



For more information, contact:

Jennifer Djordjevic, Director of Public Relations

WINGS Program, Inc.

847-908-0910 x10 (office)

847-708-5300 (cell)

**For Immediate Release
December 14, 2006**

**Sweet Home Chicago Event Hosts 500 Guests and
Raises Nearly \$400,000 for WINGS**

Back to back fundraisers and a multitude of holiday preparations, has kept everyone on their toes at WINGS. The most recent event, Sweet Home Chicago, is also the one that brought in the most money - nearly \$400,000. Organized by supporters Michael and Elizabeth Cole and Jim and Julie O'Connor, Sweet Home Chicago's proceeds will benefit Women In Need Growing Stronger. WINGS provides housing and supportive services to women and children fleeing domestic violence and homelessness in the north and northwest suburbs of Chicago.

The event, held at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago on December 10, drew almost 500 parents and children and was sold out weeks before invitations could be sent out.

The honorary chairs, John and Rita Canning of Inverness, are long-time supporters of WINGS. The couple has been at the helm of the event since its inception three years ago. John Canning, Chairman and CEO, of Madison Dearborn Partners worked tirelessly with his staff to bring in over 50 sponsors for the event including presenting sponsor LaSalle Bank and lead sponsor, Pritzker Family Foundation.

Rita Canning said, "I'm amazed at the amount of corporate sponsorships we've been able to secure. Many of them raised their level of participation to \$10,000 and \$15,000. Co-chairs Elizabeth Cole and Julie O-Connor did an amazing job of putting this all together."

Parents and children, dressed in holiday attire, enjoyed a host of activities including gingerbread house decorating, visits with Santa, professional photo sessions with photographer Jessica Tampas and a silent auction. Holy Angels' Nia Imani Choir and award winning band Ralph's World provided entertainment for the over 200 children who attended.

The event is being planned again for 2007.

WINGS currently operates 24 homes and apartments in Chicago and the north and northwest suburbs of Chicago in Cook and Lake Counties. A 15,000 square foot Safe House can house up to 45 women and children each night. In addition to shelter WINGS provides therapeutic counseling, mentoring, children's activities, career services, legal and medical advocacy and much more. To learn more please visit www.wingsprogram.com.