



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 13, 2009

**Contact:** Valerie Niskanen  
847-825-5531

## **Her Canvases Are the Windows at St. Matthew Center for Health**

When Mary Fallest wanted to volunteer for St. Matthew Center for Health in Park Ridge, she offered to do what she loves best: paint. As a result, three of her colorful, themed painting projects have graced St. Matthew's central hallway windows in recent months, including a harvest scene with scarecrow and pumpkins in the fall 2008 and a Santa Claus image in December. This month, her Valentine's theme includes a cast of ©Disney characters.

Mary, a lifelong Des Plaines resident, has had no formal art training, other than taking art classes at her high school, Maine West. "I always could draw, so painting came easy," she says, explaining that this ability comes naturally to her.

In addition to her work at St. Matthew, Mary has painted storefront windows in Des Plaines. She also painted many images on the windows of Imig's Café in Park Ridge ten years ago, when her family owned the cafe. Many of the windows she has painted are even larger than those at St. Matthew, allowing her to create scenes that draw a lot of attention from passersby. Mary also paints on canvas and on a variety of surfaces, including furniture and fixtures.

When creating her window artwork, Mary paints with liquid acrylic paint on the inside, explaining that the images are best when seen from the outside.

Visitors enjoy watching Mary paint and are impressed with the ease with which she works. Staff members are also pleased to have the paintings in place as part of St. Matthew's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which will be celebrated throughout the year. The paintings are located on windows in the hallway just east of the main lobby.

St. Matthew Center for Health, a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), is located at 1601 N. Western Avenue in Park Ridge, just off of Dempster Street. For more information, call 847-825-5531, or visit [www.StMatthewCenter.org](http://www.StMatthewCenter.org).

###

### **About St. Matthew Center for Health**

St. Matthew Center for Health, a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), has served the community since 1959. St. Matthew offers rehabilitation services, long-term care, specialized dementia unit, respite, and support for hospice and palliative care services.

1601 Western Avenue • Park Ridge, Illinois 60068 • 847-825-5531 • Fax 847-318-6659 • [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org)



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois