



Celebrate Long Life

Attention: Assignment desk, city desk.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A HAPPIER HOLIDAY FOR CHICAGO SENIORS LIVING IN SOLITUDE

December 25, 2015, CHICAGO. It was a Christmas Day celebration with a twist – partygoers were Chicagoans aged 70 and older. Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly hosted three Christmas dinners around the city for seniors living without the help of family and friends. It’s a mission that alleviates isolation and loneliness among 1,200 Chicagoans each year.

“Spending Christmas Day alone can take the joy out of the holiday,” says Simone Mitchell-Peterson, chief executive officer of Little Brothers. “Every day of the year, we make sure seniors feel cared for and remembered. During the holiday, we’re especially aware of how important it is to care for our elderly.” With the help of nearly 200 volunteers, the organization hosted three dinner celebrations for hundreds of elders, one of which was for Spanish-speaking senior citizens. For homebound seniors and those living in nursing homes, a fleet of volunteers delivered meals as well as a holiday treat to their doors.

In addition to Christmas Day festivities, Little Brothers conducts an elder holiday gift drive that generates 1,000 presents each year. The gifts are delivered throughout December by volunteers. “Elders are like family, many of them have been with our program for years. It’s a joy to be able to provide a gift to each one of them,” says Mitchell-Peterson. “They truly appreciate the gesture, and we appreciate them.”

Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly provides friendship to seniors in Chicago who are 70 and older and aging without support from family or friends. All services and programs are free to seniors, regardless of income. The nonprofit organization has operated in Chicago since 1959, and serves approximately 1,200 seniors in the city.

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