



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Earns 'Green' Award for Recycling Efforts**

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) recently received an Environmental Award from Cintas for recycling 42,000 pounds of paper last year. LSSI is a social service agency headquartered in Des Plaines that annually serves nearly 74,000 people throughout Illinois.

LSSI's recycling effort saved 357 trees; 7,980 gallons of oil; 147,000 gallons of water; and 63 cubic yards of landfill. Several of the agency's offices participated in the document recycling program, including LSSI's Central Services Office in Des Plaines, as well as program sites in Aurora, Rockford and the Chicago neighborhoods of Bronzeville, Portage Park, Edgewater and North Austin.

"This year we want to expand this program to all of our locations," says Tom Dattalo, director of auditing who heads up LSSI's "Green Team."

"As we care for the people we have been called in our mission to serve, part of that is caring for the environment, because it impacts the quality of life for all of us," explains the Rev. Dr. Denver Bitner, LSSI president, who hopes that LSSI can be a model for greening efforts at other organizations.

He adds, "LSSI's Green Initiative is not only good for the earth, it will also help save the agency money. A first look at potential for savings is in the tens of thousands of dollars."

Cintas, a company whose services include document management, hauls the paper away in a process that secures it under lock and key until it is shredded. Thus, confidential information included on documents to be shredded is preserved. Once the paper is shredded, it is baled and trucked northward to a paper plant in Wisconsin, where it is turned into recycled paper products, such as tissue paper and paper towels. This service does not cost LSSI any money, and it helps the agency to be a good "green steward," according to Dattalo.

Founded in October 1867, LSSI is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LSSI serves people through an array of services at approximately 83 sites across Illinois.

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For more information on LSSI, visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org) or LSSI's Facebook page.

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*Photo caption:*

Participating in the Cintas award presentation to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) were (from left): Tom Dattalo, director of auditing, LSSI; the Rev. Dr. Denver Bitner, president, LSSI; Sheldon Dyer, account executive, Cintas; and Todd Wolfe, general manager, Cintas.