Dr. Jerry Seidel’s home is part of his identity. It’s no ordinary home. The beautiful mid-century modern house was built for Jerry and his wife, Shirley, by an architect that studied under Frank Lloyd Wright. The couple lived there for over 50 years, raising their seven children.

Shirley passed away in 2011, and Dr. Seidel has dealt with medical issues since, including an extended hospital stay. If it wasn’t for Priscilla Maynard and her team of Intouch Home Care caregivers from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), Jerry doesn’t think he’d be able to stay in the house he loves.

“Pricilla is vital to my cause,” Dr. Seidel said. “Intouch staff are here every day, they help me get around, help with my physical therapy, transfer me to bed.”

Intouch Home Care Services serve adults and veterans who need an extra bit of assistance to keep them safe, healthy, and active in their own home. Experienced home care professionals provide care specific to each client’s needs, and understand the importance of keeping individuals in their homes and community. This service

— PSALM 108:8
LSSI launched Youth WORKS (Wellness, Opportunity, and Resources for Key Services), a new program designed to comprehensively reduce delinquency and violence among youth in Lee and Ogle Counties. The program is funded through the Community Youth Services program of the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Youth WORKS is prevention based and takes a comprehensive approach to help educate area youth and the community on ways to thwart delinquency and violence among area youngsters. This includes issues such as bullying, dating violence, and suicide. It complements Project LEAD (Leaders Encouraging Abstinence from Drugs), also administered by LSSI, which is a substance abuse prevention program directed at middle school students in Lee and Ogle Counties.

“Youth WORKS is geared toward youth ages 11-24,” said Katie Kalina, Case Manager/Youth WORKS. “Some of the key components that the program will address are community engagement, youth involvement, wellness, family functioning, skills development/education, goal setting, linkage, and safety.”

Prevention is critical to keeping youth safe and healthy, and Youth WORKS will partner with LSSI’s Youth Services Program to provide support and counseling for adolescents who are experiencing issues around delinquency and violence.

Youth WORKS is currently creating an Area Project Board consisting of key stakeholders from the community to identify evidenced-based strategies suitable to meet the needs of Lee and Ogle Counties, which will drive the efforts of the program.

For more information on Youth Works, contact Katie Kalina at 814.284.7796, extension 2016 (Ogle County) or Hannah George at 815.284.7796 extension 2008 (Lee County).
Dear Friends,

Summer is here! These warm and sunny months provide many a time for reflection and renewal.

As Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) celebrates our 150th Anniversary this year, it’s important to note that part of our longevity in large part results from our ability to plan for the future.

A year ago, LSSI implemented a new five-year strategic plan that is our road map beyond 150 years. We’re committed to continuing our ministry—providing mental health and substance abuse services, affordable senior housing, services for at-risk families, residential support for adults with developmental disabilities, Head Start, foster care, home care, and programs for formerly incarcerated individuals. We are guided by the core values of compassion, excellence, and stewardship.

LSSI’s strategic plan looks to be “generative” in our services—creating ongoing support that helps those with whom we share in life to contribute and thrive. You’ll see this highlighted in our cover story—providing home care services for seniors to be able to continue living with independence in their homes.

One of our Intouch Home Care clients referred to his LSSI home care worker as being “vital to my cause.” We deeply desire to support people in ways that help them construct lives that reflect their hopes and dreams.

As we celebrate our 150 year anniversary, we remain grateful for the support of churches, volunteers, staff, and philanthropic partners who have placed their trust in LSSI as we continue our shared mission.

In Faith,

Mark A. Stutrud
President and Chief Executive Officer
THE WOMEN’S NETWORK

Dedicated Support for LSSI

Ann Klicar had worked with her congregation, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Downers Grove, to support LSSI with contributions toward bus trips for children to visit their incarcerated parents, assembling welcome kits for children in foster care, and attending the Amicus Certus gala.

Klicar became directly involved with LSSI at the encouragement of two members from her church. They invited her to attend a wine and chocolate informational event hosted by a Women’s Network member, and she joined thereafter.

The Women’s Network is a group of women who promote awareness of LSSI’s programs and current needs, encourage advocacy, foster fellowship, and host events.

Klicar agreed to be on the planning committee for the Spring Fling, which took place on April 29 at the Westin Chicago Northwest. She helped collect flower arrangements and coordinated the many unique boutiques that are part of the event. The event raised $52,000 for LSSI’s children’s services.

“‘The Women’s Network has been working out nicely as a volunteer opportunity,” Klicar said. “I look forward to working with the other members and supporting LSSI with our efforts.”

Volunteers are always needed for events sponsored by the Women’s Network. For more information, contact Barb.Hailey@LSSI.org, call 847.635.4686 or visit LSSI.org.

from LSSI is currently available in northern Cook County, including Chicago.

Intouch has allowed Dr. Seidel to stay in the community and home he treasures, while receiving the extra care he needs.

After his recent hospital stay, during which his caretakers came to visit, he was very weak. Within two days of being home, he could already tell a marked difference. He was more active and engaged, and he was getting stronger thanks to the support of his Intouch caregivers.

“It’s amazing,” Maynard said. “At the hospital he was bedridden for 12 days, only being up for six minutes a day.”

Jerry and his caretakers continue to work to get strong with a specific goal in mind. In August Dr. Seidel will gather with his seven children for a family reunion in Minnesota.

“We’re going to Minnesota,” he said. “I know I’m going to do it.”

For more information about LSSI’s Intouch Home Care services, visit lssi.org/senior-services/home-care.php.