



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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217/398-3011

## **Needed: Foster Parents for Sibling Groups and Older Children**

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is seeking individuals and couples interested in becoming foster parents.

“There is such a large need for foster parents in Champaign, Vermilion, Iroquois and Ford Counties,” says Yolanda Orange, LSSI foster parent development specialist. “We encourage people with a desire to care for and work with children who may be interested in becoming a foster parent to contact us.”

Children of all ages — especially older children — are in need of safe, loving homes. Some children may require short-term placements, while others may require long-term or adoptive placements.

There is also a special need for foster parents for sibling groups. “If children in need of foster placement come from a large family, we obviously want to keep all the brothers and sisters together,” says Orange. “It lessens the impact of being away from their birth parents, if they can be in the same home together. We also want to keep children as close to their home communities as possible,” adds Orange.

Married or single applicants are welcome. LSSI provides training and support to prepare foster parents prior to welcoming a child into their home. The successful candidate must have a source of income, available bedroom space for the child(ren) and the ability to assess and respond to children’s needs. “If you have a genuine interest in children, are willing to commit to their care and want to help families reunite, please consider foster parenting,” says Orange.

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. LSSI’s services include counseling, mental health programs, substance abuse treatment, residential treatment for children and adolescents, early childhood education and child care services, programs for adults and children with developmental disabilities, foster care and adoption, pregnancy counseling, housing and services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, nursing care, and programs for prisoners and their families.

*For more information about foster parenting, please call Yolanda Orange at 217/398-3011 or 1/888-322-LSSI (5774). For more information about Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org).*

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