



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LSSI Receives Grant from Community Foundation of Northern Illinois for Rockford Area Prisoner and Family Ministry Programs

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) recently received a grant of \$10,000 from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois for its Prisoner and Family Ministry programs in the Rockford area.

Through its AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps*VISTA members, LSSI has partnered with volunteers from Rockford churches to provide services and programs to people involved with the Winnebago County Justice Center. These services include the Storybook Project where, one evening a week, volunteers assist incarcerated parents in recording a book on CD for their children; and a visitation program where volunteers meet, one-on-one, with people on probation for misdemeanors and provide them with assistance in obtaining food, clothing and transportation as they re-enter the community. This program is conducted two to three days day a week.

In addition, LSSI's AmeriCorps members also accompany family members of accused persons to court, to help them navigate the justice system. And every day, other volunteers work with children who have incarcerated parents and are in kindergarten at Beyer Elementary School.

The Prisoner and Family Ministry program is headquartered at Patriot's Gateway Center, which houses offices from several agencies that provide services to the community in southeast Rockford.

As the area's leading provider of philanthropic services, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois stewards more than \$60 million. Each year the Foundation awards grants and scholarships of more than \$3 million on behalf of caring donors who want to give something back to their community.

"This grant is a marvelous vehicle for giving back to the community," says Jane Otte, executive director of the Prisoner and Family Ministry. "It will touch the lives of people at the time of their greatest need."

For more information on the Prisoner and Family Ministry's outreach program, contact Ruth Fairchild at 815/988-3465 or Ruth.Fairchild@LSSI.org.

Founded in October 1867, LSSI is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LSSI serves people through an array of services at approximately 83 sites across Illinois. For more information on LSSI, visit www.LSSI.org.

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