



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Hosts Open House, Offers Information on Adoption, Foster Care and Related Services**

On Tuesday, November 27, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) will host an Open House between 4–6 p.m. at its new Children’s Community Services office at 321 W. State Street, Suite 5, in Rockford. The public is invited for refreshments and the opportunity to learn more about LSSI’s services for children and families. Information will be available for people interested in foster parenting as well.

“We invite the community to join us in dedicating this space and in celebrating LSSI’s services for children and families in Rockford,” says Kathy Reese, who oversees LSSI’s child welfare programs in the greater Rockford area.

“In the areas of foster care and adoption, our services have greatly expanded in recent years, resulting in a need for additional space for staff and programs,” continues Reese. “LSSI was fortunate to find this space in the Talcott building, as it provides adequate room for all of our staff and programs, rather than our needing to be housed at different locations.” The new office is located downtown and is convenient to court, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), transportation and other services that LSSI’s families and staff frequently access.

Bill Franklin, associate executive director of LSSI’s Children’s Community Services, adds, “We are happy to be working in collaboration with other social service agencies and DCFS to serve children and families in need.”

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois has a long history of serving the Rockford area, operating a variety of programs there, including foster care and family reunification services; adoption services for families who seek to adopt through foster care, private adoption or international adoption; education for families who are considering adoption; support for adoptive families; pregnancy counseling services for birth parents who are deciding to parent or make an adoption plan and a new Transitional Living Program for youth that are aging out of foster care.

LSSI also offers a school-based program, STARS (Strengthening Today’s At-Risk Students),

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which is designed to improve attendance and school performance for youth who are experiencing problems with truancy, suspensions and expulsions. This program is available for students enrolled in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Rockford's public schools.

In addition to its services for children and families, LSSI provides a wide variety of services and housing options for seniors in the Rockford area, including its P.A. Peterson Center for Health and Peterson Meadows Retirement Community.

Founded in 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is celebrating its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

For more information on LSSI's Children's Community Services, call 815/969-8836 or visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org).

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