.org.

Please Contact Us If You Would Like To
Contribute To Next Month's Issue

Follow us on



Child Link is finally catching up with technology and getting our social networking tools together! In addition to our [Facebook page](#), we now have a [Twitter](#), which will enable you to follow the happenings of Child Link in real time. We would love to share all of our Tweets with you, so log on and start following!

We would also love to have more fans on our Facebook Page. We try to post exciting news about Child Link and other things around the Chicago and Suburban areas on a daily basis. You can also find current news about our upcoming events and learn how you can become a part of our day-to-day fundraising operations!

Upcoming Events at Child Link:

April:

Women's Initiative
Luncheon

May: Baby Supply Drive

June: Blues Bash

July/August: Back to
School Supply/
Backpack Drive

November: Beaujolais
Nouveau Wine Tasting
in Downtown LaGrange

December: Holiday/
Christmas Toy Drive

Save-the-Date:

7th Annual Women's
Initiative Luncheon

When/Where: TBA

What: Our Women's Initiative Luncheon is an opportunity for Child Link to honor successful women involved in business, education, and government throughout Chicago. Child Link believes that the women honored on this occasion are wonderful role models for the girls involved in the Transitional Living Period. This luncheon is a chance for our girls to learn how to succeed by using their resources wisely, and also boost their confidence and self-esteem as young women in showing them that hard work and dedication is needed to achieve their goals.



The Child Link Adolescent Foster
Care Staff at the 2009 Luncheon