



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

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Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Foster Care Program Receives Gift from Sterling/Rock Falls Elks Lodge

Recently, the Sterling/Rock Falls Elks Lodge presented Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' (LSSI) foster care program with a check for \$1,000.

“We appreciate the wonderful generosity from the Elks Lodge and its members,” says Susan Loyd, LSSI’s foster care program director. “It’s nice to see community organizations get involved and help support the work we do at LSSI.”

Currently, LSSI has 70 foster homes with 100 children in placement in north central Illinois. LSSI provides traditional and medical or behavioral specialized foster care. Traditional foster care serves children who are in need of foster care until they can either be returned home or are adopted. The children in this program may or may not have special needs. However, they all have experienced abuse or neglect, and they need good, loving homes.

The other type, medical or behavioral specialized foster care provides care for children with serious medical, emotional or behavioral problems. Foster parents caring for a child in specialized foster care receive intensive training to prepare them to meet the child’s special needs. Behavioral specialized foster parents are “teaching parents” and have the most direct influence on a child’s progress. Medically specialized foster parents are highly involved in meeting a child’s medical and developmental needs.

Every year, about 170,000 foster families nationwide care for more than a half million children whose parents cannot care for them. Foster care advocates say the need for foster parents is great and that every jurisdiction in the country has a shortage of foster homes. Advocates estimate that millions of foster homes are needed throughout the country to meet the growing need.

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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, as well as an agency of the United Way. In addition to foster care, LSSI's services in northern Illinois include counseling, mental health programs, substance abuse treatment, services for older adults, and residential treatment for children and adolescents.

For more information about Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' foster care program, call 815/284-7796. For more information about LSSI, visit www.LSSI.org.

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Photo (left to right): Susan Loyd (LSSI foster care, program director), Jim Buzard (Elks Lodge) and Lisa Chapman (LSSI foster care, supervisor).