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Allstate Foundation Donates \$10,000 in Response to WINGS Recovery Effort

Allstate recently donated \$10,000 to WINGS in response to the organization's call for help after a fire ruined toys, clothing, and other Christmas gifts worth thousands. Allstate's donation will go towards purchasing brand new bikes for children and teens in the program; additional monies will go towards providing special events for WINGS children throughout the year.

The fire couldn't have come at a worse time for WINGS which coordinates a large scale Christmas giving effort for graduates and participants of its program annually. Gifts are donated and purchased to match items on wish lists submitted by over 100 families. Gifts are accepted, sorted by family, and wrapped months ahead of the Christmas holiday by WINGS staff and volunteers. The fire struck just two weeks before the holiday requiring months of work to be duplicated in just days. "We understand the devastating effects of a fire and the Allstate Foundation is thankful to be in a position to help the women and children of WINGS during this difficult time" said Alice Byrne, Allstate Field Vice President. "I truly admire their strength and resolve and look forward to all the success that 2008 will bring WINGS."

News of the dilemma was broadcasted throughout Chicagoland via local newspapers and television stations. The Allstate Foundation responded to the news with a plan to help. "We are so grateful for the tremendous support from the Allstate Foundation, our children will be especially excited to receive new bicycles." says Rebecca Darr, Executive Director of WINGS. The bicycles will be a welcome surprise to the children who may be experiencing stress and unrest as a result of homelessness and fear accompanying domestic violence.

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The Allstate Corporation. Allstate and The Allstate Foundation sponsor community initiatives to promote "safe and vital communities"; "tolerance, inclusion, and diversity"; and "economic empowerment." For additional information, visit www.allstate.com/foundation. The Allstate Foundation Domestic Violence Program offers financial support and delivers programs to help survivors of domestic violence achieve economic freedom. For additional information, visit www.econempowerment.org

WINGS is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) community agency with the mission to provide a continuum of integrated services in an effort to end domestic violence and homelessness one family at a time. WINGS currently operates 24 homes and apartments throughout the north and northwest suburbs and in the city of Chicago. Communities with transitional homes include Arlington Heights, Barrington, Des Plaines, Hoffman Estates, Mount Prospect, Palatine, Park Ridge, Schaumburg, and Skokie. WINGS opened its 15,000 sq. ft. domestic violence shelter in January 2005. On any given night over 100 women and children receive housing through WINGS. In addition to shelter, WINGS provides therapeutic counseling, mentoring, children's activities, career services, legal and medical advocacy and much more.

For more information about WINGS or to make a donation please visit www.wingsprogram.com or call Cheraé Robinson at 847.908.0910 x 15.

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