MODERATOR SIGALOS: Elizabeth Gardner.

Elizabeth Gardner.

MS. GARDNER: Thank you for the opportunity to present to you, the Federal Communications Commission, at this public hearing on medial ownership and community service. I'm Elizabeth Gardner with Women's Business Development Center.

The Women's Business Development Center, almost since its inception 21 years ago, has benefitted from WFLD FOX 32's commitment to community service. Our organization is the oldest, largest, and most successful women's business assistance center in the United States. Committed in great part to community and economic development by supporting the growth and development of women and minority owned businesses, we have partnered with Rainbow Push, and worked closely with WFLD for many of these 21 years. WBDC partners with WFLD to sponsor our annual childcare business expo held in the spring each year.

Their involvement includes featuring the WBDC and its staff and clients on programming, as well as extensive free public service announcements in support of various WBDC programs. WFLD always provides an on air representative to host and MC our events. Additionally, the community affairs director

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of WFLD-TV counsels and advises the WBDC on media
relations.

WFLD-TV has a tradition of supporting local
charitable and community efforts that contribute to
strong and vibrant Chicago area communities. Thank
you.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Carmenza Millan?

MS. MILLAN: Thank you for allowing me to
speak. Actually, my name is Carmenza Millan. I am
the Associate State Director for Community Outreach
for AARP, with over 39 million members, 1.8 million
members in Illinois, and with a very large Latino
population to serve.

Actually, we are a social mission
organization. We advocate on behalf of the issues of
people 50 and older, whether it is the preservation of
social security, healthy behaviors, livable
communities, economic security, any other myriad of
issues that affect the Latino population, especially
those over the age of 50.

We have had a wonderful relationship with
WSNS, Telemundo Chicago, whether it is helping us to
encourage Latinos to join our walking club at Harrison
Park, and even today we were able to be on the television to talk about the impact and the need to preserve social security, especially for Latino seniors, that without it, more than half of them, more than 50 percent would under the poverty level. Thank you.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Louise Gutierrez?

Louise Gutierrez?

(No response.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Karen Volkman?

MS. VOLKMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Karen Volkman. I am the Managing Director for the Midwestern Region for the Ad Council.

I work with media companies to secure donated media and help execute public service and community outreach. I am a member of several community advisory boards in Chicago, including the Clear Channel Radio Advisory Board, and Mayor Daley's Community Building Initiative of Chicago Council.

I have a unique perspective of localism and how the stations promote it in their public service. Since 2004, when Ad Council opened the Chicago office,
the Chicago TV and radio broadcasters have aired over 130,000 Ad Council public service announcements at an estimates media value of $26 million, as tracked by the logs submitted to the FCC.

The Ad Council does not pay for any media. We rely solely on donated air time. Every broadcaster in Chicago, including the Spanish language TV and radio stations have participated. As an example, Clear Channel Radio Chicago has donated more than 30,000 public service announcements valued at over $4-1/2 million since we opened the office in 2004.

Each day, Chicago broadcasters air Ad Council PSAs to promote Alert Chicago Emergency Preparedness, to recruit mentors for Big Brothers/Big Sisters, to encourage support for the United Negro College Fund, to educate their audience about wireless Amber Alert, and many other issues that impact Chicago residents.

In case of urgent need, the Chicago broadcasters have responded quickly. Recently Chicago experienced a blood shortage. The broadcasters had this on the air right away, and the blood banks were refilled. There's a reason that the Midwest is called the Heartland. The Chicago media
outlets are committed to creating positive change in --

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

MS. VOLKMAN: our community with their on air outreach. Thank you.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Julie Brown? Julie Brown?

MR. BROWN: No, this is Julien Brown.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Julien Brown?

MR. BROWN: Yes.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Okay.

MR. BROWN: How are you doing? I'm Julien Brown. I'm Manager of Corporate Contributions for Nicor Gas Company. And I'm also on the Board of the Clear Channel Advisory Community Board.

And I'm on that Board because I believe in the values that Clear Channel has exhibited in terms of their support for the community. They have a focus that really reaches out to the issues that are important to the community, and they act on those issues, and they have an impact.

Such as their voter registration drive, and their voter education drive. These are things that
were important to the community, these are things that they had measurable results from their actions. Also, Clear Channel Advisory Board reaches out to many other entities to form partnerships, partnerships that deal directly with health issues in the community.

Also, nothing can be more local than your local utility company. And Clear Channel has a unique partnership with Nicor, along with Jewel-Osco. And what we do is work with their shop and share program. And they promote the shop and share program to raise funds for those who need energy assistance. And I'm proud to say that in a three week period, that with Clear Channel's help, they helped us raise nearly $8,000 and we helped over 40 families.

So with this type of entity in Chicago, it is large, but it is also local. And I do appreciate the work of Clear Channel.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Tammy Basile?

MS. BASILE: Good evening. My name is Tammy Basile, and I am the spokesperson for Life Source, Chicagoland's blood center. I also serve on the Clear Channel Advisory Board.

Life Source is a non-profit organization,
and the largest blood center in Illinois. We share a strong partnership with many Chicago stations, a partnership that saves lives. In times of critical need, when surgeries and medical procedures are in danger of being canceled, our media friends produce and run public service announcements to encourage their listeners to donate blood. Their efforts this summer alone saved countless lives as we faced one of the worst shortages in recent memories.

Their support of Life Source and our life saving mission is invaluable and ongoing. Our partnership enables to have a strong presence on their community affairs shows, website streaming, e-mail blast, DJ endorsements, the list goes on and on.

Recently, Clear Channel received the highest honor presented by America's blood centers as they were named Outstanding Media of the Year for their contributions to the community blood program.

Radio helps us make a personal, emotional driven connection with listeners. This is vital to our success as we are asking Chicagoland to give the gift of life. And our media friends practice what they preach, as they roll up their sleeves and host mobile blood drives. They understand the importance and urgency of blood donations.

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Their contributions to the community blood program is priceless. On behalf of Life Source, thank you for your time.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Mike Laughlin.

MR. LAUGHLIN: Good evening, and thank you for coming to Chicago. My name is Mike Laughlin, and I serve on the Board of JDRF Illinois. My two sons both have Type I diabetes, and in this, the general population, there are approximately, at least 5 percent of our population suffers from this disease.

The relationship between JDRF, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and WGN Radio 720, is truly dynamic and unique. It provides for the ongoing opportunity to share our mission, the JDRF mission, with a mass audience. Key messages are conveyed consistently, consistently through on air mentions, and included in shows where JDRF and diabetes topics are discussed.

It is clear that our organization would not be able to receive this vast level of exposure otherwise. Not only does the radio station provide for that opportunity, but it stands as a reliable partner whose reputation has helped strengthen our
own.

Secondly, the station's staff has also become part of the JDRF culture. Not only promoting, but personally participating in special events such as the Ron Santo Walk to Cure Diabetes. Their direct community involvement resonates with our donors, and adds a level of excitement to our events. They act as champions for our cause.

And finally, finally, this partnership has translated into dollars for critical diabetes research, which is the foundation of our organization. JDRF has been granted more than $1 million by the WGN Radio 720 Neediest Kids Fund, and fund of the McCormick Tribune Foundation, since 2002. Quite a record.

We also received donations from WGN Radio listeners who learn about us on air and through the WGN Radio website. Our history together spans many --

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

MR. LAUGHLIN: -- years, and has been a solid part of our success. Thank you.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

(Appause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Would the following people come down? Bob Shomper, Bob Banesteel, or

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John Williams?

MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. Thank you for your patience. My name is John Williams. I do the afternoon show on WGN from 1:00 to 4:00. I just wanted to remind you that the first speaker that we had here this evening, remember KRS said it -- and I thought he was terrific, he said, It doesn't matter who owns the station -- and it does, but we got his point -- he said, It doesn't matter who owns the station, what matters is what comes from the heart and what do the people say on those stations. The programming and service are what matters he said.

Commissioners, I know you didn't get a chance to hear my show this afternoon. I don't know that a lot of people in this radio -- this auditorium this evening heard my show today either, so I thought I'd tell you what we did on WGN Radio today, relative to community needs and interest.

We talked about the new Planned Parenthood's impact on the Aurora area; we talked about can O.J. Simpson get a fair trial; how lowering interest rates affect your home loan, or your chance
to get a home loan.

The thrust of my show today was about the Jena, Louisiana rally, what Barack Obama said about it, what Jesse Jackson said about what Barack Obama said. We talked about the tasing of that University of Florida student; we talked about Barry Manilow, fortunately in that order.

No one here likes consolidation. WGN is uniquely not a consolidated station. In fact, it's almost frustrating to me, I hear so many people here saying the things that they want from their radio, and I think that's what we're trying to do every single day, live, local, and listening.

And the only way that you could dilute our ability to do that is to divest us of the Tribune Company, force our sale, and then ask some other consolidated giant to come along and own us, and then we're just a switch. Right now we're live, and we're local, and we're listening. Thank you.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Donna Long.

MS. LONG: Good evening. I'm Donna Long. I am the receptionist for the Tribune Company's WGN Radio here in Chicago. I've been at WGN for over
eight years, and during my time as the receptionist, I've seen, day in and day out, how very important the radio station is to the community.

    Every day I answer calls from listeners from all walks of life that have one thing in common, they are calling WGN Radio because they need help. I can't tell you how many times I have heard a caller say, No one else knows, but I know WGN Radio will.

    Many of the folks don't have the resources available to them, and other people do, so they depend on their friends at WGN Radio to help them get the info they need. Whether it's information about something they heard on the air, helping promoting a fundraiser, or a problem they don't know how to fix. The local community depends on WGN Radio like they are they trusted friend.

    A few examples come to mind. During a recent storm, flooding in Chicagoland, a listener, whose basement had flooded called, not knowing who to turn to. I helped put her in touch with the City of Chicago to get the help she needed.

    Another incident also comes to mind where an extremely upset lady called, crying because she was having trouble getting her security deposit back from an old landlord. Again, I was able to help her. I
put her in touch with the Illinois State's Attorney
Office to rectify the situation.

These are just a few examples of thousands
of calls that not only myself, but also my co-workers
have received over the years. WGN Radio's impact on
the community is strong, and I am proud to be part of
that every day. Thank you.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Leah Ray. Leah Ray?

(No response.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Bob Shomper?

MR. SHOMPER: I'm Bob Shomper, and I'm a
Program Director at WGN Radio. I just want to echo
John Williams' sentiments here. My career in radio
programming has been nearly 30 years, and prior to my
arrival here at WGN, I worked for small local
companies as well as big national companies, each one
of them had multiple station ownership.

Not the case at WGN. It's locally owned,
locally managed, it's the only radio station the
Tribune Company owns. We are committed to the
community. It's one of the reasons I'm here, it's one
of the reasons I'm very proud to be a part of this
radio station.
In fact, two years ago we made the commitment to broadcast live from the various communities throughout the Chicago area. And the purpose behind it was to make a connection with the local communities and exploring the people, bringing it to the airwaves. We even have home town heroes, and we put them on our air. And we tell people what their community is all about and use our air time to do that.

And that's what we do as far as our commitment off the air is concerned, things like that.

On the air, unlike the vast majority of the news and talk stations that are across the entire nation here, our talk show hosts provide diverse and balanced views. We have politically liberal hosts, we have politically conservative hosts. It is common on WGN Radio to hear opposing views in the same day, where it's uncommon across AM radio -- or across the rest of the nation.

The politics, as John said, is only one small portion of what we do. The topics, what John listed today, is just a microcosm of what the radio station does day in, day out. It is live, it is local, it is managed live, it is programmed local, and it's that way 24/7.
It keeps me very busy as the Program
Director because I've got a lot of people to take care
of, in the building, at the radio station, and they're
there to take care of the people in the Chicagoland
area. Thank you very much for the time.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: At this point I do have
10:30. I would ask that we now go to a 90 second time
period. We -- for your information, we have gone
through 64 on the registration sheet at this point.

Bob Banesteel, or Banesteel.

MR. BONESTEEL: Commissioners, my name is
Bob Bonesteel. For many years I've served the local
command of the Salvation Army as its Chief
Communications Officer, and had occasion to work with
many of WGN's on air talents and with station
administration in promotions.

WGN has fostered an open atmosphere among
its on air personalities to be engaged actively in
community and philanthropic endeavors. The station
provides the resources, the talent, provides the
connect, and the opportunity to be in touch with the
charity.

The Salvation Army has historically, and
continues to benefit from personal appearances of WGN celebrities such as ringing bells at various kettles during the Christmas season, or providing masters of ceremonies on special occasions.

Recently, on air host John Williams reached out to the community on behalf of the Salvation Army's music programs when he promoted a mechanism for the donation of music instruments. Then -- and those instruments were then used to teach boys and girls in the Englewood School where their music programs had been cut.

John also became the conduit in recruiting local high school children into a bell ringing contest, which engaged and exposed its young people to the good work of the Salvation Army, as well as in raising money.

The response from listeners has been overwhelming and we continue to depend upon WGN for its good support of our work.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Thank you very much.

(Appause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Kimberly Hickman.

Kimberly Hickman?

MS. HICKMAN: Hi. Good evening. I'm the
Project Manager for WDRV-FM, and I'm here on behalf of Metropolitan Family Services. Metropolitan Family Services is pleased to affirm Bonneville Radio Chicago's strong support of the local community, and of Metropolitan Family Services.

As one of Chicago area's first and largest human services agencies, Metropolitan provides a wealth of programs, and services, and advocates for policy initiatives designed to strengthen lower income families. Yet the agency needs broadcast support and resources in promoting who it is and what it does. Bonneville's offer to help support Metropolitan has provided a valued and timely opportunity.

That support includes a daily Metropolitan PSA that airs on each of Bonneville Chicago's three stations, WDRV, WTMX, and WILV, and a monthly feature on the public affairs program, MFS, at 1:50, which also airs on the stations and highlights different Metropolitan initiatives.

In addition, news directors Barry Keith and Kathy Voltmer, our main contacts at Bonneville, have been extremely accommodating in supporting Metropolitan by helping present our agency and its activities in a way that best resonates with Chicago area listeners.
We truly appreciate Bonneville Radio and consider its ongoing commitment to community, both in Chicago and nationally, to be essential. Thank you.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Kathy Voltmer.

MS. VOLTMER: Good evening, Commissioners. Lost in all the controversy over media consolidation is the fact that there are broadcasters out there who are still deeply committed to serving the needs of their communities and making a difference.

Chief among them, in my opinion, Bonneville International, the parent company of the radio station I represent, WDRV-FM, The Drive. I am Kathy Voltmer, the station's News and Public Affairs Manager.

Pioneering baby boom rocker WDRV hit the Chicago airwaves in March of 2001, charged by Bonneville with making community involvement a building block in the foundation of our station. Since then WDRV has gone on to win awards for community service. We've donated more than $14 million worth of on air public service announcements to hundreds of charities, giving listeners abundant opportunities to give back.

We've aired hundreds of hours of long form
public affairs programming touching the issues that deeply impact our listeners' lives. We've sponsored events, big and small, that helped raise millions of dollars for area not-for-profits, and we have personally rolled up our sleeves with WDRV staffers donating 7500 hours of volunteer time, averaging 235 hours per person. Bonneville gives staffers up to 40 hours a year of paid time off to work for charity causes.

With its company culture of service, The Drive and its staff works hard daily to serve Chicagoland. We provide a shining example of how local radio --

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

MS. VOLTMER: -- can connect with its community and make a difference.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

Mandy Irwin.

MS. IRWIN: Good evening. My name is Mandy Irwin, and I'm the Promotions Manager at 100.3 LOVE-FM, WILV, a Bonneville station.

Two weeks ago I returned from Misaka, Mozambique, a small village on the land of a former refugee camp. It's home to hundreds of orphans who have lost one or both parents to disease, whether
malaria or AIDS. It was the third trip that I took with Habitat for Humanity, and the third trip that Bonneville International supported.

I'm here today as an employee of WILV, a radio station that not only embraces our community, but helps celebrate its employees' philanthropic endeavors. As in years past, 2007 has been filled with opportunities for WILV to support causes that affect our listeners in our communities, especially women.

Since January, employees personally donated over 600 hours over 38 local organizations. WILV has further run the course of service by giving over $1 million in on air support and over a half a million dollars in website exposure.

Our heart for those in need lives within our team spirit, our corporate philosophy, and our people. WILV is a dedicated team of people who embrace and illuminate Bonneville International's commitment to making a difference. Thank you.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Ann West.

MS. WEST: My name is Annie West, and I'm here on behalf of Rebecca Melburt, External Relations
Coordinator of Deborah's Place.

100.3 LOVE-FM has been a long time supporter of Deborah's Place, and our efforts to end homelessness for women in Chicago. Deborah's Place is the largest housing provider in the City of Chicago for women who are homeless, and formerly homeless. WILV has provided numerous public service announcements and market support for Deborah's Place special events and holiday donations.

WILV has helped Deborah's Place provide supportive services for approximately 300 women a year through the promotion of special events, holiday donations and volunteer activities. Thank you so much.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Francine Hancock-Bryant.

MS. HANCOCK-BRYANT: My name is Francine Hancock-Bryant. And I am a servant of the Lord. I came here because the FCC owes me something. Owes me my time, owes me my voice, owes me my patience that I put in this, and I expect them to get more than 90 seconds, because, look, my life ain't that long.

(Applause.)
MS. HANCOCK-BRYANT: I don't know how many more times I'm going to get a chance to come before you. But I'm coming before you in the name of the Lord. I'm coming before you because there's something that's got to be done here.

I'm coming before you because I done seen the Declaration of Independence. I done seen the Emancipation Proclamation. I done seen the Civil Rights Movement. I done have seen it, but I haven't experienced it. I haven't experienced it in 53 years.

I have nobody on the south side of Chicago to say they experienced the actual thing.

Time now is out for listening. It time out now for you to write the paper and forget the paper. It's time now for you to stand up and use the paper, and do the paper, and walk the paper, and do what it say. It's not there for your -- you know, for your -- what they call it, trimmings on the side, you know.

He lost his life.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

MS. HANCOCK-BRYANT: He lost his life. I'm not going to --

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

MS. HANCOCK-BRYANT: -- go down because, who knows, I don't have too much -- I'm staying here,
I've been here early.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

MS. HANCOCK-BRYANT: I'm staying. I paid my dues. I'm going to --

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

MS. HANCOCK-BRYANT: -- speak my two minutes.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Pause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Our next speaker is Barry --

(Applause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: -- Keefe.

MR. KEEFE: My name is Barry Keefe. I have been doing news and community affairs for Bonneville owned WTMX-FM since 1978. Though that was long before deregulation began to take effect, we actually do more in the public affairs arena today than we did back when Jimmy Carter was in office, and Mike Bilandic was creating something we called Chicagofest.

Last year WTMX gave back to the community to the tune of over $5 million. This came in the form of employee volunteer time, a weekly four hour PA block and over 7,000 PSA airings. Our public file is replete with thank yous from service organizations for
our efforts, and they're heartfelt, I assure you.

Our annual Eric and Kathy Radiothon for Children's Memorial Hospital set an all time U.S. single frequency record last year for fundraising with a total donation from listeners of nearly $2.4 million. And our 10th Annual Volunteer Fair at Woodfield Mall was labeled the biggest in the country.

In addition to four dozen news presentations a week, WTMX producers three local PA shows, individuals public affair shows totaling 65 minutes, 52 times a year. In the first six months of 2007 we handed the mike over to a total of 72 Chicagoland residents.

That interaction creates a relationship that makes for our impending 40th Birthday, and for that we are proud.

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

(Appause.)

MODERATOR SIGALOS: Would Luis Enrique Romero, Martin Macias, Reyna Wences, Bruty Turner, Frank Diaz, Maria de los Corral, Cynthia Wilson, Marlene Rodriguez Vick, Joseph Harrington, and Ras SKB come forward please?

Brian Paruch.

MR. PARUCH: Thank you. I'm Brian Paruch.
I'm reading a statement from Tom Sullivan, the Children's Memorial Foundation President.

"Radio has been called the theater of the mind. If you've ever listened to a radiothon, a live event where the radio station essentially turns over the airwaves to tell the stories of brave children and their families, then you would call radio the theater of the heart.

"For the past eight years, WTMX-FM has hosted The Eric and Kathy 36 Hour Radiothon to benefit Children's Memorial Hospital, which is originated from the lobby of our facility. For 36 hours we hear stories from the doctors and nurses, but mostly from the hearts of the families and their children that are treated, saved, and even lost there.

"The radiothon creates a sense of community through the sharing of highly emotional and personal stories. Participating families engage WTMX listeners with their unwavering strength and dignity when telling of the hardships they have had to endure.

"Eric and Kathy's continuous dedication and sensitivity enable the families to share those powerful stories and speak from the heart. It makes listeners respond with a sense of urgency and obligation, and have raised over $12 million for..."