



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Needed: Foster Parents for Medically Fragile and Older Children

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

“There is such a large need for foster parents in Metro Chicago,” says Melanie Meeks, LSSI foster parent development specialist. “We want to encourage people with a desire to care for and work with children and 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 particular need for foster parents to care for medically fragile children. “Along with having a big heart, foster parents who work with children with specialized medical issues need specific skills,” says Ruth Jajko, associate executive director of LSSI’s Children’s Community Services. Because of this, LSSI provides intensive training to ensure foster parents have the skills needed before a child is placed in their home.

“If you have a genuine interest in children and their needs, are willing to understand their past experiences and want to help families reunite, please consider foster parenting,” says Meeks. Married or single applicants are welcome. The successful candidate must have some form of income, available bedroom space for the child and the ability to assess and respond to children’s needs.

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 Melanie Meeks at 1-888-322-LSSI (5774) or visit www.LSSI.org.

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