

A Hero Among Us

On April 14, Child Link employee **Kathy Parker**, drove up to her sister's house only to find it in flames. Kathy ran inside to warn her sister and family, successfully leading them out of the house to safety. Firefighters were unsure of what caused the fire, but the five who were rescued are lucky to be alive and are very grateful to Kathy for her bravery.



Child Link Accountant
Kathy Parker

Child Link Rate's #1 in Performance Measures

2011 1st Quarter Performance Rankings:

Child Link	96.4
One Hope United - Northern Region	94.9
Lawrence Hall Youth Services	87.5
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois	81.0
Ada S. McKinley Community Services Inc.	77.3
Lakeside Community	76.9
ABJ Community Services, Inc.	76.4
Volunteers of America	76.1
Children's Home & Aid Society of Illinois	75.5
Childserv	75.1
Evangelical Child and Family Agency	70.0
The Youth Campus	70.0
DCFS Cook Central Region	68.4
Unity Parenting and Counseling	68.3
DCFS Cook South Region	67.5
Association House of Chicago	63.5
Lutheran Child & Family Services	62.9
Shelter, Inc.	62.4
Uhlich Children's Advantage Network	60.1
Aunt Marthas Youth Services Center Inc	57.6
DCFS Cook North Region	57.3
Lydia Home Association	56.2
Universal Family Connection	48.5
Centers for New Horizons Child Welfare	32.3

Advocacy Day in Springfield!

With all of the budget cuts throughout the state of Illinois, Child Link is looking to do its part in ensuring that important services, such as foster care and homeless programs, do not receive the brunt of these cuts. Child Link is a member of the Child Care Association of Illinois, which is an association that works to shape policies and procedures of agencies like Child Link to ensure that the needs of children, adolescents, and families are being met to the fullest extent possible.

On Thursday, May 5, Child Link joined hundreds of other foster care workers and parents at the Child Care Association of Illinois' Child Welfare Advocate's Day in Springfield, Illinois. During the visit, foster parents and workers were allowed to voice their opinions on this state budget crisis to State Representatives and Senators. It is our hope that these legislators were presented with the information they need to know in order to prevent DCFS from becoming a target for budget cuts.

Child Link's 7th Annual Women's Initiative Luncheon

This year, Child Link will honor State Comptroller **Judy Baar Topinka**, along with Director of External Relations for Chicago Charter Schools **Sylvia Ewing**, for their outstanding achievements as



???, Child Link CEO Malia Arnett, Illinois State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka

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Child Link's 7th Annual Women's Initiative Luncheon

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women in the shaping our world. The event will be hosted by **Deborah Brown** of NBC 5 on May 26th from 11:30am-1:30pm at the Hotel Allegro at 171 W. Randolph in downtown Chicago.

The funds raised at the event are used to provide college tours and other summer programs for the girls in our Transitional Living Program. The TLP houses young women, ages 17-21, who are transitioning out of the foster care system and into adulthood. Case managers use these few short months as an opportunity to show the girls how to manage their money, as well as other resources, in order to enable them to live on their own and support themselves.

Our Luncheon not only offers Child Link the opportunity to honor successful women in business and public leadership, but also allows our girls the opportunity of being exposed to many different accomplished women in order to acquire the tools and skills they will need to apply to their own lives in order to succeed.

JOIN US! **May 26** at the **Hotel Allegro**, Chicago, and help us support our girls by sharing your experiences with them. To purchase tickets or sponsorship, please visit our website at www.childlnk.org.

Child Link Reaching Out to Support More Youth

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is planning to help over 400 youth move from residential programs to a less restrictive and more family like setting. These community based levels of care deemed appropriate include our Adolescent Foster Care program (AFC). Child Link plans to support the need for community based services by hiring professional case workers as well as transitioning many youth into our AFC and TLP programs. If you believe you would be a nurturing foster parent for a teen, please contact **Kathryn Smith**, Kathryn.Smith@childlnk.org, or **Jerry Logan**, Jerry.Logan@childlnk.org.

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