



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 29, 2009

Contact: Jo Ann Dollard  
847/390-1446

## **Women's Network of LSSI to Host 25th Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon To Benefit Literacy Program for Head Start Programs**

The Women's Network of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) will host its 25th Annual Forget-Me-Not Luncheon and Fashion Show, on Saturday, May 9, at The Meadows Club, located at 2950 W. Golf Road in Rolling Meadows. The Women's Network is a group of volunteers that promotes and supports LSSI programs.

For the fifth year, proceeds from the fashion show will benefit Bonding with Books, a literacy program at LSSI's five Chicago Head Start sites in Humboldt Park, North Austin, Rogers Park, Uptown and West Englewood. From October to May, the program provides one book a month free for approximately 285 preschool children, and during that month, classroom activities and field trips relate to the theme of the book, such as a trip to a fire station when the book is about fire fighters. The program encourages families to read together, and the books act as a basis for a home library.

"This is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fashion show, and it has become a really wonderful family tradition during the Mother's Day weekend," says Marilyn Howard, Women's Network president. "And the Women's Network members have really taken the Bonding with Books program – which benefits from the show – to heart. It's really a wonderful program and helps the families building a library at home."

The fashion show will feature clothing from local designers, department stores and specialty shops. In recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, all of the past invitations will be on display, and the original chairpersons of the event, who are still members, will also be introduced during the luncheon.

"The Women's Network is committed to providing an entertaining and fun event that will, at the same time, help to raise money for Bonding with Books," says Mary Ann Smith, event chair. "We are looking to increase the amount donated beyond what we have been able to do in the past years," she adds.

Attendees at the event will also have an opportunity to shop at special gift boutiques that feature designer and handcrafted accessories and jewelry. There will also be a raffle for three exciting prizes. Tickets for the luncheon and fashion show cost \$75 and are available by advance reservation only. To order tickets, or to obtain more information about the Women's Network, contact Ed Newton at 847/635-4656 or by e-mail at [Edward.Newton@LSSI.org](mailto:Edward.Newton@LSSI.org). For more information about LSSI, visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org).

Founded in October 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

###