



GIVING—AND GIVING THANKS

November always goes hand in hand with gratitude. And sometimes the people and entities that most deserve our thanks are doing good works so quietly and humbly you may not know about them. Take, for example, a few of our partners in this month's Hot List roundup, a gathering of some of the philanthropists doing great work in Chicago.

After opening in Chicago's West Loop this summer, the Ace Hotel has made a name for itself not only as a trendy venue—customers can sip cocktails while taking in stunning rooftop views, or munch on delicious treats at the hotel's City Mouse—but also as a business that gives back. In fact, the newcomer wasted no time in showing its support for its new community by partnering with Young Chicago Authors, Little Black Pearl and 826CHI before the hotel even had its grand opening. The property raised \$30,000 from public performances by Madame Gandhi and Vic Mensa—and 10 percent of the hotel's room reservations went directly to the partnering organizations that aim to empower Chicago's disadvantaged youth in literature and the arts. Ace Hotel might be a rookie, but its values are historically Chicagoan.

Also covered in this feature is Dr. Blase Polite, a University of Chicago oncologist who received a prestigious Career Development Award from one of our great partners, the Conquer Cancer Foundation. Dr. Polite has focused his research on medicine that directly affects the lives of his very own patients on the South Side. With colon cancer death rates 70 percent higher than the national average in this area, Dr. Polite's pertinent research supported by Conquer Cancer Foundation truly makes a positive impact in our community.

Also giving back to its community this holiday season is one of our longtime partners, Mariani Landscape. On Dec. 5, the North Shore company will put on Planting Seeds of Hope, a fundraiser in the Landmark Club at The Ritz-Carlton Residences. This pop-up event will see volunteers creating plants-based holiday decor like wreaths and garlands to raise money for the Fetter Foundation, an organization Mariani Landscape has worked with for the last four years. The foundation, which has been giving aid to children in underserved communities since 2007, provides programs such as violence prevention, mentoring and educational wellness to empower and inspire peace and hope in the children it serves. Talk about enriching Chicago's community and landscape!

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PHOTO BY IVANA FOTICZAK



Gorgeous holiday decor from Mariani Landscape's annual fundraiser

The annual Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence were highlight on the city's style calendar



THE HOT LIST

From glam gowns to healing magic, here are 10 highlights from the charity scene that you need to know about this season.

By Thomas Connors, Jacky Terwyn, Sarah Ryan, Lisa Shames and David Zivan

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THE SEASONAL SOIREE

"Gardening" and "pop-up" are two subjects rarely mentioned in the same breath—growing things takes time—but on Dec. 5, **Mariani Landscape** (marianilandscape.com) is changing that with a fundraiser called Planting Seeds of Hope. The legendary Lake Bluff-based garden company will be bringing its wares to the Landmark Club at The Ritz-Carlton Residences, offering holiday greenery of all sorts to benefit the Ferrer Foundation. The foundation's mission is to inspire peace and hope for children in underserved communities, primarily to children whose parents are incarcerated—and the kids will get in on the act, working with the Mariani experts to make wreaths and holiday decor available to purchase. God bless them, every one. *6nu, \$150, 118 E. Erie St., ferrerfoundation.org*

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ICON OF GIVING

Growing up in a Brainerd, Minn., bungalow, **Richard Driehaus** (driehausfoundation.org) started watching the market as a 13-year-old. Today, thanks to the success of Driehaus Capital Management, he supports a breathtaking range of causes and organizations, to the tune of over \$180 million so far. In addition to such headline-making moves as a \$30 million donation to DePaul University's business school and the annual \$200,000 Richard H. Driehaus Prize for design (past recipients include Michael Graves and Robert A.M. Stern), Driehaus makes dozens of smaller grants as well. A St. Ignace College Prep alum, Driehaus cites past President Father Donald Rowe as an inspiration. "In the mid-'80s, he wanted to raise \$20 to \$30 million. I knew it was just a matter of time before he hit me up. And he did, for \$1 million," he says. "We agreed to package it as a two-for-one match. He understood that fundraising is a community effort; that we are in this together; and the overall success belongs to all of us."

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