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Thursday, January 15, 2015



**LLEGA A**  
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## Travel and Adventure Show Comes to Chicago

By: Ashmar Mandou

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Chicago Travel and Adventure Show makes its way to

Chicago January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to give travel hopefuls the opportunity to become enthused by the sights, sounds, and taste of various

cultures around the world. As the country's number one travel show, Chicago Travel and Adventure Show will return to the

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont. This year, the Travel and Adventure Show will

feature more than 1,000 travel experts from the world's top destinations to offer tips to travel enthusiasts on how to

have the best vacation. Featured speakers include *New York Times* bestselling author of *Wild: From Lost*

*Continued on page 2*

## Travel and Adventure Show... *Continued from page 1*

to *Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*, Cheryl Strayed, who will discuss her deeply transformative 1,100-mile hike along the Pacific Crest Trail, a story that was recently adapted into a major motion picture starring Reese Witherspoon; Travel Channel's Samantha

Brown; Peter Greenberg, Emmy-winning investigative reporter and travel news journalist; Pauline Frommer, Editorial Director of the Frommer's Guides and Publisher of Frommers.com; and Patricia Schultz, best-selling author, *1,000*

*Places to See Before You Die*.

Attendees can discover more than 300 exhibitors from international destinations ranging from the Mexico Tourism Board, Florida Keys & Key West, Tahiti Tourism, India Tourism, as well as local



destinations highlighted by the Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan pavilions. The Chicago Travel and Adventure Show takes

place at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center on January 17 and 18, 2015 (5555 N. River Rd, Rosemont, IL).

On Saturday, the show opens at 9:30am for travel professionals, with general public hours set from 10 am – 5 pm. On Sunday, the show floor opens at 11 am and the show closes at 4 pm. Single and two-day tickets are currently available online for a discounted rate of \$11 (single-day) and \$17 (two-day) with promo code: CHPR, and are also available on-site for \$16/\$25. As always, children 16 and under are free. For tickets and more information, visit [www.TravelShows.com/Chicago](http://www.TravelShows.com/Chicago).

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## MassMutual's FutureSmart Challenge, Chicago Bulls Spend the Day with Students

By: Ashmar Mandou

On Tuesday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> the United Center played host to more than 2,500 middle school students from Junior Achievements and After-School All-Stars as part of MassMutual's FutureSmart Challenge. Students participated in an educational seminar hosted by actor and best-selling author Hill Harper, who taught the students the importance of smart money management and the importance of higher education. Not only did students receive advice from Harper, but they were able to enjoy special appearances by Chicago Bulls legend Sidney Green, Benny the Bull, the CB Flippers, the Luvabulls and the Incredibulls. Chicago is the second stop on the 2015 multi-city tour of MassMutual's FutureSmart Challenge, a leadership program that offers



middle school students the opportunity to learn about the importance of financial stability through the Junior Achievement curriculum. MassMutual

has committed nearly \$2 million to MassMutual's FutureSmart Challenge in 2015 and will reach nearly 10,000 middle school students this year.

## Los Toros de Chicago Pasaron el Día con los Estudiantes como parte de MassMutual's FutureSmart Challenge

Por Ashmar Mandou

El martes, 13 de enero, United Center fue el anfitrión de más de 2,500 estudiantes de escuela media de Junior Achievements y After-School All-Stars, como parte de MassMutual's FutureSmart Challenge. Los estudiantes participaron en un seminario educativo ofrecido por el actor y autor de best-sellers, Hill Harper, quien enseñó a los estudiantes la importancia de la administración del dinero y la importancia de una educación superior. Los estudiantes no solo recibieron consejos de Harper, sino que pudieron disfrutar de presentaciones especiales de leyendas de Los Toros de Chicago como Sidney



Green, Benny the Bull, los CB Flippers, los Luvabulls y los Incredibulls. Chicago es la segunda parada de la gira de ciudades múltiples del 2015 de MassMutual's FutureSmart Challenge, programa de liderazgo que ofrece a los estudiantes de escuela media, la oportunidad de aprender

sobre la importancia de la estabilidad financiera a través del plan de estudios de Junior Achievement. MassMutual ha comprometido cerca de \$2 millones a MassMutual's FutureSmart Challenge en el 2015 y alcanzará a cerca de 10,000 estudiantes este año.

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## Caring for Loved Ones is Important, but the Women in Our Lives Need to Take Care of Themselves Too

It might seem like the women around us are always taking care of others. But when it comes to our health, no one should have to compromise in order to complete simple daily tasks, such as running errands or taking care of your loved ones. Get Covered Illinois (GCI) is encouraging you to remind the women in your life to take care of themselves and their health. GCI can help connect women with quality, affordable health coverage so they have the peace of mind they need to go see a doctor, and can get out in front of potential health issues. This year, there are more options through the Marketplace than ever. This means you can easily compare plans from the top insurance companies in the state to find a plan that fits your needs and your budget.

“Enrolling in health coverage is a huge first step toward a healthy lifestyle that can help you or those you care about avoid illness and the financial burden that comes with health issue,” said Jennifer Koehler, Director of Get Covered Illinois. “We’re encouraging people to take action now, and not to wait until the last minute to enroll and get the peace of mind that comes with knowing you are covered.” In fact, all Marketplace health plans cover essential health benefits that can directly affect women’s health. Below is just a sampling of the vital health services that are covered for little to no cost when you visit your doctor.

•**Breast cancer screenings**, like mammograms, every one or two years for women over 40. Breast cancer genetic test counseling

(BRCA) and breast cancer chemoprevention counseling are also available for women at higher risk for breast cancer.

•**Cervical cancer screenings**, like pap tests.

•**Maternity and newborn care**, like services during pregnancy and after your baby is delivered, including breastfeeding.

•**Contraception, sexual health screenings and counseling.**

•**Domestic and interpersonal violence screenings and counseling.**

•**Well-woman visits**, or annual check-ups for women.

Staying healthy means taking care of your body and mind all the time, not just when you get sick or injured. Enrolling in health coverage can help make those illnesses and

injuries less expensive by helping cover the cost of your services. You may also qualify for financial help when you enroll. Get Covered Illinois is hosting enrollment events and extending hours at locations in advance of the Feb. 15 deadline. Visit [www.GetCoveredIllinois.gov](http://www.GetCoveredIllinois.gov) or call 866-311-1119 to schedule an appointment or to find an enrollment location near you.



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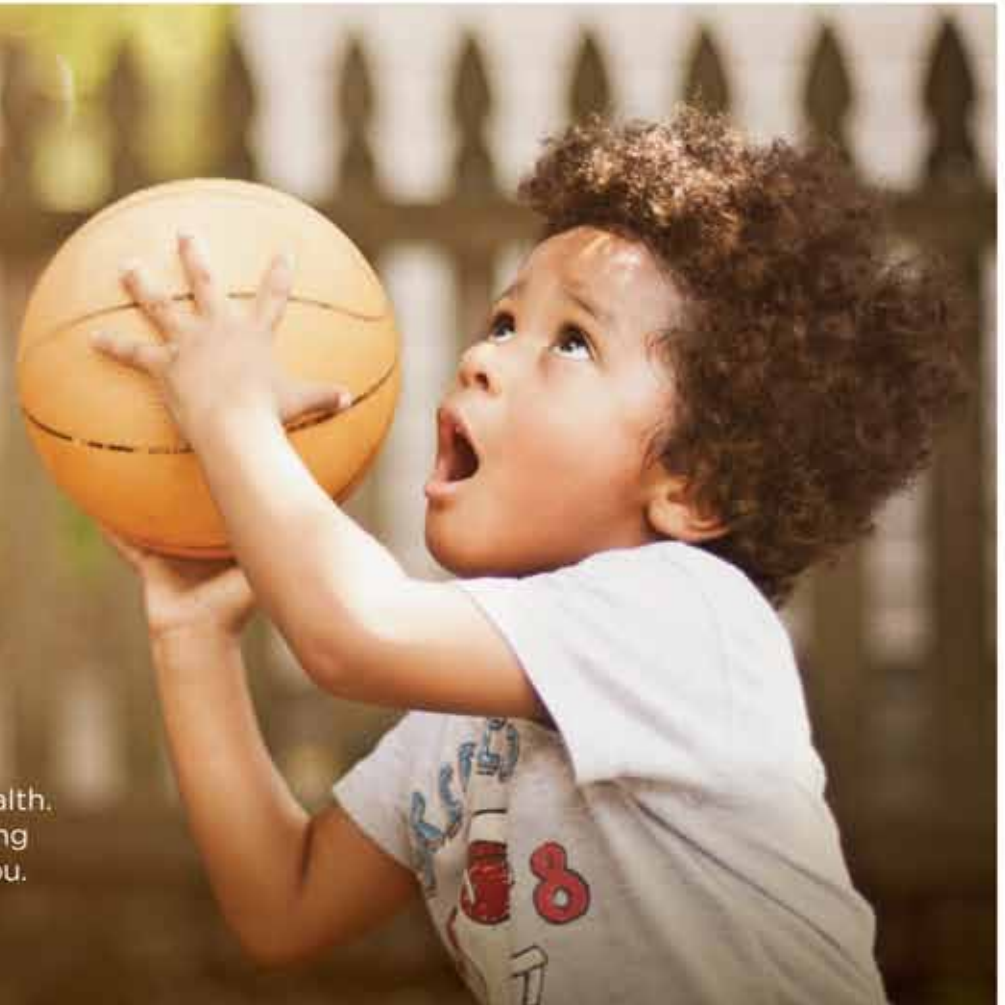
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## City Announces New 311 Resource for Parents

Building on the nationwide success of "Text4baby," Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced this week the upcoming launch of a free text messaging service called Connect4Tots, which provides parents with information on caring for their child over age one. The messaging service will provide important resources to promote parental involvement in education, children's health, access to social services, and

participation in city events. Connect4Tots is expected to launch in the fall of 2015 as part of the City's roll out of the next phase of Open 311.

Connect4Tots will expand on the success of Text4baby by offering the same important services to more parents. Just as Text4baby provided resources for new or soon-to-be parents on caring for their child less than a year old, this Chicago-based service will provide



similar resources and information to parents with children aged one and older. Connect4Tots will also go a step further in its inclusion of social services and early childhood education information.

The messaging service will utilize a broad network of public-private partnerships including the Chicago Department of Public Health; hospitals and clinics; mobile health organizations; corporate sponsors; cellular service providers, technology vendors, and related non-profits; as well as health care, education and social service experts such as the Ounce of Prevention and EverThrive Illinois.

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# Young Women Speak Out Against Forced Marriage, Racism



**By: Ashmar Mandou**

Young South Asian members of the Pomegranate Tree Group, in partnership with Tahirih Justice Center, began on a six-city tour to address the lives of young women forced into marriage, gender-based violence, racism, and patriarchy. "Honoring Our Heartbeats: A Tour to End Forced Marriage in the U.S.," is the name of the tour and will make a stop in Chicago on January 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> bringing three events including a multimedia performance, workshop, and issue briefing. The tour is inspired by a comic book, "Heartbeats: The IZZAT Project," written by women in the spirit of celebrating resiliency in the face of violence.

"We are so excited to bring this national tour to the Chicago area. Forced marriage is a human rights abuse that impacts everyone across the country, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, or religion. Friday's multimedia performance at the University of Illinois at Chicago is an event that should not be missed. Every time I see the performance, I get

goose bumps because these courageous, young women are speaking out against the spectrum of violence they've experienced within and against their communities. They felt their voices being left out of the mainstream dialogue about violence," said Heather Heiman, Tahirih Justice Center Forced Marriage Initiative Project Manager and Senior Public Policy Attorney. "Now, through this performance and tour, they are sparking open and honest dialogue about very difficult and complex issues, including family violence, forced marriage, patriarchy, racism, and rape. For me, it's been amazing to see how the performance sparks new dialogue in each city we visit, and I can't wait to see this happen in Chicago."

The U.S. government recognizes forced marriage as a violation of human rights, and a 2011 national survey by Tahirih identified as many as 3,000 cases encountered across the U.S. in a two-year period. Yet, according to Heiman forced marriage remains a hidden issue in this country. "Honoring Our Heartbeats," will host an issue briefing

on Wednesday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> at Mayer Brown LLP, 71 S. Wacker Dr., from 12:30p.m., to 2p.m. On Thursday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, a training workshop will take place at The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, 55 E. Jackson Blvd., suite 2075, from 1 to 5p.m. Lastly, the multimedia performance and community forum will



take place on Friday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> at the UIC Student Center East, 750 S. Halsted St., at 329 Cardinal Room from noon to 1:30p.m. For more information, visit [www.tahirish.org/heartbeats](http://www.tahirish.org/heartbeats).

**Photo Credit: Preston Gannaway**



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## 500 Illinois Children in Foster Care Find Forever Homes

As the Department of Children and Family Services' 50<sup>th</sup> year of protecting children and supporting families came to a close, Acting Director Bobbie Gregg announced an exciting – and ambitious – initiative: to help 500 children currently living in foster care find loving and permanent homes, within 50 days, through adoption and guardianship by January 5, 2015. “All

children deserve a safe, permanent and loving family,” said Gregg. “I’m so pleased that together with the courts, our partner organizations and DCFS staff, we were able to finalize these adoptions by the year’s end. It was a fitting way to finish our 50<sup>th</sup> year.”

The “500 in 50” project’s success was made possible due to the commitment of Department leaders and

staff, private agency and court system partners who came together to remove barriers and identify resources to clear the path for permanency. In all, 512 children found their forever home. Statewide, 1,499 adoptions and guardianships were finalized in Fiscal Year 2014: 363 in the Northern Region; 551 in the Central Region; 287 in the Southern Region and 298

in Cook County.

“Illinois DCFS has done a tremendous job of recognizing the significance of permanency,” says Anita Shannon, senior director of strategic consulting at Casey Family Programs. “For DCFS to accomplish big task in such a short timeframe shows dedication and leadership.” The project’s efforts were



populations: the 307 children statewide who have a goal of adoption or guardianship and whose cases are in the final stage

of approval; and the 374 children statewide who are waiting for a court date for finalization.

## 500 Niños de Hogares de Crianza de Illinois Encuentran Hogares Permanentes

Al cumplirse 50 años de que el Departamento de Servicios Familiares e Infantiles protege a los niños y apoya a las familias, el Director Interino, Bobbie Gregg, anunció una exitante – y ambiciosa iniciativa: ayudar a que 500 niños que actualmente viven en hogares de crianza, encuentren hogares amorosos y permanentes, dentro de 50 días, por medio de la adopción y la tutoría, antes del 5 de enero del 2015. “Todos los niños merecen una familia amorosa, segura y permanente”, dijo Gregg. “Estoy muy contento de que junto con las cortes, nuestras organizaciones afiliadas y el personal de DCFS, hayamos podido finalizar estas adopciones para el fin de año. Fue una manera apropiada de finalizar los 50 años de servicio”.

El éxito del proyecto “500 en 50” fue posible debido al compromiso de los líderes y el personal del Departamento, agencias privadas y afiliados del sistema de cor-

tes, que se reunieron para quitar barreras e identificar recursos para abrir el camino a la permanencia. 512 niños encontraron un hogar permanente. A nivel estatal, 1,499 adopciones y tutorías quedaron finalizadas en el Año Fiscal 2014: 363 en la Región Norte, 551 en la Región Central, 287 en la Región Sur y 298 en el Condado de Cook.

DCFS Illinois ha hecho un tremendo trabajo al reconocer la importancia de la permanencia”, dice Anita Shannon, directora senior de consultas estratégicas de los Programas Casey Family. “Para DCFS lograr tan gran tarea en tan poco tiempo muestra dedicación y liderazgo”. Los esfuerzos del proyecto estuvieron enfocados en dos poblaciones primarias: los 307 niños a nivel estatal que tienen una meta de adopción o tutoría y cuyos casos están en la etapa final de aprobación, y los 374 niños a nivel estatal que esperan fecha de corte para la finalización.

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## Las Jóvenes Hablan Claro Contra el Matrimonio Forzado y el Racismo



Por: Ashmar Mandou

Jóvenes asiáticas, miembros de Pomegrante Tree Group, en colaboración con Tahirih Justice Center, comenzaron una gira por seis ciudades para hablar sobre la vida de las mujeres jóvenes forzadas al matrimonio, la violencia basada en el género, el racismo y el patriarcado. “Honramos Nuestros Corazones: Una Gira para Terminar el Matrimonio Forzado en E.U. Es el nombre de la gira y pasará por Chicago del 21 al 23 de enero, presentando tres eventos, incluyendo una actuación de multimedia, un taller y una sesión informativa. La gira está inspirada en el libro de historietas “Heartbeats: The IZZAT Project”, escrito por mujeres deseadas de celebrar su resistencia frente a la violencia.

“Estamos muy entusiasmadas de llevar esta gira nacional al área de Chicago. El matrimonio forzado es un abuso a los derechos humanos que impacta a todos en el país, sin importar su género, edad, etnicidad o religión. La actuación multimedia del viernes en la Universidad de Illinois en Chicago es un evento que no debería perderse. Cada vez que lo veo me impresionan esas valientes mujeres que hablan contra el espectro de la violencia dentro y en contra de sus comunidades. Sienten que sus voces sobre la violencia no han sido escuchadas”, dice Heather Heiman, Administrador del Proyecto de la Iniciativa Matrimonio Forzado Del Centro Tahirih Justice Center. “Ahora, con esta actuación y esta gira, están abriendo el diálogo honesto sobre problemas



muy difíciles y muy complejos, incluyendo la violencia familiar, el matrimonio forzado, el patriarcado, el racismo y la violación. Para mí, es asombroso ver como la actuación despierta el nuevo diálogo en cada ciudad que visitamos y no puedo esperar a ver lo que ocurre en Chicago.

## RTA Approves Funding for Public Transit Improvements for Town of Cicero

The Town of Cicero announced this week that it has received a \$400,000 grant from the RTA to fund bus stop improvements in the Town of Cicero. In 2012 the Town received a planning grant in the amount of \$150,000 through the RTA's RTAP (Regional Transportation Assistance Program) grant program to create a Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) plan. The plan is officially designated as “the Cicero

Connections TOD,” which the Cicero Town Board approved in late 2014.

The Cicero Connections TOD offered several transportation recommendations among several proposals, including one to develop the bus stop improvements throughout the Town of Cicero. Town President Larry Dominick said, “With these funds, the Town will be able to make Bus Stop improvements at 10 of the busiest intersections in the

Town of Cicero. These 20 new Tier 1 Bus Stops will incorporate all of the following new amenities, including Bus Stop Signs, Shelters, Benches, Trash bins, Dynamic Next Bus Information Signs and Bus Time Cabinets.”

President Dominick thanked Jose Alvarez, who is the Grant Administrator for the Town of Cicero. Alvarez, Dominick said, developed the grant proposal that won the \$400,000 funding for bus stop improvements.

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# Jesus "Chuy" Garcia Mayoral Campaign Hires Campaign Director

This week, the Jesus "Chuy" Garcia mayoral campaign announced that Tania Unzueta joined the team as the Latino campaign director. Unzueta will be

responsible for ensuring that the Latino community is fully engaged in the campaign. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia would be the first Latino mayor of Chicago

if elected.

"I have seen the way Chuy's work has benefited my community and my family. As an immigrant rights advocate, I know that

the policies that he has led as a County Commissioner are known throughout the country as some of the most forward-looking and impactful, and are

used as templates for other pieces of legislation that have helped keep families together. I am proud to join the efforts to elect Jesus 'Chuy' Garcia as Mayor of Chicago," Unzueta stated.

Unzueta is an undocumented community organizer who came to the U.S. when she was 10 years-old, and was raised in Chicago's Little Village. She is joining the campaign after spending the last two years as a national immigrant rights organizer with the National Day Laborer Organizing Network's 'Not One More' Campaign. She has a Master's degree in Latin American and Latino Studies and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"My campaign is about empowering the City of Chicago and



Tania Unzueta said its communities," said mayoral candidate Jesus "Chuy" Garcia. "Tania is the embodiment of what my campaign is about. She brings years of experience as a coalition builder and organizer in the Latino, LGBTQ and immigrant communities." The Jesus "Chuy" Garcia campaign has opened seven offices, including Logan Square and Brighton Park. For more information please visit <http://chicagoforchuy.com>.

## La Campaña para la Alcaldía de Jesús "Chuy" García Contrata Directora de Campaña

Esta semana, la campaña para la alcaldía de Jesús "Chuy" García anunció que Tania Unzueta se había unido como Directora Latina de la Campaña. Unzueta será responsable de asegurar que la comunidad latina está totalmente comprometida en la campaña. Jesús "Chuy" García sería el primer alcalde latino de Chicago, si es elegido.

"He visto la forma en que el trabajo de Chuy ha beneficiado a mi comunidad y a mi familia. Como abogado de los derechos del inmigrante, sé que las regulaciones que ha implementado como Comisionado del Condado son conocidas en todo el país como unas de las más prometedoras e impactantes y son usadas como plantillas para otras legislaciones que han ayudado a mantener a las familias unidas. Me siento orgullosa de unir mis esfuerzos para elegir a Jesús "Chuy" García como Alcalde de Chicago", declaró Unzueta.

Unzueta es organizadora de la comunidad indocumentada y llegó a E.U. cuando tenía 10 años y fue criada en el barrio de La Villita de Chicago. Se une a la campaña después de pasar los últimos dos años como organizadora nacional de los derechos del inmigrante con la Campaña 'Ni Uno Más' de National Day Laborer Organizing Network. Tiene una maestría en estudios latinos y latinoamericanos y un Bachillerato en Sociología, de la Universidad de Illinois en Chicago.

"Mi campaña trata de dar más poder a la Ciudad de Chicago y a sus comunidades", dijo el candidato a alcalde, Jesús "Chuy" García. "Tania es la encarnación de mi campaña. Tiene años de experiencia como elaboradora de coaliciones y organizadora en las comunidades latinas e inmigrantes LGBTQ". La campaña de Jesús "Chuy" García ha abierto siete oficinas, incluyendo las de Logan Square y Brighton Park. Para más información, visite <http://chicagoforchuy.com>.

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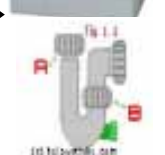
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