

# CHANGE.

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### **SOUTHWEST AIRLINES DONATES FREE AIRLINE TICKETS TO CHA SENIORS**

#### **“Home for the Holidays” program brings seniors together with their families**

This year, 90 year old Natividad Estrella will get to see her great grandchild for the first time when she travels to San Antonio, Texas. Serafina Spektor, 65 years old, will see San Francisco for the first time when she visits her cousin’s family. Both are among the ten CHA seniors that will visit out-of-town family members this holiday season, thanks to the help of Southwest Airlines.

As part of Southwest Airlines’ *Home for the Holidays* program, 30 low-income Chicagoland seniors recently received roundtrip airline tickets to visit faraway family this year. Many of the seniors have not seen family members in 20 years or more.

“We’ve been doing this for 24 years,” said Marketing Representative Erin McGiffert. “We’re so excited that we can bring loved ones together for the holidays.”

Ms. Spektor, who is from the Ukraine and now lives in the CHA’s Dickens building on the north side of Chicago, said, “I’m really happy and excited – it’s so nice that I can see my cousin this year.”

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our senior residents who are on fixed incomes. Without this help, they may not otherwise be able to travel and see their families,” said Donna Dixon, Director of Senior Programs for the CHA.

The seniors were able to choose any destination located in the Continental U.S. Travel must be completed by March.

Each year, Southwest donates over 1,000 roundtrip tickets to seniors across the country for use during the holiday season. Of the 30 roundtrip tickets that Southwest donated to the Chicagoland area, 10 each were given to the Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Department on Ageing and Suburban Chicago Agency on Ageing.

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