



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Jo Ann Dollard
847/390-1446

Jere Moore Directs LSSI's Services for Children and Families in Central Illinois

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) recently named Peoria native Jere Moore as its Associate Executive Director for the agency's Children's Community Services in Central Illinois. Moore, who works out of LSSI's office in West Peoria, now oversees all of LSSI's child welfare services in central Illinois, including those services offered at its offices in Canton, Champaign, Galesburg and Rock Island.

Moore's career in child welfare spans 10 years, eight of them with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Prior to that, she worked with youth and adults at a developmental center in Champaign. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Moore joined LSSI in January 2006 as a Program Director for Foster Care and Intact Family Services. The latter program helps families, which are referred to the agency by DCFS, to ensure all children residing in their families of origin are safe and that the issues which brought the families to the attention of DCFS have been resolved. Moore was promoted to her current post this fall.

"It's a blessing to come back home to Peoria," says Moore, who adds, "We're busy here, and it's an exciting time as we work together to make the child welfare system in Illinois the best it can be."

Among her goals are enhancing relationships with community officials, residents and child welfare groups, as well as DCFS, and to promote more camaraderie among these groups and local private agencies. Moore is also interested in increasing LSSI's efforts in working toward successful reunification of families. "We want to empower our clients, particularly our adolescent wards, so we can enhance our services to them," she says.

"Jere is a knowledgeable child welfare professional," says John Schnier, executive director of LSSI's Children's Community Services. "We are pleased to have a person of her caliber – and one with her experience working with DCFS and other not-for-profit agencies – join our staff."

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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, based in Des Plaines. In addition to adoption and foster care services, 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, pregnancy counseling, housing and services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, nursing care, and programs for prisoners and their families.

For information, call 309/671-0300 or visit www.LSSI.org.

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