



**Chicago
Lights
Newsletter
March 2007**

Journey with Us!

Doing justice, loving kindness, approaching each day's work with humility is difficult. We try to live into this vision at Chicago Lights, as we assume responsibility for helping 7,000 urban neighbors build bridges to a brighter future.

The building process is not one we can define alone. Micah's challenge – to serve with humility – calls us to recognize that poverty does not disable dignity and decision-making. It does make it much more difficult!

Volunteers for blood drives...tutors who embrace Hooked on Phonics...new ideas for the Center for Life and Learning and youth who help people who are homeless are important. As you read this issue, please consider joining Chicago Lights on this journey!

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**Hooked
on
Phonics
Helps
Kids
Read**

Hooked on Phonics has come to the Tutoring Program, due to a generous donation from Executive Women International. Research shows that our brains are "pattern finders;" Hooked on Phonics allows students to find predictable patterns within words. Teaching students to "chunk" words into parts or word families helps them to achieve full literacy.

We assess student reading skill levels and train tutors to use the Hooked on Phonics program with their students. Each session includes flash card work on common letter combinations and patterns, an introduction to rhyme and the opportunity to sound out new words.

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**Pastor John and Sue Buchanan
with Alderman Tom Tunney and
Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun**

**Carnaval
Espana:
A Party with a
Big Heart**

Our annual mission benefit was a sell-out success, grossing more than \$300,000 for Chicago Lights and the Lorene Replogle Counseling Center. 600 guests at the Ritz-Carlton enjoyed flamenco dancers, a

Spanish-inspired dinner, a live auction led by Ron Magers of ABC-7 News, and dancing to the Ken Arlen Orchestra.

Benefit guests gave generously, raising more than \$25,000 to meet and exceed the Andrew Family Foundation's challenge grant. With this grant, Summer Day will expand to better serve the needs of inner-city elementary students and their families. Read more on page 2.

To the hardworking Mission Benefit Committee and to the generous event guests, we say *GRACIAS!*

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**Quality Clothing Builds Self-Esteem
for Homeless Guests**

See the *Elam Davies Social Service Center* (EDSSC) in a whole new light! On **March 22**, Anderson Hall will transform into an exciting fashion show of clothing donations given to the Share Shop, our clothing closet. Our models will include Chicago Lights staff, Fourth Church pastors, and EDSSC volunteers.

The EDSSC is guiding our 3,000 registered guests on their journey to self-sufficiency. Our longstanding food and clothing programs provide nutritious food bags and unparalleled style and panache. But the Social Service Center also goes beyond the basics, providing employment training, computer classes, voice mailboxes and other services that enrich our guests' lives.

This one-night-only event is **Thursday, March 22 from 6-8 p.m.** For more information, call the Chicago Lights Up the Runway Information Line, 312.787.2729 ext. 226, or email chicagolights@fourthchurch.org.





Enriching the Lifelong Journey

The Center for Older Adults is looking ahead to a future of exciting growth and development, as it becomes the Center for Life and Learning. The new name is one part of the Center's plan to serve an increasingly large, dynamic group of people 60 and over. The Center for Life and Learning is building on its 40-year tradition of offering

meaningful education, exercise and well-being programs, as well as cultural and social opportunities. New and expanded minicourse offerings are just one of the ways the Center is providing more flexible and varied opportunities for members and non-members alike.

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Center for Whole Health Gives the Gift of Life

147 people have helped to save lives with the Center for Whole Health's winter blood drive for The American Red Cross. 4 million people a year need blood, for the treatment of cancer, anemia, blood disorders and injuries. We're glad to have done our part!

The Red Cross Web site, <http://www.givelife.org>, now offers online appointment setting, which helped us open our doors to the wider community and to 29 first-time donors. Anyone can give at any time; watch this space for our next blood drive!

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Editor

**A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION
AT THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHICAGO**



Chicago Lights Realizes Andrew Foundation Challenge for Summer Day

Thanks to the many generous donations at the Mission Benefit, we have met our \$11,125 challenge grant from the Andrew Family Foundation. Summer Day will move to 6 weeks in 2007! This gives us a greater opportunity to make a difference in the lives of 120 students living in economically disadvantaged areas of the Near North, West Town and Humboldt Park neighborhoods.

Our theme, "Around the World in 40 Days" will look at the biological and cultural diversity of life on Earth. The program will run from June 18th – July 27th. Please contact Sarah Tribuzio for more information or volunteer opportunities.

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Youth Fight Hunger with "Souper Bowl"

Super Bowl Sunday is a national "holiday" throughout the country. Imagine the abundance of food that is consumed by fans huddled around the biggest game of the year. Now imagine what our world would look like if just a fraction of what is spent went toward alleviating hunger.



Almost 20 years ago, one youth group asked that one dollar be set aside to support a local food pantry on Super Bowl Sunday. Their action has grown into the Souper Bowl of Car-ing—a national effort among faith groups aimed at raising millions of dollars to end hunger. This year, the Fourth Church youth collected more than \$13,000 for the Elam Davies Social Service Center!

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