



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

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LSSI's Women's Network Brunch Raises \$51,000 for Head Start Literacy Program

Thanks to the 27th Annual Forget-Me-Not Brunch and Fashion Show on May, preschool students at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' (LSSI) five Head Start sites in Chicago will continue to enjoy the Bonding with Books program. This is the seventh year that the brunch has helped to fund the Bonding with Books program.

More than 300 people attended the May 7 event at The Meadows Club in Rolling Meadows. The brunch and fashion, hosted by [The Women's Network of LSSI](#), raised approximately \$51,000 for the Head Start literacy program, which, from October to May, provides one book a month free for approximately 280 preschool children. Classroom activities are linked to the theme of each month's book, and the program encourages families to read together and to use the books to build a home library for all of the family's children.

"Bonding with Books is a very special program to me as a retired teacher," says Sandy Doran (Prospect Heights), the chair of the fashion show who taught first and fifth grades, and special education and reading classes. "I really believe this program is an excellent way to get kids going with reading. I know how important reading is to a child's success in school. So, anything we can do to help children to learn to love reading at a young age will only benefit them."

LSSI's five [Head Start](#) sites are located in Humboldt Park, North Austin, Rogers Park, Uptown and West Englewood. They offer programs for children aged 3-5 years old, with or without disabilities. Programming is designed to develop students' social skills and school readiness.

The hosting organization, The Women's Network of LSSI, is a group of volunteers that promotes and supports LSSI programs. "We are grateful to The Women's Network for hosting this wonderful event," says Maryann Aimone, executive director of LSSI's Advancement department. "It brings so many of us together all to raise funds for this vital literacy program at our Head Start centers."

Founded in October 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 about the agency, visit www.LSSI.org and [LSSI's Facebook](#) page.

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