

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Steve Pemberton to Speak At “Building On Promise” Event About Creating a Cycle of Opportunity

*The 108 year old non-profit SGA Youth & Family Services hosts
Annual Benefit to raise funds for Chicago’s most challenged and underserved neighborhoods.*

On Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 6:00pm, SGA Youth & Family Services (SGA), one of Chicago’s most respected and longstanding nonprofit social service agencies proudly invites the public to its annual fundraising benefit, “Building On Promise.” The event at the JW Marriott Hotel will raise critical funds to provide life-changing services in Chicago’s most challenged and underserved neighborhoods.

The popular evening includes a cocktail reception with hors d’oeuvres, dinner, and a keynote address by Steve Pemberton, a philanthropist and acclaimed speaker. His best-selling book, *A Chance in the World*, tells his triumphant life journey and drive to become a man of resilience. This inspirational book, which has been adapted for a major motion picture, shares Steve’s motivational messages: Believe in your dreams, rise above obstacles, create opportunities for others, and most of all, persevere. At “Building On Promise,” he will share his touching story of how he defied seemingly impossible odds as an orphaned boy navigating the foster care system—all while trying to solve the mystery of his own identity and destiny. Steve will also provide valuable lessons on self-empowerment, breaking negative cycles, creating a vision and achieving your goals—even when everyone says you don’t have a chance in the world.

“Building On Promise” is a tremendous opportunity for individuals to help improve the lives of struggling young Chicagoans. “We are thrilled to have Steve Pemberton speak to the important work we are doing to help children affected by poverty and a struggling family life. We all know poverty in Chicago is a huge challenge. Steve will be speaking to the impact on our children and ways we can address this,” says Susana Marotta, Ph.D., President & CEO of SGA.

SGA is pleased to honor former Board member Neal Seltzer with the Jean S. Meltzer Award for outstanding Lifetime of Service. During his 40 years on SGA's Board of Directors, Neal served as the head of the Investment Committee. Neal has had a long career at William Blair serving high-net-worth individuals and families and has been instrumental in SGA's growth.

In recognition of a former SGA beneficiary, the prestigious Joseph Pedott Leadership Award will be presented to a youth who shows resilience and leadership in overcoming personal challenges. Renowned entrepreneur, Joseph Pedott, ran away from his Chicago home as a teen. He turned to SGA for financial support and counseling, and with assistance attended the University of Illinois. He went on to create the famed Chia Pet and The Clapper.

CBS 2 Chicago Traffic Reporter Derrick Young will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Derrick grew up in the Roseland community and graduated from the University of Illinois.

In 2018, SGA's cradle to career services supported nearly 20,000 people. SGA provides free comprehensive programs including infant mortality prevention, counseling in schools, early childhood education, gang-diversion programs, college-readiness programs, career training and job placement. These services break the cycle of poverty and adversity facing many of Chicago's communities and replace them with the Cycle of Opportunity.

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available now. More details at www.SGAGala19.givesmart.com or call Marta Garczarczyk at 312-447-4328.

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Available for interview:

Steve Pemberton

Chief Human Resources Officer, Globoforce and Best Selling Author

Susana Marotta, Ph.D.

President & CEO, SGA Youth & Family Services

Martha Guerrero

Executive Director, SGA Youth & Family Services

Contact to schedule:

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SGA Youth & Family Services leads positive change for children and families in Chicago's most challenged and underserved neighborhoods. The non-profit has provided free, comprehensive services since its founding in 1911. SGA believes that sustainable community change results from a focus on early childhood, education supports, parenting, and workforce development. Collaborative partnerships, innovative programs, and measurable outcomes fuel SGA's efforts to replace the cycle of poverty with the Cycle of Opportunity. Learn more at www.sga-youth.org.