



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fry Foundation of Chicago Gives \$80,000 Grant to LSSI for Children, Adolescent Counseling Programs

The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation of Chicago recently announced an \$80,000 two-year grant for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). The grant was awarded to LSSI's Children and Adolescent Counseling Services, which include Portage Cragin Counseling, Project H.O.P.E. and SASS (Screening Assessment & Support Services). Half of the grant was contributed in 2010, and the other half will be given in 2011.

Project H.O.P.E. is a program for young adults who are coping with mental illness or emotional problems and who are transitioning to life as independent adults. SASS provides crisis intervention and follow-up services to children and adolescents experiencing a psychiatric crisis. These programs, as well as a counseling program, are available to residents on Chicago's northwest side at the Portage Cragin site, located at 4840 W. Byron Street.

Through these three programs, LSSI offers a continuum of care for children and adolescents experiencing mental health or emotional issues, and their families, based on their level of need. Services include: crisis stabilization, home and community-based services, youth transition services, outpatient counseling and psychiatric treatment. The grant will help LSSI provide mental health services to improve the functioning of children at home, at school and in the community. It will also help families to reduce the stress associated with living with a child with a severe emotional problem.

"The Fry Foundation has made it possible for LSSI to help teens – who have struggled for years with self-doubt and emotional problems – to believe in themselves so they can reach the normal goals of graduating from high school, getting into college and planning a career," says Julie Kovacin, mental health services development director at LSSI.

The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation has been addressing the needs of the Chicago community since 1983. It supports "organizations with the strength and commitment to address persistent problems of urban Chicago resulting from poverty, violence, ignorance and despair." The Foundation focuses on programs that improve conditions for low-income, underserved communities in Chicago.

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. For more information on Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, visit www.LSSI.org or LSSI's Facebook page.

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