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### **Gingerbread House Contest Open to the Public**

Where will you be on Sunday, December 9, 2007? WINGS staff and Barrington Friends of WINGS advisory hope you'll attend the agency's third Home for the Holidays family luncheon at the Stonegate Conference Center in Hoffman Estates. The proceeds of the event will help WINGS continue providing life saving services to women and children struggling with homelessness and domestic violence.

The event, which begins at 11 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m., will feature a gingerbread house contest, face painting, a silent auction, live music and a lavish buffet lunch for the whole family. Want more? Also included are a sing-along session, magic tricks, cookie decorating, and visits with Santa.

The gingerbread house contest is open to the public. Both professionals and amateurs are encouraged to enter. Rules apply and the entry fee is \$20 per house for amateurs. Professional bakers should contact the office for more details.

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Maria Hayes, organizer of the event and chair of the Barrington Friends says, “Our group is so pleased to bring this event back for a second year. We truly appreciate the support that Barrington and the surrounding communities have for WINGS. It’s this gathering together that makes the holidays really special.”

Sponsors for the event include Kimball Hill Homes, Fitzsimonds Charitable Trust, and Pepper Construction. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$25 for children over three. Patron tickets are \$100 for adults and \$50 for children over three.

Barrington Friends of WINGS is a local advisory made up of Barrington area residents who help support the women and children who live in WINGS Barrington home. In addition to this premier event, the group has been instrumental in helping WINGS continue to serve families living in the home.

Rebecca Darr, WINGS executive director, says, “The Barrington Friends of WINGS are a great group of people. They’re dedicated and compassionate about what we do and the people we serve. Their generosity shows in everything they do for WINGS and our residents.”

WINGS is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) community agency whose mission is 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. These communities include Arlington Heights, Barrington, Des Plaines, Hoffman Estates, Mount Prospect, Palatine, Park Ridge, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg, and Skokie. The Safe House, a 15,000 sq. ft. domestic violence emergency shelter, 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. For more information about WINGS or to register for the event or the gingerbread house contest please call 847-908-0910 x15 or visit [www.wingsprogram.com](http://www.wingsprogram.com).

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