



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **“Creative Minds” Showcases Art of People with Mental Illness**

Artwork of members of the Journeys Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) will be showcased in an exhibit, “Creative Minds: A Recovery Project,” June 5–7 at Wilber Wright College, located at 4300 N. Narragansett in Chicago.

The show will be held in the faculty dining room. Gallery hours are 7:30 a.m.–10 p.m., and the opening reception will be held on June 5 from 4:00–7:00 p.m. There will also be a silent auction of the pieces on display, with the proceeds going to the artists.

Journeys is a community mental health program designed to provide people with a chronic mental illness a safe place to learn, practice and integrate life skills that will stabilize and enhance their well-being. Clients receive counseling and have access to support groups and other programs. Since January, Journeys members have participated in art therapy classes provided by students of the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago.

“The art group has helped me a lot,” says Suzanne, a member of the Journeys group, “because it helps me to express my feelings that are sometimes hard to say but are easier to paint on canvas.”

“On their journey toward recovery, these individuals with mental illness embraced the power of art and celebrated their creative minds,” says Kara McCallum, a staff member with Journeys. “This [class] was a great experience for our clients, and an important and valuable way for them to express themselves in different ways.”

For more information, contact Anna Blazevic at 773/282-7347, ext. 330; or [Anna.Blazevic@LSSI.org](mailto:Anna.Blazevic@LSSI.org).

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. For more information, visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org).

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