



1001 E. Touhy Avenue, Suite 50  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018  
847.635.4600  
847.635.6764  
LSSI.org

## **Central/Southern Illinois Synod 2018 Annual Report from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**

Dear Valued Partners in Ministry:

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October 2017. We're proud of our history that brought us to that milestone.

With your support, LSSI was able to provide services for 50,000 people last year. What a privilege it is to share in life and serve these children, adults, and seniors as we fulfill our mission to bring healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities.

What does the next 150 years hold for LSSI? Our current Strategic Plan is helping us steer that course. Guided by the core values of compassion, excellence, and stewardship, we are building our programs to care for the whole person. This requires us to promote the dignity of others with greater compassion, respect, and within a natural setting—home and community.

The congregations and their individual members, who make up the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, through their advocacy, generosity, and commitment to our mission, help us provide critical programs for Illinois residents. These include foster care, early childhood education, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, affordable senior housing, residential programs for people with developmental disabilities, and programs that help formerly incarcerated individuals integrate back into society.

We're pleased to highlight some of those programs here:

- Our Prisoner and Family Ministry continues to support people who are incarcerated maintain connections with family and transition back into the community following release from prison. Elevate Energy recently contracted with LSSI's Prisoner and Family Ministry to provide solar training to returning citizens with the goal of increasing access and participation in clean energy jobs. This is part of Prisoner and Family Ministry's goal to provide transitioning individuals with job knowledge and experience, a support system, and a stable life.
- We graduated the first children from our Therapeutic Foster Care program. LSSI was chosen by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as a pilot organization for locations in Aurora, Chicago, and Rockford. Our evidenced-based Therapeutic Foster Care program is part of a DCFS initiative to place children with histories of severe trauma and emotional/behavioral needs into single-family homes rather than institutional settings or group homes, with the goal of permanency.

As one of the largest providers of foster care services in Illinois we are strongly positioned to use our expertise and work collaboratively with the state on this and other programs that can demonstrate promising change for children in the state's child welfare system.

- LSSI opened the Healthy Start Recovery Home in our Kenmore Center on Chicago's north side. The recovery home assists men and women who are actively seeking to obtain or maintain a drug-and alcohol-free lifestyle. Residents can stay up to a year, and typically come from a 28-day treatment program, a detox program, or have relapsed in their sobriety. The Healthy Start Recovery Home also complements the array of substance and alcohol use programs offered by LSSI at other locations.

The last year has also seen greater financial stability for LSSI. For the first time in a number of years, our organization is carrying no debt. Particularly as we plan for our next 150 years, a stable financial position is a positive step in the process.

We wish to express our gratitude to Bishop John Roth, as well as Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, who currently serve on the LSSI Board of Directors.

We are grateful to the trustees of LSSI's endowment, The Cornerstone Foundation, who are from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod: Marcia Anderson, Connie Frankenfeld, Mary Loken, Roland Person, Jeanne Rapp, and Lynn C. Smith.

Our work is an expression of the love of Christ, bringing healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities. We remain grateful for the trust you continue to place in LSSI, and your ongoing partnership and support that makes it possible for LSSI to continue its 150-year legacy throughout this synod and in communities across Illinois.

In faith,



Mark A. Stutrud  
President and Chief Executive Officer