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**Reader's Letters**

Posted on 12/28/2007 3:37 PM EST

**Thanks to those who made All Kids possible**



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Thanks to the All Kids health insurance program, a 10-year-old girl named Lisa is looking forward to a happy and healthy new year.

When Lisa's dad lost his job and his family's health insurance several months ago, he found two new jobs – both without benefits – and Lisa could not get treatment for her asthma. Lisa's health worsened, her asthma attacks increased, and her family grew desperate. Fortunately, the family heard about All Kids, the new Illinois program that offers health coverage to every child in the state. With sliding-scale premiums and co-payments, All Kids allows Lisa's parents to take their daughter to a doctor on a regular basis, and not the emergency room when crises occur.

Lisa is just one child. There are thousands like her in Cook County. Thanks in large part to the support of Senator Iris Martínez and Representatives Susana Mendoza and Cynthia Soto, Illinois was the first state in the nation to cover all children. The noise of the current battles in Springfield should not obscure the history of cooperation and leadership that produced and maintains the All Kids program and enables hundreds of families in Cook County to get the care they need, when they need it.

This year, let's make sure children in Cook County and all across the state have a happy and healthy 2008, just like Lisa, by enrolling all uninsured children in All Kids. And let's remember to thank Senator Iris Martínez and Representatives Susana Mendoza and Cynthia Soto and the other leaders who are responsible for this fine accomplishment.

*John Bouman*

*President, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law*

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