



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2007

CONTACT: Jo Ann Dollard
847/390-1446

Kapoor Foundation Grant of \$300,000 to Enhance LSSI's Pre-Adoption Services

The John and Editha Kapoor Charitable Foundation, located in Lake Forest, has made a commitment to contribute \$300,000 over a three-year period to Des Plaines-based Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) for its Pre-Adoption Services.

“The gift was made to heighten awareness that there are too many children waiting to be adopted into permanent, loving families,” says Mary Gauwitz, the Foundation’s executive director. “This gift will also provide support to families who are waiting to adopt, so they don’t feel alone during the adoption process.”

“In light of the Kapoor Foundation’s generous support, LSSI is poised to expand its adoption efforts, resulting in more permanent, adoptive homes for children who are matched with adoptive parents who are better prepared and supported to meet the needs of their children,” says Ruth Jajko, LSSI’s associate executive director and statewide director of Adoption Services.

Initially, the enhanced pre-adoption program will focus on the Chicago and Rockford areas. The goals of the program are to increase community pre-adoption education efforts, establish pre-adoptive training groups and “waiting family” support groups, and develop a pre-adoption resource book. The book will be developed by LSSI in collaboration with adoptive parents.

LSSI seeks to launch a comprehensive initiative with an overall goal to increase the number of children adopted annually, through its domestic infant and inter-country programs, by 80 percent between 2007 and 2010. With the support of the Kapoor Foundation and the enhanced services provided through its pre-adoption program, LSSI will be able to meet half of its increased overall adoption goal by offering more services in the early stages of adoption. “This grant allows our agency to broaden our ability to support adoptive families,” says Jajko, “putting excellent pre-adoptive services in place to help families prepare for and effectively parent their children.”

Founded in 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. For more information on LSSI’s Adoption Services, visit www.AdoptionIllinois.org and www.LSSI.org.

###