



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2007

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Lutheran Social Services of Illinois to Dedicate Supportive Living Program for Seniors in Joliet on April 26

On Thursday, April 26, Joshua Arms Senior Residences, a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) located at 1315 Rowell Avenue in Joliet, will dedicate its new, affordable, supportive-living apartments. The Rev. Dr. Frederick Aigner, president of LSSI, will conduct the dedication, which will begin at 11 a.m.

“The great thing is that with Joshua Arms, LSSI has created an affordable ‘mini’ CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community), one of the few programs of this kind in the state,” says Lisa Ingalls, associate executive director of LSSI’s Housing programs.

The 56 renovated one-bedroom apartments are wheelchair-accessible and feature a large bathroom with roll-in shower, new cabinets and a kitchen with easy access to refrigerator, freezer and microwave. These amenities are in addition to the carpeted living room and bedroom, individually controlled heat/air conditioning, resident emergency call system, cable access and other amenities enjoyed by all residents of Joshua Arms. In total, Joshua Arms has 242 one-bedroom apartments for low-income seniors and disabled persons.

Ingalls explains, “In Joshua Arms, LSSI is combining apartment living in subsidized units with supportive-living services. So residents will get to ‘age’ in the building and won’t lose their friends – or community – when they need assistance.”

Residents of the supportive-living apartments will receive special services, including three meals daily plus snacks, laundry and housekeeping assistance, assistance with personal care, medication monitoring, transportation to medical appointments, a special activity director and a designated case manager, and an emergency call system. Staff will be available 24 hours a day, and like all residents at Joshua Arms, they will have access to a physician, and deliveries from grocery stores and pharmacies.

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In addition to the renovated apartments, the conversion, which began in July 2005, includes a new dining room and kitchen, a doctor's office and a new therapy room. The residence also offers a country store and lounge for residents. Total cost of the conversion was \$6.6 million, which was funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The subsidy for the Supportive Living Program is funded through the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

Residents of the supportive living apartments must be 65 years old or older and meet specific HUD income guidelines. In addition, financial assistance is available to individuals with a low income. To date, about 20 residents have moved into Joshua Arms' supportive-living apartments.

The community is invited to attend the dedication ceremony. Local dignitaries, members of LSSI's Housing staff, representatives of the architectural and construction firms, and current residents are expected to attend.

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 (ELCA). LSSI serves people through an array of services at 89 program sites across Illinois.

For more information about Joshua Arms, call Mary Lou Bucciarelli at 815/727-6401, ext. 113, or visit www.LSSI.org.

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