



# ASAFEHAVEN

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## **“DRIVE” FOR THE HOMELESS AT THE CHICAGO AUTO SHOW THIS WEEK**

**A Safe Haven beneficiary of drive sponsored by the Chicago Auto Show, Humana, Chrysler, Be! Products, Alan Josephsen Co. Inc. and the Chicago Sun-Times**

- WHAT:** Today, February 15 through Friday, February 17, patrons of the Chicago Auto Show can bring 3 non-perishable food items to the Chicago Auto Show to receive a coupon for \$7 admission. All food will be donated to A Safe Haven, which restores lives from homelessness to self-sufficiency with pride and purpose. Every year, the Chicago Auto Show Food Drive raises over 10 tons of food.
- WHY:** Patrons of the Auto Show can get a discount while making a difference. A Safe Haven's Community Food Pantry distributes the donated food to families from neighborhoods in the food desert surrounding the social enterprise's main campus at 2750 West Roosevelt Road, just 5 miles from the Auto Show. Much of the food also feeds residents at the homeless services organization, which offers comprehensive services to return individuals in crisis to self-sufficiency. The meals served at A Safe Haven are even prepared by residents participating in the food services job training program, one of several such services offered. A Safe Haven placed over 80% of its Food Service trainees into employment last year.
- WHEN:** **Wednesday-Friday, February 15-17, 2012, 10 AM-10 PM**
- WHERE:** **McCormick Place at the lower and upper entrances to the Chicago Auto Show**  
2301 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60616
- VISUALS:** 10 tons of food being collected from 10,000 donors lining up  
A Safe Haven's new logo and tagline being launched
- MORE INFO:** Visitors' canned goods will be held and transported in boxes generously donated by Alan Josephsen Co. Inc. Special guests are expected to stop by the booth, to help raise awareness for the issues of homelessness, unemployment, and addiction.

"We are grateful to the Chicago Auto Show, Humana, Chrysler, Be! Products, and Alan Josephsen Co. Inc. as well as our print media partner the Chicago Sun-Times, for the opportunity to put on our 'drive' for the homeless," said Vazquez-Rowland, named Chicagoan of the Year last year by Chicago Magazine. "Chicagoans are able to see the world's most innovative car models by donating to America's most innovative community development model, based right here in Chicago.

"This is an exciting privilege to participate in A Safe Haven's Food Drive at the Chicago Auto Show, which I've been attending since I was a little boy," said A Safe Haven resident Wilson Dawes, who volunteered at the booth last year. "A Safe Haven has been like a miracle in my life... Thanks to the Auto Show, so many people will learn about A Safe Haven's wonderful work."

"Over the past 16 years the Chicago Auto Show has collected over 300,000 pounds of food for A Safe Haven and we believe that the food drive is an important element of the work we do each year in putting on the Auto Show in this great community," said Dave Sloan, Chairman of the 2012 Chicago Auto Show.

For more information about A Safe Haven, go to <http://www.ASafeHaven.org/>.

### **About A Safe Haven**

A Safe Haven empowers families and individuals experiencing homelessness or crisis to achieve sustainable self-sufficiency. After a crisis struck their own family, Neli Vazquez-Rowland and Brian Rowland left their jobs in finance to found A Safe Haven in 1994. Frustrated by fragmented services, Neli and Brian integrated supportive housing, case management, addiction treatment, education, and life skills, with a network of affordable housing, industry training, and job placement (including landscaping, food service, security, housekeeping, and customer service) at A Safe Haven. Now people in crisis, particularly the homeless, have a comprehensive, integrated path to self-sufficiency and independence. After finishing a program customized to each resident's needs, A Safe Haven graduates thrive as they contribute to society. Graduates earned \$3.2 million and paid nearly \$500,000 in taxes in 2010, due to some of the United States' highest job placement and retention rates, measured by the Department of Labor. At a time when economic and political realities demand a new approach, A Safe Haven helps people help themselves, partnering public and private interests to deliver a sustainable, evidence-based social business enterprise model that makes a direct and lasting impact. A Safe Haven has been lauded by leaders in academia, policy, and business, and other stakeholders for developing the model to solve homelessness and crisis. A Safe Haven relies on public and private support at every level. Learn more and watch videos at [www.ASafeHaven.org](http://www.ASafeHaven.org) or [www.Facebook.com/ASafeHavenFoundation](http://www.Facebook.com/ASafeHavenFoundation).