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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CHICAGO'S LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER  
ANNOUNCES 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL METAMORPHOSIS PARTY**

*Continues Fight Against Chicago Homelessness With Annual Fundraiser*

**Chicago, Ill. – February, 2010** – The Lincoln Park Community Shelter (LPCS) is proud to announce the annual Metamorphosis Party, a fundraiser focused on creating hope and change for Chicago's homeless, and supporting the programs and facilities of the privately-funded Lincoln Park Community Shelter.

LPCS is a comprehensive social service agency serving adult men and women who are experiencing homelessness by offering housing and various programs to instill employable qualities. According to 2009 LPCS statistics, 95% of guests reported increased skills and knowledge needed to remove personal and systemic barriers to housing and self-sufficiency. Each year LPCS hosts the Metamorphosis fundraiser to generate revenue for its services that impact over 300 people a year, raising more than \$70,000 at last year's event.

This year, the Metamorphosis Party will take place on Friday, April 23 from 7:00pm to midnight at the Saddle & Cycle Club. Tickets are priced at \$125 for guests under 30, \$200 for an individual ticket, and \$300 for a Silver Anniversary ticket – which includes recognition in the program. This year's event will feature a variety of live and silent auction packages.

This year LPCS will also present an exciting award that marks a quarter-century of helping the homeless in Lincoln Park, the Compassion in Action Award, which will be awarded to James Perry - a Lincoln Park resident who was among the early supporters when LPCS opened its door as a "warming shelter" in 1984. James has remained committed to LPCS ever since, making dinner for the guests with his family, working to promote understanding and appreciation of LPCS in the neighborhood, serving on the LPCS' Board of Directors, and contributing generously to the maintenance and improvement of the facilities and the programs that LPCS provides.

"The Metamorphosis event is a great opportunity to gather and inspire the Chicago community to raise awareness and funds to support those less fortunate," said Heather Reynolds, community relations manager at the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. "We've seen the impact a helping hand can have, and we continue to dedicate ourselves to serving those in need, and appreciate the contributions anyone can offer to allow us to maintain that promise."

LPCS has successfully gained local and national attention by establishing partnerships with neighboring churches to expand the shelter's programs by providing sleeping accommodations, kitchen facilities, showers, storage rooms, laundry areas, and staff offices. The shelter keeps members involved by providing an individualized support program that includes educational classes and the opportunity to work one-on-one with tutors, scheduled meals, mental recovery services, employment, as well as computer access to homeless men and women in need. By instilling self-determination, life values and the skills needed to attain permanent housing and increase opportunities to become involved in the work force, LPCS serves as a catalyst for long-term success.

Jimmy S., a member of the LPCS Graduate Community, is currently completing training for a hotel maintenance job that he accredits being selected for as a result of the skills he acquired at the shelter. “The computer class opened many doors for me, because now I know how to use programs like Microsoft® Word®, PowerPoint®, and Excel®. I used to be limited to doing only physical work, and now I can expand my opportunities.”

Chicago-native Ocie Johnson Jr. is a current resident of LPCS and credits the shelter’s success to its outstanding and professional staff members, and the intricate involvement of the shelter’s volunteers. “I consider the shelter a blessing because of the volunteers. They treat you with equal respect, while tirelessly helping you reach your goals.”

For more information about the event and to reserve your tickets, please visit [www.lpcsonline.org](http://www.lpcsonline.org) or call Erin Ryan at 773-549-6111.

**About the Lincoln Park Community Shelter**

Lincoln Park Community Shelter’s (LPCS) Interim Housing Program provides basic needs, including temporary housing and meals, for up to 35 men and women each night. The On Track Program provides intensive case management to connect guests with resources such as counseling, health care, employment services, and housing. The One on One Program offers classes to teach important life skills such as budgeting, and provides direct financial assistance for a security deposit. Once housing is secured, participants may continue to have access to LPCS services through the Graduate Community. For more information about LPCS, visit <http://www.lpcsonline.org/>.

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