



children's home + aid

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**CHILDREN'S HOME + AID WOMAN'S BOARD
HONORS MR. & MRS. GARY AHLQUIST**

Chicago (September 5, 2014) — During its Annual September Gala, the Woman's Board of Children's Home + Aid honored Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ahlquist with the Pauline K. Palmer Award for their exceptional commitment and service to vulnerable children and families. Rob Johnson, CBS2 News Anchor, was the master of ceremonies at the gala where around 400 guests gathered to support Children's Home + Aid's early childhood programs. The black-tie event was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago on September 5, 2014 and featured music by the Stu Hirsh Orchestra.

Gary and Suzy Ahlquist were presented with the Pauline K. Palmer Award for their nearly 30 years of service and leadership with Children's Home + Aid, supporting the agency's mission to give children help, hope and opportunity. Gary Ahlquist is currently on the Board and the former Chairman of the Board of Children's Home + Aid. His wife Suzy is a past Woman's Board President.

"The Ahlquist's devotion has enabled thousands of children to learn, to love, to heal and to achieve their dreams. Children's Home + Aid's prominence as a leader in the field is born of their strong leadership and inspired vision," remarked Woman's Board co-President Jerri Hoffmann.

The Pauline K. Palmer Award is the highest award given by the Children's Home + Aid Woman's Board and is named after the group's first president, Mrs. Potter Palmer, who served in 1920.

"The entire Women's Board is passionate about transforming the lives of children and families that have great promise while facing great peril. The funds raised this evening will help children and families living in extreme poverty served by the Mitzi Freidheim Center in Englewood and the Marletta Darnall Center in Schaumburg. Through exceptional early childhood education centers, Children's Home + Aid provides a safe and thriving environment for these children. Every day, hundreds of boys and girls are making big strides to overcome the perils that threaten their future," remarked Ms. Hoffmann.

The event is anticipated to raise more than \$500,000 to benefit Children's Home + Aid's Mitzi Freidheim Englewood Child + Family Center and the Marletta Darnall Schaumburg Child + Family Center. For the last 11 years, the fundraising efforts of the Woman's Board have gone to support early childhood education and raised over \$6 million towards the cause.

The Children's Home + Aid's Mitzi Freidheim Englewood Child + Family Center and the Marletta Darnall Schaumburg Child + Family Center provide programs such as Head Start, Early Head Start and Raising a Reader for children ages six weeks to six years. It also provides GED and parenting programs for families living in Englewood and surrounding communities.

About the Woman's Board of Children's Home + Aid

The Woman's Board was founded in 1920 by caring women dedicated to improving the lives of abused and neglected children. In 1920, the first Gala raised over \$30,000 and was attended by 300 guests. Since 1920, the Woman's Board annual September Gala has raised millions of dollars to support the agency's life-saving work.

About Children's Home + Aid:

Children's Home + Aid is a leading child and family service agency in Illinois. The organization helps children recover their health, their hope, and their faith in the people around them. We link children to a network of opportunity and care, to extended family, teachers, mentors, and the resources of the neighborhood and community. For over 130 years, the organization has gone wherever children and families need them, and work where that work has been proven to be most effective: at home, in the classroom, in the neighborhood, in the course of daily life. The organization has offices located across Illinois and serves more than 40,000 children and families in over 60 counties each year. Visit www.childrenshomeandaid.org for more information.

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