



## Chicagoland Italian American Charitable Organization



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **\$5,000 available to eligible veteran**

*Charity calls on veterans to apply*

Bloomington, Ill. – The Chicagoland Italian American Charitable Organization, with the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission’s help, is calling for area wounded vets who need financial assistance to apply for a one time award of \$5,000. Every year, CIACO gives away tens of thousands of dollars in charitable donations to many causes. For the past three years, the CIACO has given \$5,000 to a veteran in need.

“We know it can be a challenge for returning veterans,” said Lou Scaramuzzo, CIACO’s president. “This is a small gesture of our heartfelt appreciation for their service to this country.”

The veteran chosen will be honored at CIACO’s annual Honor & Hope Gala on May 10, 2014. The Honor & Hope Gala is a “tribute to our wounded heroes and future leaders.” Since its inception in 1998, the CIACO has given more than \$500,000 in scholarships as well as other charitable donations.

This year, the CIACO will also honor Calvin Herion, 13, who has scoliosis and arthrogryposis and must use a wheelchair. The CIACO will give a \$10,000 contribution to Calvin and his family. Some of the money will go to getting Calvin a new wheelchair.

The CIACO will also donate \$10,000 to the Serenity House of Addison, which treats low-income individuals for substance abuse. Seventeen deserving students will also receive individual scholarships of \$2,000.

Veterans wishing to be considered for the \$5,000 donation must send a letter including information about their lives, families, jobs, and physical challenges to:

CIACO  
Attn: Donation Committee  
P.O. Box 27  
Bloomington, IL 60618

The deadline for letters is April 11, 2014. Finalists will be interviewed by the Donation Committee before a final decision is made.

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