



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **“Showers & Flowers” Fashion Show on May 12 to Benefit LSSI’s Head Start Literacy Program**

The Women’s Network of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) will host its 23rd Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show, “Showers & Flowers,” on Saturday, May 12, at The Westin O’Hare, 6100 N. River Road in Rosemont. The Women’s Network is a group of volunteers that promotes and supports LSSI programs.

This is the third year that proceeds from the fashion show will benefit Bonding with Books, a Head Start literacy program at LSSI’s sites, serving approximately 285 preschool children in the West Englewood, Cabrini Green, Austin, Uptown, Rogers Park and West Town neighborhoods in Chicago. From September to May, the program provides one book a month free to each child – this year the program is providing 10 books for each child. The program encourages families to read together and extends children’s learning by including classroom activities and field trips that are related to the theme of the book during the month.

“Our belief is that the Bonding with Books program will positively impact each child’s chances for school success,” says Carol Endemann, associate executive director of Children’s Community Services who oversees LSSI’s Head Start program and has been instrumental in developing Bonding with Books. “We’ve seen documented outcomes with kids’ test scores really zooming up after having more exposure to books,” she adds.

The fashion show will feature clothing from local designers, department stores and specialty shops. The event also will provide guests with an opportunity to shop at special gift boutiques featuring designer and handcrafted accessories and jewelry, and will also include a raffle for three exciting prizes. Tickets cost \$70 and are available by advance reservation only.

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 at 89 program locations. LSSI’s services include counseling, mental health programs, substance abuse treatment, residential treatment for children and adolescents, early childhood education and child care, programs for adults and children with developmental disabilities, foster care and adoption, pregnancy counseling, housing and services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, nursing care, and programs for prisoners and their families.

*To order tickets, or for more information about The Women’s Network, call Ed Newton at 847/635-4656; or visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org).*

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