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LSSI.org

Northern Illinois Synod
2024 Annual Report from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)

Dear Valued Partners in Ministry:

Last year, LSSI served 50,291 children, adults, families, and seniors in our state—one out of every 252 people. We provide whole-person care and embrace a generative model of human services that does more than just address challenges: we look at the broader scope of a person's life. Responding to the Gospel, we bring healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities.

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:

- Project LEAD (Leaders Encouraging Abstinence from Drugs) and Youth WORKS (Wellness, Opportunity, and Resources for Key Services) work in 26 elementary, middle, and high schools in Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside counties. Project LEAD teaches an evidence-based substance use prevention curriculum to prevent and reduce the negative impacts of drug and alcohol use. Youth WORKS is a violence prevention program that raises awareness and educates young people, parents, and other invested community members about effective ways to prevent and reduce violence among youth.
- For adults 62+ and people over age 18 with disabilities, LSSI provides affordable housing at 20 housing sites throughout Illinois, including Crystal Lake, Dekalb, Freeport, Joliet, Rochelle, and Rockford. A Social Service Coordinator is available at every site to assist residents. Last year in Illinois, LSSI provided affordable housing for 1,447 residents with an annual income between \$5,000 and \$25,000.
- As the largest provider of foster care services in Illinois, the primary goal of LSSI's Foster Care Program is to help children find their forever home, either by reunification with birth families whenever possible or through adoption or guardianship. Last year, LSSI served 2,607 children statewide through foster care placements across 12 offices in 42 counties.

We express our gratitude to Bishop Stacie Fidler for her leadership of the Northern Illinois Synod, as well as her service on the LSSI Board of Directors.

We are grateful to the trustees of LSSI's Cornerstone Foundation representing the Northern Illinois Synod service area this past year: Pr. Michel Clark, Chair; and Susan Bernardi.

LSSI appreciates the generosity of our friends in the Northern Illinois Synod who share in our ministry as we serve our neighbors and follow in Christ's footsteps.

In faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Stutrud". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Mark A. Stutrud
President and Chief Executive Officer