



The Cornerstone

Greetings, Friends!

Since the Cornerstone Foundation is part of my daily life, I forget that not everyone knows what it is. The Cornerstone Foundation was created more than 25 years ago to provide financial support for all the ministries of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). When received, legacy gifts are held in Cornerstone. Every year, distributions are made in accordance with donor directions, which may have been contained in a will or trust. This annual gift to LSSI benefits diverse programs, but uniformly helps us respond with compassion to the needs of our neighbors throughout Illinois who come to us for care.

We are grateful to the Cornerstone trustees who share their time and talents to serve on the Cornerstone Foundation Board of Trustees. Our trustees are united by a deep and abiding faith that simple acts of kindness can help change lives. A list of the trustees is in the newsletter as a small way to thank them for their service.

This issue highlights the legacy gift from Margaret “Peg” Kirkhart, whose gift will join others in the Cornerstone Foundation. Peg’s family ties to LSSI are many, and her gift will help us to continue to spread love to those who come to our agency for services.

Also in this issue is “Estate Planning Never Gets Old,” an article that gently reminds us that estate planning should not be put off indefinitely.

I love getting out and visiting our friends. I would welcome the chance to meet with you to give you a personal update on the Cornerstone Foundation and how it supports and advances our ministry. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at 847/390-1464.

Blessings to all our steadfast friends who help us help others,
Susan Gilpin
Executive Director, The Cornerstone Foundation

CORNERSTONE FOUNDATION
GOAL STATEMENT: Responding to the Gospel, The Cornerstone Foundation is the endowment that helps ensure the ministries and future of LSSI.

Celebrating
the spirit of
generosity and
ensuring
the future of
Lutheran
Social Services
of Illinois.

Susan Gilpin, Executive Director,
The Cornerstone Foundation,
Director of Planned Giving and
Managing Editor, The Cornerstone
Susan.Gilpin@LSSI.org
847.390.1464

The Cornerstone Foundation
1001 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 50
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018
847.635.4600
www.LSSI.org

91 Years of Caring



Peg holds baby Thomas, while Bob holds daughter Kathleen during Thomas's adoption ceremony.

“My mother was a woman with drive. Very active in the church. Active in her community. She taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She visited and delivered meals to shut-ins. She volunteered at the Augustana Center and brought crafts to the children,” replied Kathleen Larson when asked to describe her mother, Peg, who passed away last year.

The legacy gift that Margaret “Peg” Kirkhart made to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) was a blessing and a surprise to us. It made us want to know more about Peg and her connections to LSSI.

Kathleen and her husband, Ken, shared the family's numerous connections to LSSI. Both Kathleen and her brother, Thomas, were adopted through LSSI in the 1950s. Many years later, Kathleen and Ken adopted two of their three children through LSSI, as well.

Both Kathleen and Ken talked about how beautiful and joyful the placement service is when a child is presented to his or her parents. “It is a very emotional experience, like a baptism, when

the Pastor blesses the adoption,” said Ken. It is easy to imagine the joy and the love that Peg and her husband, Bob, felt when they were able to hold their beloved children for the first time.

Peg grew up on the Northwest side of Chicago and attended Schurz High School. She helped support her family and went to work after graduating from high school. Peg met Bob while she was working as a secretary, and they married in 1943. Bob became a pilot in the Army Air Corps and eventually became a B-24 instructor. When the war ended, the couple returned to the Northwest side of Chicago and became active members at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church on Addison Street.

Kathleen remembered wonderful vacations with her parents. “We were always on the road and camping. My parents loved fishing, camping and playing golf,” she said.

“My mother was always busy volunteering. She would get her friends in a car and off they would go to the Augustana Center to deliver crafts they had made to the children there,” Kathleen recalled. She said that both her parents taught her the importance of generosity.

In her 91 years on earth, Peg Kirkhart was an active church woman, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend. The blessings of family and friends and the love that results were paramount to Peg. Her careful planning to include a legacy gift to us will help others feel that they, too, are loved.

If you are interested in creating a legacy gift like Peg did, please contact Susan Gilpin at 847/390-1464. ■

Recognizing our Cornerstone Trustees

While Susan Gilpin and Peggie Imhauser are the visible contacts of the Cornerstone Foundation, there is an entire board that oversees all financial, audit and investment policies with regard to the gifts held in the Foundation. Foundation trustees actively support the mission of the Foundation and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) through their annual and legacy gifts.

We acknowledge and thank our current trustees for generously sharing their time, talents and treasure with us.

They are:

Mario Alberico, Arlington Heights
Wilbert Bartelt, Arlington Heights
Ellen Bechthold, Chicago
Pr. Robin Brown, Glenview
Larry Cooper, Sterling
Richard Craig, Champaign
Scott Gierke, Mount Prospect
William Hansing, Geneva
Theodore Hanson, Northbrook
Cheryl Kadleck, Northbrook
Pr. Laura Koppenhoefer, Rock Island
Mary Loken, Springfield
Robert Mantell, Arlington Heights
Pr. Larry Matthews, Rockford
Linda Miller, Rockford
John Milton, Northbrook
Richard Moody, Buffalo Grove
Kathy Nelson, Geneseo



Susan Gilpin (left) and Peggie Imhauser are LSSI's Cornerstone team.

Jill Nilsen, Charleston
Susan Link Olsen, Lincolnshire
Carol Reckmeyer, Mount Morris
Paul Sarvela, Carbondale
Pr. George Schelter, Des Plaines
Jeffrey Semler Sr., Lake Forest
Lynn Smith, Carbondale
Dennis Spice, Champaign
Andrew Tecson, Downers Grove
Wilbert Thiel, Oak Brook
Pr. Ruth Van Demark, Chicago
D. Joseph Walton, LaGrange
Sandra Weiler, Northbrook
Harvey Welch, Carbondale

If you know someone you might recommend for service on the Cornerstone Board, please contact Susan Gilpin at 847/390-1464 for more information. ■

CELEBRATING Extraordinary Efforts



Inside the fire-scarred apartment at Joshua Arms Senior Housing, shortly after the fire.

The Cornerstone Luncheon in September gave us an opportunity to hear firsthand the stories of heroism and extraordinary efforts of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) staff members when a fire occurred in our Joshua Arms Senior Housing in Joliet.

It was during the most frigid part of last winter when a fire broke out in one of the units. Listening to those directly involved in rescuing and re-locating residents was awe-inspiring. The Joshua Arms staff exemplified the highest standard of care for their clients, and as a result, the Donald M. Hallberg Award for Program Excellence was presented to them. The luncheon guests vigorously applauded their efforts and celebrated the successful re-opening of Joshua Arms two months later.

The September luncheon was held at Giovanni's Restaurant in Rockford. Nearly 70 friends enjoyed a terrific meal and fellowship. The Rev. Denver Bitner, D.Min., LSSI president, provided details on recent

expansion of LSSI's Reentry Services for citizens returning following incarceration, how Intouch Adult Day Services are now being offered to veterans with traumatic brain injuries and improvements planned for P.A. Peterson Center for Health and St. Matthew Center for Health. He emphasized that in spite of the state's financial condition, LSSI continues to respond to the diverse needs of our neighbors. ■

A brand new year is upon us, and you know you're getting older when: today's "vintage" clothing looks like what you wore at age 20; you hear an "oldies" station on the radio and you don't recognize any of the songs they're playing; you're home from a "night out" by 9 p.m. and in bed asleep by 10; and the last will you had drafted was written before your youngest child was born, and that child is now 30 years old.

The years do seem to slip past faster and faster. One reason could be that each year represents an increasingly smaller portion of our lives. For example, to a five-year-old grandchild, the wait from one birthday to the next is nearly 20% of his or her life. But to a 60-year-old, it's less than 2%. That's why you'll never hear a five-year-old say, "Is it my birthday again already? It seems like I just had one a few months ago."

Milestones such as birthdays still provide an occasion for celebration and are a good time to look at what we've accomplished and where our lives are going. While reflecting, you might decide that it's time to consider how you wish to be remembered. Birthdays can be an opportunity to update estate plans — or to prepare plans if you haven't already done so — and your reflections may lead to ideas for leaving the world a better place.

Whether you're reviewing existing estate plans or beginning the process for the first time, we hope that you will consider including a gift to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). There are many ways a legacy gift can continue support for the programs that have touched your heart. We would be happy to work with you and your attorney to create a gift that provides the greatest satisfaction — including gifts that provide benefits to family members. Just contact Susan Gilpin at 847/390-1464 for help crafting your personal legacy. ■



Estate Planning Never Gets Old

There are many ways a legacy gift can continue support for the programs that have touched your heart.



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

1001 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 50
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018



Updates to Cornerstone Membership Directory

We acknowledge and welcome new members of The Cornerstone Society who have included a gift to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois in their estate plans:

Mr. Wendell Hahn, Springfield

Mrs. Nancy Iverson, Wheaton

Ms. Donna Krenz, Mendota

Mr. Timothy Larson, Oak Park

Mr. and Mrs. John Lichner, Rock Falls

We also acknowledge, with gratitude, the following estate gifts:

Mrs. Betty Anderson, Rochester, Minn.

Mr. Eugene Coan, Arlington Heights

Mrs. Jean Fleck, Huntley

Mrs. Margaret Kirkhart, Chicago

Mr. Walter Prange, Evanston

UPCOMING CORNERSTONE SOCIETY



Our Cornerstone Society luncheons allow us to thank our Cornerstone Society members for their legacy gifts and to celebrate the ministry of LSSI. These luncheons are by invitation only. Our next luncheon is scheduled for:

Thursday, May 10, 2012
Hoffman Estates

September 2012
Springfield

To learn more about Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, visit www.LSSI.org

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, Illinois
Permit No. 7162