



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **LSSI's Youth Services Programs in Ogle County Hurt by Local Funding Cuts**

Youth services programs in Ogle County are being negatively affected by the reductions by state and local funding, according to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), which provides emergency crisis and counseling services in the county for youth ages 11-17.

“It’s just been torturous — knowing how many families we can serve while realizing that there are many more in need,” says Susan Loyd, youth services program director at LSSI’s office in Nachusa. She explains that the funding through the Ogle County 708 Board, which funds mental health services, continues to be reduced. The program currently receives only a fraction of what it needs to serve county families.

She says that while the agency still responds when it gets a call from the police that they have taken a teen into temporary custody, “the part of the program that is being affected by the funding cuts is counseling.” This is because funding cuts have led to a dramatic decline in the number of counseling hours the agency can provide. “Because we don’t have the people available, there is a time lag from the time we receive a referral until we are able to start counseling,” Loyd says.

She cited Chana School, which is an alternative school for kids already in trouble. “We are only able to have one person on-site one day a week, even though there is a need for a second day,” she says.

LSSI’s crisis intervention program provides 24-hour crisis intervention for runaways, lockouts or teens in family conflict situations. The other program provides individual counseling and case management, and family counseling when needed. Both programs are offered at no cost to the families. And LSSI continues to work with the Probation Department to identify and offer services to youth and their families.

These programs serve youth such as Annie\*, a 16-year-old runaway who was referred to the program by law enforcement. After participating in a counseling program for a couple years, Sarah

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learned how to manage her anger, which led to an improvement in her relationship with her parents, as well as improvement in her performance in school.

Another teen served was Macy\*, a 14-year-old, who had self-esteem issues that were affecting her relationships with her friends and members of her family. With help from LSSI's counselors, she developed the tools she needed to improve communication with her parents. Her grades started to improve, along with her friendships, and she got involved with sports activities, which helped to build her self-esteem even more.

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 Ogle County, LSSI provides crisis intervention counselors for youth and families, school-based services, adoption, foster care and services for older adults. For more information on Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org) or [LSSI's Facebook page](#).

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*\*Names changed to protect confidentiality.*