



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Intouch Adult Day Services Dedicates Libby Polster Memorial Garden — High Point of Center's Adult Day Services Week Celebrations

On September 21, at 1:30 p.m., Intouch Adult Day Services, a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) in Moline, dedicated the Libby Polster Memorial Garden. The garden dedication was the high point of Intouch's celebration of National Adult Day Services Week — themed "Tell My Story" — which began on September 17.

Special guests at the dedication were State Senator Mike Jacobs, Illinois State Representative Mike Boland and the Rev. Dr. Frederick Aigner, LSSI president. After the dedication, Intouch hosted an Open House for the community. Intouch is located at 4011 Avenue of the Cities in Moline.

The Libby Polster Memorial Garden, which will provide an attractive and safe place for Adult Day participants to relax and enjoy the outdoors, was made possible by contributions of materials and labor from Ben Eastep, owner of Oxbow Development, and Troy Lewis, owner of Heritage Landscape Design, in addition to a grant from the Illinois Adult Day Service Association. The garden is named after Libby Polster, Eastep's grandmother. The garden donors were honored at the dedication. Mrs. Polster's family, Quad City Chamber Ambassadors, staff, program participants and supporters were in attendance.

For more than 25 years, Intouch Adult Day Services has provided structured activities, supervision and assistance for adults, as well as offering respite to caregivers. Intouch enables adults with a variety of disabilities and/or social isolation the opportunity to remain active and independent.

"Adult Day Services is a wonderful, affordable way for individuals to provide care for their elderly parents and other loved ones, especially people who are balancing caregiving and work responsibilities," says Toni Hunter, program director. "National Adult Day Services Week gives us an opportunity to celebrate our participants and our staff at Intouch. It's also a special time for the community to learn more about what Intouch Adult Day Services has to offer to seniors and their families — to tell our story of caring."

In addition to the garden dedication, there were special activities throughout the week at Intouch, including a visit from some girls and staff from Arrowhead Ranch (Coal Valley) who joined 97 Intouch participants for a "Rock Around the Clock '50s Sock Hop, Karaoke and Dance Contest." The hula-hoop contest was the hit of the day. One girl from Arrowhead Ranch had so much fun she told staff at Intouch, "I want to work here."

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Intouch Adult Day Services is the largest adult day facility in the state of Illinois. The majority of participants are more than 60 years old. Eighty-five percent of the program's clients receive government assistance to participate in the Intouch program, including funds from the Illinois Department on Aging, Veterans Administration and Department of Rehabilitation. With a weekly enrollment of approximately 200 people, Intouch has an average daily attendance of 80-85, with 20-25 of those participants taking part in Alzheimer's programming.

Intouch provides a stable, structured environment for adults who can benefit from increased physical, mental and social stimulation. Participants maintain their independence and gain confidence as they interact with peers in a wide range of educational and recreational activities. Personal care, medicine administration, noon meal and transportation are provided.

The National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA) estimates there are more than 3,500 adult day centers in the United States, providing services to 150,000 people each day. Nearly 78 percent of the centers are operated on a nonprofit or public basis. It's estimated that more than 5,000 new adult day centers are needed to meet the needs of the growing populations of seniors and people with disabilities. In August, the *Chicago Tribune* ran a feature about the benefits of adult day services and the growing need for more adult day programming and funding for such services, noting that medical experts think that such services enable seniors to live at home longer.

Founded in 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is a statewide, not-for-profit social services agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). LSSI serves people through an array of services at 89 program sites throughout Illinois.

For more information about Intouch Adult Day Services, call 309/797-0200, or visit www.LSSI.org/lssiPublic/publicSite/intouch_adult_day_services.asp.

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