



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LSSI to Honor Women's Network at 28th Annual Amicus Certus ('True Friend') Gala

On November 7, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) will honor The Women's Network of LSSI at this year's Amicus Certus ("True Friend") Gala. The event will be held at Brookfield Zoo, located at 8400 31st Street, in Brookfield. Harris Bank is the Presenting Sponsor for the 2009 Amicus Certus Gala. Co-chairs of the gala are Torie Arthofer, Naperville; Marilyn Howard, Lake in the Hills; and Nancy Nagel, Winnetka.

The Women's Network is being honored for its long-term commitment to supporting LSSI's mission and services. Special recognition will be given to the founding members of the organization for their foresight in creating the Network in 1983 and for their continuing support. All past presidents and event chairs in attendance will also be recognized.

"We are honored to present the Amicus Certus Award to The Women's Network," says Pr. Denver Bitner, president of LSSI. "Through their tireless efforts, Women's Network members truly support and strengthen LSSI's mission of bringing healing, justice and wholeness to people and communities throughout the state. They make a difference to the people we serve and to the programs we are able to offer to them."

Today, more than 80 women from metropolitan Chicago and other communities pool their collective skills and enthusiasm to serve LSSI. The Women's Network supports and strengthens LSSI's mission through education, fundraising and advocacy. Most notably, the group organizes two major events in Chicago annually — the Amicus Certus Gala and the Spring Fashion Show. Over the past 27 years, the combined result of these two events has raised more than \$2.5 million for LSSI programs. One of the programs funded by the annual Fashion Show is the Bonding with Books program, which promotes literacy by providing one book a month during the school year to the nearly 300 children who attend LSSI's five Head Start sites in Chicago.

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The Amicus Certus Award is given to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the human community. Former Amicus Certus Honorees include the late Paul Simon, U.S. Senator from Illinois; Anne M. Burke, Chicago Special Olympics founder; Rotary International; The Retirement Research Foundation; and The Erickson Institute. In 2008, LSSI honored former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno for her lifelong dedication to justice.

Proceeds from this year's event will benefit LSSI's Behavioral Health Services (BHS). BHS programs offer counseling, mental health and substance abuse treatment services, as well as services for persons with developmental disabilities. Caring, licensed and trained professionals give guidance and support to children, adults and families at outpatient and residential programs. These vital programs were hard-hit by the state's budget cuts this year.

Amicus Certus Gala tickets are \$250 per person or \$2,000 for a table for 8, and may be obtained by advance reservations. Sponsorships are also available. For more information about the Amicus Certus Gala or to make reservations, contact Ed Newton at 847/635-4656, or Edward.Newton@LSSI.org.

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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.