



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Hammering Out a Partnership” Dinner/Auction Helps Fund Home-Building Program for Low-income Families

Each year, inmates at 14 Illinois prisons build wall sections, trusses, cabinets or storage sheds for houses as part of *Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives*, a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). These items are used in the construction of Habitat for Humanity homes, or used by other not-for-profit groups to build affordable housing for low-income families.

On May 19, at 5:30 p.m., the fifth annual “Hammering Out a Partnership” dinner and auction will be held at Trinity Lutheran School, located at 1102 W. Hamilton Road in Bloomington, to help purchase building materials for the program.

The event will be hosted by the McLean County Habitat Affiliate and LSSI, and the auction will feature items, such as clocks, rocking chairs, birdhouse, toys and many other woodworking items created in the prison construction classes. In addition, inmates in prison horticulture and art classes also contribute to the effort by donating plant arrangements and original artwork for the auction.

Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives is a collaboration between LSSI, which provides funds for construction materials; the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), which provides teachers and sites at prisons for construction classes; and Habitat for Humanity, which uses the components to build affordable housing. The program has contributed to the building of more than 300 homes since its start in 1995, including several for victims of Hurricane Katrina. All of the homes through Habitat for Humanity of McLean County are now built with the help of the *Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives* program.

Cost of the dinner/auction is \$20 per person, \$10 for children 12 and younger. Tickets are available from LSSI’s Springfield office and the Habitat for Humanity of McLean County office and several locations in Bloomington, including Growing Grounds, Wendell-Niepagen on Fox Creek Road and The Garlic Press.

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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 with 89 program locations. In addition to its Prisoner and Family Ministry programs, which include *Building Homes: Rebuilding Lives*, LSSI also has foster care, adoption and family services programs available in Marion.

Habitat for Humanity of McLean County (HFHMC) is a local affiliate of the international nonprofit Christian housing ministry working to eliminate poverty housing worldwide. Chartered in 1985, HFHMC works within the geographic boundaries of McLean County, Illinois. For more information on HFHMC, please contact 309/827-3931 or visit www.habitatmclean.org. The Web site also includes a link to a photo gallery of some of the items for the “Hammering Out a Partnership” auction.

For more information on this event or to buy dinner tickets, contact Becky Moore at LSSI at 217/522-4296; or Kim Chickering at McLean County Habitat for Humanity at 309/827-3931. For more information on LSSI, please contact 847/635-4600, or visit www.LSSI.org.

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