



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2010

CONTACT: Jo Ann Dollard
847/390-1446

LSSI Recognizes State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz for Efforts on Behalf of Children, Adoptees

On November 6, Ill. State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (12th District) was presented with the 2010 Amicus Certus (“True Friend”) Award, which is given annually by Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the human community. Feigenholtz was recognized for her lifelong service and dedication to the needs of children, as well as adopted persons.

“There are a few awards that you receive in your career that mean more [to you], and this is one of them,” she said in her acceptance speech. Of her work, she noted: “There’s nothing like being able to improve the quality of life for people.”

Pr. Denver Bitner, LSSI president/CEO, who presented Feigenholtz with the award, said that she “has focused on her passion for the care of children, seniors and other vulnerable people in her legislative career. She is a ‘true friend’ to the people of our state.”

An adopted person herself, Feigenholtz currently chairs the House Committee on Adoption Reform. The timing of the award presentation is especially meaningful, as November is National Adoption Month. Adoption — an issue that she’s been so involved with — is “so personal and meaningful, all at once,” she said.

Feigenholtz was first elected to the Illinois General Assembly in November 1994 and represents three very progressive areas in the city of Chicago, including Lakeview, Lincoln Park and the Near North Side. As a state lawmaker, she has authored and championed legislation that runs a gamut of issues, including adoption reform, affordable and accessible health care, and improving the quality of education in Illinois. Most recently, she was a sponsor of House Bill 5428, the Original Birth Certificate Access Bill, which was signed into law earlier this year and provides for the release of the original birth certificate to an adopted person. Feigenholtz worked on the bill for 14 years before it became a law.

– more –

LSSI Recognizes Rep. Feigenholtz for Efforts on Behalf of Children, Adoptees - page 2

Approximately 290 guests – many decked out in “hippie” garb in sync with this year’s event theme of celebrating the ’60s – rocked out to the groovy music of Craig Colmar and the T-Byrdz. The Amicus Certus Celebration raised more than \$83,000 for LSSI’s adoption and foster care services. As one of the largest providers of foster care services in the state, LSSI currently serves more than 2,100 foster children and their families. LSSI also offers infant, international and special needs adoptions (which includes adoptions of older children and sibling groups); pre- and post-adoptive services; and search and reunification services for adoptees.

Former Amicus Certus honorees include the late Paul Simon, U.S. Senator from Illinois; Anne M. Burke, Chicago Special Olympics founder; Rotary International; and Janet Reno, former U.S. Attorney General. In 2009, LSSI honored The Women’s Network of LSSI for its long-term commitment to supporting the agency’s mission and services.

For information on Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, call 847/635-4600 or visit www.LSSI.org.

###

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](#).