



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **LSSI Honors 47 Legacy Corps Members Who Assist Seniors and Their Caregivers**

On March 18, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) recognized 47 Rockford-area residents for their participation as AmeriCorps/Legacy Corps members this past year. The annual Legacy Corps Luncheon took place at Peterson Meadows, a retirement community located at 6401 Newburg Road, a program of LSSI.

The annual event is held to thank LSSI's Legacy Corps members for providing support and respite to caregivers during the past year. Helping in this year's recognition ceremony were representatives from the offices of lawmakers U.S. Rep. Don Manzullo (R-IL) and State Sen. Dave Syverson (R-Rockford).

This is the eighth year of LSSI's Legacy Corps program, which serves about 300 clients in six host sites. The organization provides volunteers who give respite support to family caregivers of seniors or other loved ones who need ongoing attention. Legacy Corps members provide caregivers with three to four hours of service a week, enabling them to run errands, see to other responsibilities or just relax, without worrying about their loved ones.

LSSI offers Legacy Corp's respite services in Winnebago, Stephenson, DeKalb and McHenry Counties, as well as in Moline and Park Ridge. Legacy Corps members include people primarily who are 50 years old and older. Members can serve for as few as 10 hours a week, and in return, they receive complete orientation and ongoing training, as well as an annual stipend of \$2,000 to defray expenses. In addition, after completion of one-year's service, members receive a \$1,250 education voucher. LSSI's Legacy Corps members in the area worked about 15,000 hours last year.

Legacy Corps is a part of AmeriCorps, a network of national service programs that engage more than 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety,

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the environment and other human needs, including health and housing. There are only 11 Legacy Corps programs in the United States, and LSSI's program is the only one in Illinois.

“We are pleased to honor LSSI's Legacy Corps members and their contributions in bringing healing, justice and wholeness in Rockford and other communities,” says the Rev. Dr. Denver Bitner, LSSI president, who also was on hand for the presentation along with Marilyn Elliott, executive director of LSSI's senior services, which oversees the Legacy Corps program.

Founded in October 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). LSSI serves people through an array of services at 83 program sites across Illinois. In the greater Rockford area, LSSI, which was recently nominated for the *Rockford Register Star's* Excelsior Award, provides a wide variety of services. For further information, visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org) and LSSI's Facebook page.

For more information about Legacy Corps, contact Elaine Pfluger, program director, at 815/395-8716 or at [Elaine.Pfluger@LSSI.org](mailto:Elaine.Pfluger@LSSI.org)

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