



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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'Springtime in the Woodlands' Fashion Show to Benefit LSSI's Head Start Literacy Program

The Women's Network of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) will host its 24th Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show, "Springtime in the Woodlands," on Saturday, May 10, at The Westin O'Hare, located at 6100 N. River Road in Rosemont. The Women's Network is a group of volunteers that promotes and supports LSSI programs. Marilyn Howard, a resident of Lake in the Hills, is the chair of this year's event.

For the fourth year, proceeds from the fashion show will benefit Bonding with Books, a literacy program at LSSI's five Chicago Head Start sites in Humboldt Park, North Austin, Rogers Park, Uptown and West Englewood. From October to May, the program provides one book a month free for approximately 285 preschool children, and during that month, classroom activities and field trips relate to the theme of the book, such as a trip to a fire station when the book is about fire fighters. The program encourages families to read together, and the books act as a basis for a home library.

"Bonding with Books really resonates with the people who come to the show," says Naperville resident Tori Arthofer, who is president of the Women's Network. "People recognize that early education is so important. [It's helped] the children's school readiness scores to improve." She added that last year, some of the Women's Network members had the opportunity to visit one of the centers and see it in action. They saw the books being used and scrapbooks of the trips the children had gone on. "That was very meaningful," she says.

The fashion show will feature clothing from local designers, department stores and specialty shops. "I am really excited about the fashion show this year," Arthofer says. "Guests will see some of the new trends for spring emphasizing bright colors and floral designs."

Attendees at the event will also have an opportunity to shop at special gift boutiques that feature designer and handcrafted accessories and jewelry. There will also be a raffle for three exciting prizes. Tickets for the luncheon and fashion show cost \$75 and are available by advance reservation only. To order tickets, or to obtain more information about the Women's Network and LSSI, call Ed Newton at 847/635-4656 or visit www.LSSI.org.

Founded in October 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is celebrating its 140th anniversary, and is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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