



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **LSSI Chosen to Administer Senior Corps' RSVP Volunteer Program in Winnebago, Boone Counties; Open House in Rockford on Feb. 25**

Through a competitive grant process, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) has been chosen by the Corporation for National and Community Service to manage the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) in Winnebago and Boone Counties. RSVP connects volunteers 55 years and older with service opportunities in their communities that match their skills and availability. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, a statewide human services agency that provides a variety of services in Rockford for children, seniors and families, was nominated by the *Rockford Register Star* for a 2009 Excelsior Award.

On February 25, an Open House will be held at the Rockford RSVP office, located at 2222 E. State Street, Suite 109, from 10 a.m. to noon. Special guests will include the Rev. Dr. Denver Bitner, LSSI president, and Marilyn Elliott, executive director of LSSI's Senior Services, which is overseeing RSVP. Rockford Mayor Lawrence Morrissey, Sen. Dave Syverson, Rep. Chuck Jefferson and Rep. Dave Winters have been invited to attend the open house as well.

RSVP offices in two locations will be handling volunteer recruiting and requests for volunteers. An office in Rockford will handle Winnebago County requests, while an office in Belvidere, located at 521 S. State Street, will handle Boone County requests.

"People can contact us if they want to be a volunteer or if they represent a not-for-profit that needs volunteers," explains Marilyn Elliott. "We already have 140 'work stations' that participate in RSVP," she adds.

Currently, there are approximately 1,200 RSVP volunteers in Winnebago and Boone Counties. LSSI's role will be to connect not-for-profit organizations or "work stations" – churches, schools, colleges, retirement communities, hospitals and agencies – with volunteers. LSSI will also be responsible for recruiting additional volunteers. Requests for volunteers in the past have included those for administrative help or for special projects.

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Elliott notes that LSSI's work as the RSVP sponsor will add RSVP volunteers to the agency's own volunteer base, "So there is potential for more volunteer hours to come into our programs," she says.

RSVP is part of the Senior Corps, which is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency that promotes community service. The Corporation also administers AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America.

For more information, call Diana Burke, RSVP program director, at 815/397-7103. For more information on Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org) or visit LSSI's Facebook page.

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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. In Rockford, LSSI offers foster care and adoption services, P.A. Peterson Center for Health, the Peterson Meadows Retirement Community, Luther Center (senior housing), Intouch Home Care (non-medical home care for seniors), Legacy Corps (respite services for caregivers) and services for prisoners and their families at Winnebago County Justice Center and in the community. For more information on Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org) or visit LSSI's Facebook page.