



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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St. Matthew Center for Health Partners with Rainbow Hospice on Inpatient Hospice Unit

St. Matthew Center for Health, a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), is partnering with Rainbow Hospice to offer an inpatient hospice unit (IPU) to provide for the special needs of terminally ill patients and their families. Rainbow Hospice will lease the space from St. Matthew, a long-term care and rehabilitation facility located in a quiet residential neighborhood in Park Ridge.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for St. Matthew, as it allows us to offer another level of care while partnering with this highly respected organization,” says Gerrienne Dathe, St. Matthew administrator. Rainbow Hospice has been a nonprofit provider of hospice services to the Chicago area for the past 25 years.

“We were scouting for a site for our inpatient hospice unit that was more than just a space,” says Rainbow Hospice CEO Pat Ahern. “We were seeking a presence — not only for our patients, families and our staff — but also a healing presence in the community. We found, in St. Matthew's Center for Health, a highly regarded community treasure — not dissimilar to our own identity in the community. The values orientation and commitment to life and dignity tune perfectly to the spirit and identity of Rainbow Hospice. And, we have worked with St. Matthew's for years — we know about their good work and feel confident about aligning our name with theirs.”

Inpatient care allows hospice staff to manage acute symptoms and provide ongoing observation in special situations that would otherwise require hospitalization. The unit, which is scheduled to open on November 12, 2007, will occupy approximately 7,000 square feet and will have 15 private rooms. Rainbow Hospice will staff the unit to provide patients with 24-hour access to hospice skilled staff. In addition to the remodeling of 15 single-occupancy rooms, the construction will include a family lounge,

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Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

media center, kitchen and dining area, meditation space and a children's play area.

Founded in 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LSSI serves people through an array of services at approximately 89 sites across Illinois. For more information about St. Matthew, call 847/825-5531; or visit www.StMatthewCenter.org. For information about Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, visit www.LSSI.org. For information about Rainbow Hospice, visit www.rainbowhospice.org.

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