



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LSSI's North Austin Head Start Hosts August 6 Fun Day/Open House to Celebrate New School Year

On August 6, North Austin Head Start, a program of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), will hold a Fun Day/Open House from 10:00 a.m. until 3 p.m. The site is located at 1500 N. Mason Avenue, adjacent to North Austin Lutheran Church in Chicago.

The free event, which is open to the community as well as to the children who attend the Head Start program and their families, will feature the V103 Van, along with one of their on-air personalities; The Department of Health Care Van, which will provide free immunizations; and a Jumpin' Jack fun house. In addition, there will be jewelry making, face-painting, water activities and games. Refreshments will be served, including hot dogs, chips, beverages and popcorn.

North Austin Head Start offers full-day and free half-day classes for children between 3 to 5 years of age. The center is also accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and the Council on Accreditation (COA). North Austin has both English and Spanish-speaking teachers and staff, the program is currently enrolling children for the half-day program which will begin on August 23.

"Our teachers are outstanding, and every child receives individual preparation to succeed in kindergarten," says Carol Endemann, who oversees LSSI's Head Start programs. "Our program focuses heavily on every child developing computer skills and grasping early math and science.

"We also have one-of-a-kind early literacy program called Bonding with Books," she adds. "This program gives 10 free books to every child to begin their at-home library, which encourages parents and children to read together with the ultimate goal that parents become their child's first teacher."

The Head Start program also offers activities and workshops for parents, who are encouraged to join the parent committee in order to have a voice in decisions about the program. "The staff at

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North Austin is committed to helping the entire family,” says Doris Holden, site director. “Parent involvement is an important part of the program, and we offer a range of resources for our families.”

“North Austin Head Start is an excellent program for preparing my child for kindergarten,” says Shantel Silket, parent of JaQueese. “My child has learned an excellent vocabulary. He also has learned to write his name and other words. They have also motivated me to go back to school and look for a good job. My child also enjoys the books given out and the teachers. The program is excellent, and there should be more like it.”

Teachers will be on hand to conduct tours and discuss curriculum. LSSI invites everyone to come and see the exciting classrooms and the site’s fabulous playground. There is room for the children to run and play, and the site provides the type of activity that is so important for physical development. After play, children always feel refreshed and ready to learn.

LSSI’s North Austin Head Start program has served the community since 1982 and is one of five Head Start programs that LSSI offers in Chicago.

For more information about North Austin Head Start, call Doris Holden, site director, at 773/237-1930. For more information about Lutheran Social Services of Illinois’ Head Start program, call Carol Endemann at 847/390-1494 or visit www.LSSI.org or [LSSI’s Facebook page](#).

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About Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

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. LSSI’s services include foster care, adoption, pregnancy counseling, Head Start, child care services, services for at-risk families, residential services for youth, counseling, mental health, substance abuse treatment, residential programs for adults with developmental disabilities, housing and services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, nursing care and rehabilitation, and programs for prisoners and their families. For more information on Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, visit www.LSSI.org.