



January 26, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to provide a letter of reference for **Imperial Crane** in support of the Daily Herald Business Ledger Annual Awards for Business Excellence for the **Family Business** category.

As CEO of SOS Children's Villages Illinois (SOSCVI), *a non-profit providing an innovative model of foster care by offering safe and stable homes in a village setting to children who have suffered abuse, abandonment, and neglect*, I have had the distinct honor of knowing and working with Berkshire (B.J.) Bohne and his team at Imperial Crane for over a decade and have the utmost respect for the dedication and expertise each member offers.

Imperial Crane has been a champion of our Lockport Village for nearly two decades. Since this time, the company has been an invaluable partner, having provided direct support to children and families, as well as financial support through golf outings and event sponsorships. Each year during the holiday season, B.J. and his family deliver turkeys to our homes at Thanksgiving and host a holiday party, where they distribute toys to every child and foster parent at our Village. Furthermore, B.J. has taken it upon himself to become part of the Village and form relationships with our children and foster parents. He shows genuine respect for the work we do to care for Illinois' most vulnerable children and families. These acts of kindness are incredible gestures that remind our children their lives matter and there is a community of people who care about each one of them.

In 2014, Imperial Crane, as a socially responsible corporate partner, provided pro-bono services to SOS Children's Villages Illinois to aid in the creation of a new Village in the Roosevelt Square community. Imperial Crane provided cranes throughout the planning and construction of the 14 single-family homes that today provide housing for up to eighty-four children. The overall community benefit offered through the new Village is over \$685,000 annually to the Roosevelt Square community.

I endorse Imperial Crane's nomination for the Daily Herald Business Ledger Annual Awards for Business Excellence for the **Family Business** category. Imperial Crane's mindfulness and commitment have advanced the causes of the businesses and organizations with whom they work. Imperial Crane is a quality, value driven company, and I unconditionally support them for its compassionate and devoted service to SOS Children's Villages Illinois.

If I can be of further assistance or provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (312) 372-8200, ext. 111.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim McCormick".

Tim McCormick
Chief Executive Officer
SOS Children's Villages Illinois