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LSSI.org

Central/Southern Illinois Synod 2023 Annual Report from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)

Dear Valued Partners in Ministry:

Last year, LSSI served 42,000 children, adults, families, and seniors in our state—one out of every 297 people. We provide whole-person care and embrace a generative model of human services that does more than just address problems: responding to the Gospel, we bring healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities.

In order to fully respond to the Gospel and fulfill our mission 156 years strong, I am excited to announce a multiyear gift initiative several years in the making, “Expansion of Our Hearts,” which is already helping to fund our strategic priorities and go beyond our shared work and ministry with the Central/Southern Illinois Synod and many others across Illinois. This effort was announced in congregations this spring as part of LSSI’s Good Shepherd Sunday and is grounded in the words of theologian Henri Nouwen:

“One of the most powerful experiences in a life of compassion is the expansion of our hearts into a world-embracing space of healing from which no one is excluded.”

In 1867, LSSI emerged during a cholera epidemic in western Illinois. Lutherans working together established an orphanage and welcomed our first client, Edward, among so many other children who had lost parents. As we celebrate our 156th anniversary this October, I am proud that LSSI provides a lifeline and consistent resource for our communities despite local, national, and global crises that have challenged us in recent years and throughout LSSI’s long history.

Your support and that of your congregations and members remains critical to our ability to serve our neighbors in Illinois through our residential programs for people with developmental disabilities, programs that help individuals and families impacted by incarceration, traditional and therapeutic foster care, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, affordable senior housing, and more.

I’m pleased to share some program highlights from this past year:

- LSSI expanded its innovative Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Program to Central Illinois, serving children who live within a one-hour radius of Peoria. Started as a pilot program in 2016, LSSI’s program now has five treatment teams in Peoria, Aurora, Chicago (2), and Rockford. The initial outcomes from LSSI’s five-year TFC pilot program indicate significant benefits, with 73% of kids successfully achieving their treatment goals—children ages six to 14 who need more intensive support and services than traditional foster care.
- LSSI’s Prisoner and Family Ministry (PFM) program is based out of Marion and serves returning citizens in Southern Illinois by providing employment skills and case management services. Our Employment Skills School is a computer-based program designed for returning citizens seeking employment. LSSI held eight sessions last year. 88% of clients who have been enrolled in the Employment Skills School have not recidivated. PFM staff also provide case management

services for returning citizens. Case managers work one-on-one with clients to assess their needs and risks. Over the last two years, LSSI has provided 50 returning citizens with case management services, resources and basic needs assistance, and employment skills training.

- Through a partnership with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), LSSI began offering Family Supportive Services. These services intervene when families have been reported to the DCFS Child Abuse Hotline, but a child abuse or neglect investigation is not warranted. Instead, these families are referred for short-term supportive services over a 30-day timeframe, with the goal of preventing or remedying minor to moderate challenges that may be placing their children at risk. The program is provided by LSSI offices in Canton, Champaign, Danville, Galesburg, Marion, Moline, Nachusa, Peoria, and Rockford.
- LSSI continues the distinction as the largest statewide provider of foster care in Illinois, serving 2,747 children last year—roughly 12% of children under the guardianship of DCFS. There are 610 LSSI-supervised licensed foster care homes in the state.

We express our gratitude to Bishop John Roth for his leadership of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, as well as his service on the LSSI Board of Directors. We extend our thanks to the following individuals from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod service area who served on the LSSI Board of Directors this past year: Judy K. Dalhaus and The Rev. Youngshim E. Pitcher.

We are grateful to the trustees of LSSI's Cornerstone Foundation representing the Central/Southern Illinois Synod service area this past year: Pr. Greg Busboom, Vice Chair; Connie Frankenfeld, Roland Person, Pr. Gayle Pope, Debra Sarvela, and Mark Tomaw.

LSSI appreciates the generosity of our friends in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod who share in our ministry as we expand our hearts to serve our neighbors and follow in Christ's footsteps.

In faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Stutrud', written in a cursive style.

Mark A. Stutrud
President and Chief Executive Officer



IMPACT STATEMENT — JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022

Mission Statement

Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) brings healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities.

The information below about our programs and the people LSSI served last year represents July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

Affordable Housing

For adults 62+ and people over age 18 with disabilities, LSSI provides affordable housing at 19 housing sites throughout Illinois. A Social Service Coordinator is available at every site to assist residents.

LSSI provided affordable housing to 1,466 residents, the majority of whom had annual incomes below \$25,000.



The People LSSI Serves

42,000

children, adults, seniors, and families served; one in every 297 people in Illinois



By Age

31%

of children served were under age 9

18%

of people served by all programs were 25–34

By Income

70%

below \$5,000

94%

below \$25,000

Foster Care Services

As the largest provider of Foster Care Services in Illinois, we care for children who have been removed from their birth families due to abuse and/or neglect and place them with foster families who receive training and support from LSSI. **Our primary goal is to help children find their forever home**, either by reunification with birth families whenever possible or through adoption. LSSI provides licensing for foster parents and offers Foster Care Services in **12** offices that cover **42** counties in Illinois.

2,747 children were served through Foster Care placements.



Therapeutic Foster Care Program Expands

LSSI launched a fifth Therapeutic Foster Care Team in January 2022 out of the Peoria office and serving the Central Illinois region. LSSI provides specialized Therapeutic Foster Care through an evidence-based treatment program that places children with histories of severe trauma and emotional/behavioral needs into single-family homes rather than institutional settings. Of the children who were discharged this year, **69% successfully completed their treatment and joined their planned aftercare family**, which surpasses the average completion rate of 66% in the research trials of all children enrolled in the Treatment Foster Care of Oregon model across the U.S. and internationally. LSSI uses this model.

Intact Family Services

Designed to **stabilize, strengthen, enhance, and preserve family life** by enabling children to remain safely at home, Intact Family Services works with families who have come to the attention of Illinois DCFS.



1,278 families were enrolled in this program.

“People helped me. I am very grateful that I can help others, because helping others helps me.”

— Greg, Resident and Peer Leader,
LSSI’s Healthy Start Recovery Home West,
Elgin

Mental Health Services

LSSI’s Project IMPACT (Inter Multidisciplinary Pre-Screening Assessment Crisis Team) opened a new program site at West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park. Project IMPACT uses a creative wrap-around behavioral health model with trained counselors available 24 hours a day, every day, to help people experiencing a behavioral, psychiatric, or addiction crisis. LSSI’s Welcoming Center is a safe, walk-in emergency department alternative for people experiencing behavioral health symptoms like anxiety, depression, bi-polar disorder, substance use, and post-traumatic stress. LSSI partners with **over 60 Chicago Public Schools** to provide Step-Up School-Based Counseling Services, which include mental health care for grammar and high school-age students.

LSSI provided critical mental health services to 13,907 clients.



Alcohol and Drug Treatment

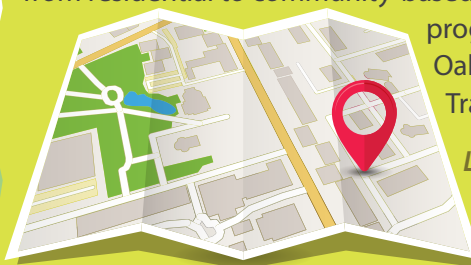
LSSI provides a full continuum of targeted Alcohol and Drug Treatment for individuals, beginning with medically assisted detox, all the way through residential care and transitional housing.

LSSI served 2,574 clients with a substance use disorder.

People with Developmental Disabilities

LSSI guides each client aged 18 or older with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities toward a plan to live successfully in their community. Our person-centered services range from residential to community-based living and include

programming at our Shady Oaks Developmental Training Center.



LSSI served 123 clients with developmental disabilities.

Prisoner and Family Ministry

LSSI’s Prisoner and Family Ministry serves people who are incarcerated and their families, as well as individuals who have returned from prison to their communities: Re-entry for Returning Citizens, Visits to Mom, and the Storybook Project. The program’s **Employment Skills School** is a six-week, computer-based program, specially designed for returning citizens. It covers all aspects of employment training, from resume writing to interview skills.



“I liked Employment Skills School because there was always something new and different. They taught me how to operate computers. You’re never too old to learn.”

— Jackson, Returning Citizen and Employment Skills School graduate, now employed repairing video games and consoles



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.



Lutheran
Services
in America



Funding provided in part by the Department of Human Services/Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. Illinois Licensed Child Welfare Agency - License #013005.

LSSI does not discriminate in admission to programs or employment in compliance with the law.

