



hand in hand

FTCNS TENTH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING GALA

SILENT/LIVE AUCTION PREVIEW

BENEFITTING THE CHILDREN AND TEACHERS OF FTCNS

Saturday • May 1, 2010 • 7:00pm
DANK Haus German American Cultural Center
4740 North Western Avenue





PROUD SUPPORTER
of Families Together Cooperative Nursery School
FIVE YEARS IN A ROW!

WELCOME TO THE FTCNS TENTH ANNIVERSARY GALA!

Tonight, we have so much to celebrate.

We are here to honor some of the parents and community members who made it possible to open FTCNS in our current location. Please take a look at the **FTCNS History** section and the **FTCNS Honors Our Founders and Leaders** insert in this program to read about our history and the individuals who brought Families Together to Edgewater ten years ago and grew the school into what it is today.

We are here to revel in our amazing present-day community of dedicated parents and staff. I have worked in schools my entire adult life; never, have I witnessed a place where parents and staff are engaged in such rich, respectful, and productive discussions about children, teaching, and learning.

Finally, we come together tonight to complete the second phase of our yearly fundraising campaign, so that FTCNS can continue to thrive and serve an economically diverse community of families. This campaign would not be possible without the tireless and inspired work of Jill Christian, our Fundraising Chair, and her fantastic committee of parent volunteers. In turn, their accomplishments would not be possible without the fabulous donations solicited by our resourceful and creative parent community. Thank you!

Families Together is a unique gem in a city with many wonderful options for early childhood education. We are a place where a child will be understood and valued for exactly who he or she is. We are a school where creative, joyful, open play and children's ideas are authentically at the center of everything we do. We are a community where parents and children make deep, long-lasting connections. Finally, we are an example of the magic that can happen when families, educators, and administrative staff work hand-in-hand towards an inspirational vision for early childhood education.

Tonight, I invite you to be as generous as you possibly can be in supporting our wonderful school. Every dollar that you contribute will directly benefit children and families. The purchases and donations that you make tonight will allow a greater number of families to afford FTCNS and will enhance our classroom resources and teacher training and support.

Thank you so much for being part of the Families Together community!

Laura Pinsof

President, Board of Directors

Families Together Cooperative Nursery School

THANK YOU

Our event theme, **Hand-in-Hand**, captures the essence of Families Together. Every success of the school results from the cooperation of students, teachers, and most of all, parents. Last fall's online auction and our upcoming Tenth Anniversary Gala are no different. Children participated in making class projects, our teachers provided fantastic auction items, and parents worked all year to solicit donations and use their amazing talents to create spectacular pieces. This is how we fund the school we all love.

I owe a huge thank you to the Fundraising Committee for organizing an amazing on-line auction—which earned over \$21,000, a record—and putting together the Gala. The Gala is sure to be a fun event and a great success!

Please congratulate the following committee members for their effort the next time you see them:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ Kavita Alford | ■ Sue Serra |
| ■ Sarah Berman | ■ Gigi Sharba |
| ■ Jamie Brunson | ■ Julie Simon |
| ■ Tracey Dobson | ■ Marcella Squires-Ducsay |
| ■ Meredith Glick | ■ Jennifer Tanaka |
| ■ Courtney Fritz | ■ Janel Toal |
| ■ Dana Hall | ■ Abear White |
| ■ Barb Lea | ■ Erin Whitt |
| ■ Denise Milito-Stockwell | ■ Airan Wright |

Because of your extraordinary effort and countless hours of work, the community will be celebrating ten wonderful years at our Gala.

Finally, I would like to thank Aimee Skinner, our Administrative Director; Laura Pinsof, Board President; and the Board of Directors for your unwavering support.

Please take a look at the attached preview of some of our excellent auction items. Then, put your dancing shoes on, get your checkbooks out, and get ready for a great party!

Best,

Jill Christian

Fundraising Chair

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GALA SCHEDULE • AUCTION INFORMATION

GALA SCHEDULE

- 7-9:00pm: Drinks and Hors d'oeuvres
Silent Auction open for bidding
- 9-10:00pm: Silent Auction ends/Live Auction begins at 9pm
10th Anniversary Honoree Presentation
- 10-11:00pm: Live Music from BS Brass
Drinks and Dessert
Auction Check-out
- 11:00pm: Last call
Final auction check-out
Gala ends at 11:30pm

DRINK TICKETS

Upon entering the gala, you will receive two drink tickets good for beer, wine, or mixed drinks. Additional drink tickets (\$4 per ticket) may be purchased from the check-in table throughout the evening. Bartenders will not accept cash payment for drinks.

SILENT AUCTION

The silent auction opens at 7:00 pm. The minimum bid will be on each bid sheet. Each item must be raised by the minimum bid increment listed on the bid sheet. To be valid, bids must comply with these minimums and be legible. To place a bid, print your full name with your bid amount on the bid sheet. Doing so constitutes a legal contract to purchase that silent auction item, at the price you stated, if your bid is the winning bid. The last (highest) valid bid entered prior to the section closing will be the winning bid.

Alterations of any bid by bidders are prohibited. Once a bid is written it may not be crossed out. Bid sheet adjustments may occur only with the approval and signature of a Silent Auction Official. Please locate an Auction Official if you wish to retract a bid.

The Fundraising Committee reserves the right to withdraw any item at any time without notice before the actual sale. In the event of a dispute, the Fundraising Committee shall act as final authority in determining the winning bid.

MULTI-WINNER SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

A "blind" auction will be conducted for items with multiple winners. Each bidder will write the maximum bid he/she is willing to pay for one slot on a numbered slip of paper and put it in the jar for the designated item. At the close of the silent auction, the top bids up to the maximum number of slots will win the item. In the event of a tie, the winner who made their bid earlier, as evidenced by their bid number, will prevail.

Last, but not least, bid early, bid often, and enjoy your auction winnings! The funds we raise will support Families Together and make a difference for our students.

LIVE AUCTION

An announcement will indicate the close of silent auction bids and the start of the live auction. When bidding in the live auction, please hold up your hand toward the auctioneer. The live auction will con-

tinue until all items are sold. A bid acknowledged by the auctioneer is a legal contract to purchase the item.

PAYMENT

At check-in each bidder will fill out a registration form listing a credit card to secure their auction purchases. Any auction purchases will be charged to the credit card on file. If an auction winner would prefer to pay by cash or check, they may provide that payment at check-out.

CHECK-OUT

All receipts will be kept at the Check-Out area. At the end of the evening, please report to the alphabetized row for your last name to retrieve your items and receipt. You must pay in full prior to items being disbursed to you. It is the responsibility of the purchaser to locate and remove his/her winning item(s) by the end of the auction. FTCNS will not transport auction items off-site at the end of the night.

TERMS OF SALE

All items and services are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the donors. All sales are final. There will be no exchanges or refunds. FTCNS does not make any expressed or implied warranties or guarantees on auction items regarding quality or value of items or services. FTCNS has attempted to describe and catalog all items correctly, but all items are offered and sold "as is" and "with all faults". FTCNS neither warrants nor represents, and in no event shall be responsible for the correctness of descriptions, genuineness, authorship, provenance or condition of the items. No statement made in this catalog or made orally at the auction or elsewhere shall be deemed such a warranty for tax purposes or market value. Items have not been appraised unless otherwise noted. Reservations for trips and vacation accommodations must be mutually arranged with the donor unless otherwise noted. No refunds will be allowed on travel packages for canceled tickets and/or accommodations. By the buyer's purchase, the buyer waives any claim for liability against FTCNS, its elected and appointed officials, members and employees, sponsors, volunteers connected with the auction, and/or the donor of the item. Neither FTCNS nor the donor is responsible for any personal injuries or damage that may result from the use of the property or services.

TAX INFORMATION

FTCNS is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The amount of your contribution that is deductible for Federal income tax purposes is limited to the excess of the amount of money contributed by you over the estimated value of the goods and services that you receive. This catalog and/or the item bid sheet lists the fair market value of each item. Please save your check-out receipt for tax purposes and check with your tax advisor for specifics.

Pizza Party with the FTCNS Teachers

Parents, do you want a night out? Bid on a spot for your FTCNS child at the annual Pizza Party with the Teachers. On Friday, May 21 from 5-7:00pm, your child will enjoy pizza, games, and a movie with Mary, Craig, Salena, Deadre, and Ellen.

This items is subject to the bidding rules for multiple winners. A winning bid entitles you to one space at this event for your FTCNS child.

Bidding starts at \$20 per slot. There are 20 slots available.

Estimated Value: Priceless!
Donated By: FTCNS Teachers



Young 3s Class Playdate at Family Grounds Café

End the school year with a bang by spending the morning with the Green Families at Family Grounds Café. The Young 3s Class will have the indoor play space/café all to themselves on Wednesday, June 2 from 9-10:30am. Family Grounds Café, located at 3652 N. Lincoln Avenue, is a hip Chicago coffee shop with an indoor play space where kids are welcomed and appreciated! Food and drinks not included.

This items is subject to bidding rules for multiple winners. A winning bid entitles you to one space at this event for your FTCNS child.

Bidding starts at \$20 per slot. 16 slots available for the playdate.

Estimated Value: Priceless!
Donated By: Family Grounds Café



Nursery Classes Playdate at Jump Zone

Calling all Yellow and Blue Families! Would your kids enjoy playing with their fellow classmates and working their "sillies" out? Bid on one of 20 available slots for a playdate with fellow Nursery students at the Jump Zone inflatable play space in Niles on Thursday, June 3. Kids will enjoy use of the inflatables from 10-11:15am, then head to the party room for a brown bag lunch with their classmates. A parent/caregiver must remain on-site to supervise the child during this event. **The Jump Zone is located at 6374 W. Howard Street in Niles.**

This item is subject to the bidding rules for multiple winners. A winning bid entitles you to one space at this event for your FTCNS child.

Bidding starts at \$20 per slot. 20 slots available for the playdate.

Estimated Value: Priceless!
Donated By: Jump Zone



Pre-K/Mixed Age Pasta Party at The Chopping Block

Purple and Orange Families: Let's get in the kitchen and learn to cook! On Friday, June 4 from 11:00am to 1:00pm, 12 lucky Pre-K or Mixed Age students (and their parents) will learn to cook a nutritious and tasty meal at The Chopping Block, at 4747 N. Lincoln Avenue, in Lincoln Square.

The kids will learn to cook the following:

- Tomato, Basil and Fresh Mozzarella Salad
- Homemade Egg Pasta with Alfredo Sauce
- Panna Cotta with Strawberries and Blueberries

After the cooking, eat and socialize with your classmates!

This item is subject to the bidding rules for multiple winners. A winning bid entitles you to one space at this event for your FTCNS child.

Bidding starts at \$50 per slot. There are 12 slots available.

Estimated Value: Priceless!
Donated By: Sara Salzinski and The Chopping Block



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Front Row Seats at Class Performances

Wave to your child from the front row at his/her year-end performance! Don't miss your chance to bid on a pair of reserved seats at these popular events!

May 27: PreK & Mixed Age Class Performances
June 8: Young 3s Class Performance
June 9: 8:30 & 9:00 Nursery Class Performances

One PAIR of seats will be auctioned off for each class. Minimum bid starts at \$15 per pair.

Estimated Value: Priceless!

Learn to Prepare Delicious Vegetarian Indian cuisine

Bid on an Indian vegetarian cooking demonstration/lesson at the Shah home with dinner to follow. The menu will include: chole (chickpea curry); paratha (Indian flatbread); vegetable palou (rice); raita (cucumber yogurt dip); wine & appetizers.

AVAILABLE DATES:

Sunday, June 13 or Sunday, June 20 at 5:00 p.m.

Lesson can be tailored for adults only or family friendly. Limit to 4 adults or 1 family.

Minimum Bid: \$40

Estimated Value: \$125

Donated By: Shweta Shah

White Sox vs. Marlins: Bleacher Seats!

Watch the White Sox beat the Florida Marlins on Friday, May 21 at 7:10pm. Section 161, Row 9, Seats 3 and 4.

Minimum Bid: \$20

Estimate Value: \$64

Donated By: Jenn Twardosz



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Vet Assistant for a Day!

Is your child an animal lover? Bid on this chance for your child to be a real vet assistant! Dr. Murphy will take your child on a great adventure at the West Wrigley Animal Hospital.

Limited to one-half day on a Monday or Friday as mutually agreed upon by Dr. Murphy and winning bidder.

Minimum Bid: \$100

Estimated Value: Priceless!

Donated By: Dr. Eileen Murphy

Take the Kids to Disney World!

Bid on these four, one-day Park Hopper passes. Park Hopper passes are valid during normal operating hours and provide admission to a magical experience at all of these Disney theme parks: Magic Kingdom®, Epcot®, Disney's Hollywood Studios™, or Disney's Animal Kingdom®.

No expiration or blackout dates.

Minimum Bid: \$100

Estimated Value: \$524

Donated By: Walt Disney World Community Relations

Class Weaving Projects: Own an original piece of art made by your child and his classmates!

All our children participated in a class Weaving Project. Their class "color" was the jumping off point. Sticking with this one color yet using 8 to 10 different fabrics resulted in monochromatic pieces that are simple yet interesting, colorful and graphic. The aim was to create something appropriate for not only a child's room wall, but something that could work well in any room. The children assisted in the weaving of the fabrics, some doing one piece, and many coming back to do a few more.

Chosen fabrics were mostly reclaimed and all are natural fibers: cashmere, wool, silk, cotton and linen. Weavings measure 20 x 20" and are 1½" deep.

Minimum Bid \$40

Estimated Value \$100

Class Mosaic Projects: Our children are the stars of a beautiful work of art.

One mosaic mirror was created for each class for the FTCNS Live Auction. Glass petals create a flower around each child's beautiful face. The mirror borders are painted with the class color and mosaic clear glass covers it. A major portion of the glass was recycled from a broken window, which not only lends a "green" aspect to the project but also adds sparkle. These mirrors were created by a large "mosaic circle" comprised of FTCNS "mom" volunteers.

Minimum Bid \$100

Estimated Value \$500

Wine Toss

Relive the carnival games of your childhood by playing our wine toss. For \$20, each player will get three chances to put a ring around a bottle of wine. Wines of various values and prestige will be on the playing field. Try your hand and end up with something special!

Need a vacation?

We have you covered!

Our wonderful community has come up with four different vacation options for you to bid on!

A Week in Gorgeous Rural France!

Spend a week in a beautiful traditional thatched roof cottage on 17 acres of forest and pasture in Normandy, France.

The lovingly maintained—two bedroom/bath and a half—house has a large terrace and gorgeous gardens. It features a completely modern kitchen with washer and dryer, a living/dining room with a queen sofa bed, beautiful antique furniture throughout, and many restored original features. The land surrounding the house includes forested areas, open pastures and meadows, and a small stream.

The house is two hours from Paris, in the village of Les Authieux Sur Calonne, near the larger town of Pont L'evêque. It is a 30 minute drive from the coastal towns of Deauville, Trouville, and Honfleur, and a one hour drive to Monet's Giverny and the Normandy beaches. Les Authieux Sur Calonne is in the heart of the Department of Calvados, surrounded by farms, cheese makers, and cider and brandy producers. The house is a 15 minute drive from an astounding number of incredible restaurants, adorable villages, bakeries, antique shops, and traditional French markets.

AVAILABLE DATES:

June 6-30, 2010
July 13-20, 2010
August 14-30, 2010
September 1-30, 2010

Minimum Bid: \$1,200
Estimated Value: \$2,100

Folk Victorian Cottage Weekend in Oregon, IL

Enjoy a weekend away in a simple folk Victorian cottage in Oregon, Illinois! This small scenic town, located two hours from Chicago (directly south of Rockford), straddles the banks of the Rock River and is surrounded by two state parks and miles of beautiful Midwestern farmland. An artists' enclave since 1871, the area boasts three foundries.

This 3 bedroom/1 bath cottage (built in 1871) features wrap-around porch, hammock, outdoor fire pit, back deck, ping-pong, tvs, wireless, printer. Just blocks from the Rock River; walking distance to art galleries, parks, restaurants; near golf course, riding ranch, pool and much, much more!

Dates to be mutually agreed upon between winner and donor.

Minimum Bid: \$350
Value: \$800
Donated By: Mike Rohrbeck & Andrea Raila

Indiana Dunes Vacation Home!

A recently renovated home just two blocks from a private beach and an amazing Lake Michigan view are yours to enjoy from June 4-7, 2010. This three bedrooms/two full bath home also

features an informal sleeping area with an additional two full beds and a crib. This house can easily accommodate two families. Set on a hilltop, the house enjoys a 360-degree view of not only the lake, but of the surrounding State Park. The best part about this house is it's close proximity to the city. It is about an hour and 15 minute drive from the north side. Located in a very small community of homes, it's only a short walk down the beach to hiking in the Indiana Dunes State Park.

Included in your stay: linens, towels, beach towels, beach chairs, beach toys, pre- and post-visit cleaning service, full use of kitchen: dishes, pots, pans etc., gas grill, fireplace.

Minimum Bid: \$300
Estimated Value: \$800
Donated By: Meredith Glick

End the Summer with a Bang!

Spend the weekend of September 11-13, 2010 at Domingo Norborg's grandparents' cottage on Lake Michigan. The cottage is just south of South Haven, Michigan, about 2 hours from Chicago. The cottage sleeps 13—five twin beds and four bigger beds—and features a huge deck overlooking the lake. Amazing sunsets! This would be great for two or three families to share.

Minimum Bid: \$300
Estimated Value: \$800
Donated By: Chris Norborg and Alice Setrini



*Thank You...
for Six Wonderful Years!*

FTCNS has been the **BEST** pre-school for:

ISABELLA • Graduated ~ June 2006
GABRIELLA • Graduated ~ June 2008
DANIELA • Graduating ~ June 2010

WE'LL MISS YOU!!!
The Serra Family



families together
cooperative nursery school

FTCNS is lucky to have many talented parents and friends in our community. We have so many unique items for you to peruse at the Gala. They include original artwork, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, hand-knit items, hand-made clothing, gift certificates, unique experiences, photography, bath products, food, wine, and much more.



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Henry, age 6

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Congratulations to FTCNS on its 10 year anniversary!

Christopher Rohrbeck (FTCNS 1999-2000) 7th Grader
Reah Rohrbeck (FTCNS 2002 -2003) 5th Grader
Rianna Rohrbeck (FTCNS 2004-2005) 1st Grader

All FTCNS grads attend the Northside Catholic Academy (NCA) at the St Gertrude and St Ita primary and elementary campuses. All involved in sports, music, art and dance.

Parents Andrea Raila & Michael Rohrbeck
(co-founder/organizer of FTCNS Edgewater location)
reside at 1400 W Elmdale Chicago IL 60660 773-508-9140



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FTCNS TENTH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING GALA

DID YOU LIKE THE ITEMS
IN THIS PREVIEW?

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Hello to Mary, Ellen, Salena & Chris!

Owen Weiland
FTCNS Kid 2005-2007

Now in the 2nd Grade at Bell Gifted program.

FAMILIES TOGETHER COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL HISTORY

The school that would eventually become Families Together Cooperative Nursery School began more than 30 years ago in Evanston. In the early 1970's, a group of Evanston parents formed a parent/tot playgroup. In the 1980's, this group decided to become a more formal cooperative and eventually became licensed as the Evanston Cooperative Nursery School (ECNS). ECNS was housed in several different locations until it found a home at Hemenway United Methodist Church on Chicago Avenue in Evanston. In the late 1990's, due to a variety of building issues, it became apparent that the school needed to move from Hemenway to a new location.

Some parents from Immanuel Lutheran's "Together Program" playgroup had been dreaming of starting a cooperative nursery school at the church. Michelle Knapp, the parish nurse and Together Program founder, suggested that they visit other area co-ops. One parent from the Together Program visited ECNS and learned that the school was looking for a new location and was open to moving to Chicago. At the end of a search in Evanston and Chicago, the ECNS Board chose Immanuel Lutheran as the new home for their co-op.

In the spring of 1997, ECNS closed and began its transition to its new Edgewater location. 12 students were enrolled for the fall and the ECNS board hoped to use the summer to fully move the school to its new location. As the summer progressed, however, the board learned that in order for the school to open at Immanuel, major DCFS and city-code related upgrades, such as fire doors and alarm systems, were required. The school did not have the necessary funds to complete these updates. By August of 1997, the board knew the school would not be able to open in the fall. They made the difficult decision to close the school and focus on obtaining the funds to complete the upgrades and open for the 1998-1999 school year.

Over the next year and into the fall of 1998, the school board, church representatives, and Together Program parents worked together to find funds to hire an architect and carry out all of the necessary upgrades of the physical space. In March of 1998, after considering becoming the *Sunshine Cooperative Nursery School* or the *Edgewater Cooperative Nursery School*, **Families Together Cooperative Nursery School** was officially approved as the name of the school. Representatives from the Church and Together Program community joined the school board in order to further along the transition and fundraising process. Michelle Knapp and her mother, Ellen Bretting, secured a large contribution from the Women's Board at Immanuel Lutheran to complete the physical upgrades. This was a critical donation and it is unlikely that the school would have gotten off the ground without it. Other individuals and foundations also contributed funds on which the opening of the school depended.



During the spring of 1999, despite not yet having its DCFS license, FTCNS was able to operate as a parent/tot program serving eight nursery school-aged children. In September 1999, Families Together was able to open as an official licensed nursery school. FTCNS began the school year with 12 students, its first year's rent paid by an anonymous grant. Each parent involved in the cooperative took many different roles—many of which are the roles that our committees play today. The school began with one Mixed Age class and expanded into one Nursery class and one Pre-K class in 2001. In 2004, FTCNS added a Young 3s class and in 2005, another Nursery class. In 2006, a second Pre-K class was added and in 2007, one of the Pre-K classes was turned into the current Mixed Age class. Since the 1999-2000 school year, FTCNS has expanded to serve 90 students each year. The school's commitment to be a true cooperative—with sliding scale tuition, a parent Board, parent assistants in our classroom, and an incredible committee structure—was and is still the backbone of this wonderful school.

THANK YOU... SPONSORS • DONORS • SUPPORTERS

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS...FRIENDS OF FTCNS Tracey Dobson & Serge Krieger • Aina Gutierrez & Douglas Sondgeroth • Randy Hyuck • Elizabeth & Steve Mankowski (in honor of Katherine Whinnery's 95th Birthday—Paige Mankowski's great-grandmother) • Toni Meder & Tim Weiland • Jeff Norman & Joan Solomon • Thomas Pace & Natalie Spears • Andrea Raila & Michael Rohrbeck • John Schomberg & Ellen Wheeler • Sara & Joe Shacter • Donna Welch • Matt & Katie Wise ■

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