



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 30, 2011

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Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Presents Rev. Frederick Aigner with 2011 Amicus Certus ('True Friend') Award

In a touching and emotional speech that applauded staff members who directly serve the clients of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), the Reverend Frederick Aigner, Ph.D., (Arlington Heights) president emeritus of LSSI, accepted the 2011 Amicus Certus ("True Friend") Award at the 30th Annual Amicus Certus Celebration on November 12. Founded in 1867, Des Plaines-based Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is a statewide agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The award is given annually by LSSI to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the human community. Pr. Aigner was recognized for his commitment to actively serve others, his distinguished leadership of LSSI and his continuing benevolence.

"Pr. Aigner focuses on reaching beyond himself," said Pr. Denver Bitner, LSSI president, as he presented the award to Pr. Aigner. "He manifests his life by serving others."

"I know it will probably be years before I fully absorb what this means," said Pr. Aigner, in response. "I'm overwhelmed. I'm mindful this night of LSSI's direct service people. It takes a lot of focus and ego strength to help someone in need and help them in a way that actually frees them."

WGN broadcaster and 1996 Amicus Certus recipient Orion Samuelson, who served as the evening's master of ceremonies, said, "Welcome to the 'True Friend Family,' Fred," adding "I know [Pr. Aigner's] dedication, his determination, his refusal to accept that it can't be done."

Pr. Aigner served as president/CEO of LSSI from 1997 until his retirement in 2009. Prior to that, he served on the LSSI Board of Directors from 1990 to 1996. From 1983-1997, he was the senior pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Arlington Heights. He also served at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Florissant, Mo., and Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church in Altadena, Calif.

Aigner is a graduate of Wittenberg University and received a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pa., and a Doctor of Philosophy from the Graduate

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Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. He is the recipient of several awards and honorary degrees, including the Presidential Award for Distinguished Leadership from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Nearly 320 guests attended the annual event, hosted by [The Women's Network of LSSI](#) and chaired by Teri Colmar (Northbrook), which took place at the Meadows Club in Rolling Meadows. The presenting sponsor for Amicus Certus was BMO Harris Bank. This year, the event raised approximately \$135,000 for LSSI's Senior Services programs throughout the state, including adult day services, home care services, respite for caregivers, case management and medical management services, Alzheimer's and dementia care, and nursing and rehabilitative services. In total, The Women's Network has raised more than \$2 million for LSSI programs since it was organized in 1982.

Former Amicus Certus honorees include the late Paul Simon, U.S. Senator from Illinois; Anne M. Burke, Chicago Special Olympics founder; Rotary International; Janet Reno, former U.S. Attorney General; The Retirement Research Foundation; and The Erickson Institute. In 2010, LSSI honored Ill. State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (12th District) for her lifelong service and dedication to the needs of children, as well as adopted persons.

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About Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

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 foster care, adoption, pregnancy counseling, Head Start, child care services, services for at-risk families, residential services for youth, counseling, mental health, substance abuse treatment, residential programs for adults with developmental disabilities, housing and services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, nursing care and rehabilitation, and programs for prisoners and their families. For more information, visit www.LSSI.org or [LSSI's Facebook page](#).