

*Do you believe every child should grow up in a safe, nourishing and loving environment?*

*Do you believe every child is entitled to an education of the head, the heart and the hand?*

I am sure you said, **“Yes, of course”** to both questions.

Unfortunately, we all know this is not always the case – with the exception for the children who come to live at Mooseheart. At the Child City and School, nearly 12,000 children have found a home, people who care about them and educational opportunities they might never have had otherwise.

Every child has a story – the circumstances that brought them to Mooseheart. Two of the 2009 Mooseheart Graduates shared their stories with the members present at the Chicago International Convention.

Heather Sheere Hensley spoke eloquently of the second chance at life given to her by Moose members in Arkansas who had steered her away from a home life of drug-abuse and neglect, at age 15, to Mooseheart, where she experienced structure, discipline, and responsible caregivers for the first time in her life.

In her opening remarks, Heather said, “I have conquered the impossible, conquered my past, come to terms with who I am today and feel a great sense of excitement about my future. This is all because of you.”



And she concluded with, “I am forever grateful for you, my Moose family. I thank each and every one of you for believing in me, for providing me with a home and giving me a future to be proud of.”

Prior to coming to Mooseheart, Heather’s attendance at school was extremely sporadic. During her senior year, she was inducted into the Honor Society. Because of the love, care and education she received at the Child City and School, she will be heading to the Honors Program at Aurora (IL) University.

Marco Antonio Namowicz told his story, in his soft-spoken manner, of growing up since the age of 6 at Mooseheart -- and finding a way of life in music, under the tutelage of Mooseheart Band Director Steve Schmidt. Marco has developed a talent with the clarinet that earned him a full scholarship at Chicago's DePaul University.

In Marco’s address to the Convention attendees, he said, “You are givers of hope, a piece of the solution to the broken lives that misfortune preys upon and for that, I thank you.”

He closed with, “Coming to Mooseheart has been a blessing in itself. What you give and do is truly amazing. You touch the lives of so many. I truly thank you for all you’ve done for me and the children at Mooseheart. May God Bless you with good health and watch over you always. I am proud and honored to call you family.”

He is a gifted young musician but his talent may not have been realized had it not been for the Child City and School. Marco gave a solo performance for those gathered in Chicago which was met with a standing ovation and thunderous applause.



These are just two stories of two young people who needed the opportunities Mooseheart offers. There are so many more. At the present time, we have well over two hundred children relying upon us for a chance for a safe, happy and healthy life. And, with your help we will provide them the life every child deserves.

***You can make a difference—Please find it in your heart to help!***

The children of Mooseheart and I thank you in advance for your compassion and your generosity.

With warmest regards,



Jan Fregulia  
Executive Director