

# Donor Profile

---

## Newcastle Limited

The sale of Camp Algonquin, a cherished and historic agency property on the Fox River in McHenry County, was no ordinary real estate transaction. "This is the story of a civic partnership," said Michael Haney, President of Newcastle Limited, real estate advisors and developers specializing in non-profit real estate transactions, and part of the team that crafted a unique plan to sustain the camp property as open space for conservation and recreation.

---

***"Two wonderful philanthropic missions—  
strengthening families and open lands  
preservation—united to benefit the public  
for generations to come."***

---

In 2004, Metropolitan Family Services made the difficult decision to exit camping services and find a buyer for Camp Algonquin. For over a century, Camp Algonquin was a haven for thousands of inner city children, parents and seniors. Camp's historic supporters included the Chicago Tribune, which donated the land for its construction; and the Donnelley family, whose gifts of property and funding enhanced the site over the years. "We wanted to write a new service chapter for Camp Algonquin, if we could," noted Metropolitan's CEO Dr. Richard Jones.

And so, Dr. Jones and a Board committee consulted with the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation and the McHenry County Conservation District on the sale of the property to the Conservation District. Working closely with Newcastle and several conservation interests, they secured a total of \$9 million for the property. The McHenry County Conservation District provided \$8.35 million, and private contributors including the Donnelley Foundation, the Grand Victoria Foundation, the Oberweiler Foundation, and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, provided the remaining \$650,000.

"Newcastle identified and involved many qualified bidders for the land, including residential developers," noted Mr. Haney. "However, Metropolitan Family Services chose to work with the McHenry County Conservation District, to ensure that the land would be retained for conservation and recreation use. Two wonderful philanthropic missions—strengthening families and open lands preservation—united to benefit the public for generations to come."

For Newcastle, the Camp Algonquin sale underscored the tough strategic choices that charitable organizations must make in pursuit of their mission. Here, a choice was made to benefit the Chicago region for years to come. This experience led the firm to become generous supporters of Metropolitan's 2004 Holiday Celebration gala in December.

"It has been an honor to work with Metropolitan Family Services and this consortium of dedicated individuals," concluded Mr. Haney. "We got to know a great agency, and we are proud to be included among its supporters today."

FAMILY NEWS

The Newsletter for Metropolitan Family Services

Summer 2005