



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LSSI's Community Care Program Serves Older Adults in Lee, Whiteside, Ogle and Carroll Counties

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' (LSSI) Case Coordination Unit provides services to adults age 60 and older in Lee, Whiteside, Ogle and Carroll Counties. Contracted through the Illinois Department on Aging, LSSI administers the Community Care Program, Case Management, Choices for Care and Caregiver Case Management.

The Community Care Program provides assistance through home services that allow older adults to remain living in their homes for as long as possible, as an alternative to entering a long-term care facility. Eligible seniors must be age 60 or older and agree to in-home assessment to determine what services may benefit them. Each senior is entitled to a Comprehensive Assessment in their home, regardless of income and assets, and will be assigned a case manager focusing on their individual needs. Services that are available to seniors through this program are available through state or private agencies and include help with tasks such as cleaning, laundry, personal care, shopping, meal preparation and transportation. Emergency Home Response Services are also available for a reduced rate or no charge to eligible seniors. Costs of the services are determined through a sliding scale based on the individual's monthly income.

Individuals who are ineligible for the Community Care Program may have a case manager assigned to them. The case manager will develop a comprehensive care plan that links the older person to needed resources, such as home-delivered meals, senior centers, home nursing or other needed services.

LSSI's Case Coordination Unit also performs Choices for Care assessments within the four-county area to assess an individual's need for nursing home care. After the assessment, the individual is given a choice to enter a nursing facility on a short- or long-term basis; to receive assistance through the Community Care Program if eligible; or to receive assistance through the Office of Rehabilitation Services, supportive living facility services or referrals to private pay resources.

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Founded in 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 (ELCA), as well as an agency of the United Way. LSSI serves people of all faiths through an array of services at 89 program sites across Illinois. In north central Illinois, LSSI offers counseling, substance abuse treatment, foster care, youth programs and adoption, as well as services for older adults and individuals with developmental disabilities.

For more information on LSSI's Community Care Program, please call 815/626-7333. For more information about Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, visit www.LSSI.org.

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