



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LSSI Celebrates National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month. It's an ideal time to think about adoption as a way to build a family and as a way to give a child the most essential of gifts – a safe and loving home.

“This is a good time for people to consider growing their families through adoption,” says Ruth Jajko, statewide director of Adoption Services for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), which is a member of the Lutheran Adoption Network (www.lanadopt.org).

Last year, LSSI helped 250 children find adoptive homes, including 189 who were Illinois children adopted from foster care. The other 61 were infants, children from other countries or children from other states placed with Illinois families.

“All children deserve the stability of a loving, caring family,” says Jajko. “When that cannot be achieved within the birth family, adoption is a wonderful alternative.”

For years, LSSI has been placing children of all ages with families who are able to share their hearts and homes through adoption.

Increasingly, families interested in adoption are pursuing international adoption. According to an LSSI adoption supervisor, as the number of infant adoptions has decreased in the United States, international adoption has become a viable option for couples and individuals who want to adopt a child. “Children are waiting in other countries,” she says, adding that “the vast majority of people we’ve worked with have had very successful experiences.”

Take Dr. Sharon Evans, who adopted a daughter from China with LSSI’s help. “It was the most incredible thing to realize I have a daughter,” says Evans. “What surprised me was how quickly we bonded.” To others considering international adoption, Evans says enthusiastically, “Go for it. Absolutely go for it.”

In addition to the international adoption program, LSSI also works with couples or single persons who are interested in adopting an infant domestically or a special needs child. (A special

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special needs child may have suffered abuse or neglect, or has a physical or mental disability. “Special needs” also refers to children who are one year or older, or who are members of a sibling group who are currently in foster care and in need of adoptive families).

Families who have adopted through LSSI have helped the agency shape the services it offers, including a wide range of post-adoption services. In all adoptions, LSSI prepares and supports adoptive families, birth parents and children through the adoption process and afterward.

For more information on how to adopt a child, call LSSI’s Adoption Services toll-free at 1-888-671-0300; or visit www.AdoptionIllinois.org.

Founded in 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LSSI is an Illinois Licensed Child Welfare Agency (license no. 013005).

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