

## LA RABIDA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LAWN FETE 2010

*During Lawn Fete 2010, the South Shore Drill Team & Performing Arts Ensemble will entertain guests as they inspire positive strides in Chicago's youth.*

### **Taking Steps for Change**

This year marks the 30th for the South Shore Drill Team & Performing Arts Ensemble entertaining international audiences while serving Chicago's at-risk youth, more than 5,000 of whom have been served since 1980.

Founded by a Chicago Public School teacher, the drill team has grown from a small group of neighborhood children to 350 precision drill performers who strut to support the original mission of service to the community through education, teamwork and friendship.

La Rabida Children's Hospital is one of dozens of venues the youth will play this year, dazzling hospital supporters for the second year in a row at the lakeside summer fundraiser, Lawn Fete 2010.

"The South Shore Drill team is a role model for the children we serve and their families," said La Rabida's Vice President of Development Michael Cleavenger.

The hospital's mission to serve underserved children is shared by the drill team, which draws most of its members from Chicago's tough inner city neighborhoods. Founders envisioned breaking the cycle of poverty by bringing the youth, ages 8 to 21, together and teaching them to work toward a common goal as high-energy, skilled performers.

Leaders instruct the team in the flamboyant, marching-style of dance, adding a new flair to familiar tunes such as Frank Sinatra's *My Kind of Town*, performed last year at Lawn Fete.

Training reaches beyond dance skills and showy moves to touch on work ethic, discipline and commitment – values that produce self assured, electrifying showmen.

Last year, the youth inspired onlookers during 130 events across the nation, including the District of Columbia. In 2005, the crew performed in Morocco, Africa. Performers can also be seen in the 1986 film *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, parts of which were shot in Chicago.

An attraction at many community events, the South Shore Drill team has marched in the Bud Billiken Parade, the nation's oldest African American procession, for more than 20 years.

