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## Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

### **Report to the 2008 Synod Assembly Metropolitan Chicago Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Dear Partners in Mission and Ministry!

In the midst of some of the most challenging times for human services in Illinois, I am pleased to share with you two significant positive developments in your ministry through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.

The first accomplishment is that despite the chronic inadequacy of state funding for the services we provide to people in need in Illinois, the outcomes we can demonstrate on the part of the people we serve continue to be extraordinary. These stunning outcomes are being achieved even though we continue to serve some of our neediest neighbors.

In our last full fiscal year, we served 56,952 total clients, which includes Primary Clients, New Collateral Clients and Brief Encounter Services. The territory of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (MCS) is home to approximately 59% of the residents of the state of Illinois. For comparison:

- 37% of the total number of clients served by LSSI in FY '07 lived in the MCS
- 22% of the clients in our Children's Community Services live in the Metropolitan Chicago areas
- 17% of our clients in Senior Community Services live in the MCS
- 36% of the people served by our Prisoner and Family Ministries reside in the MCS

The second remarkable development in the past year has been the conceptualization of Good Shepherd/LSSI Sunday as an annual state-wide recognition of the ways in which LSSI carries out the gospel-mandated ministry to God's precious sheep and lambs as a tangible expression of the ELCA's new tag line: "God's Work; Our Hands." A meeting of Bishop Warren Freiheit (C/SIS), Bishop Wayne Miller (Metropolitan Chicago Synod) and Bishop Gary Wollersheim (Northern Illinois Synod) in January of this year with key LSSI leaders came up with the suggestion to designate the Fourth Sunday of Easter each year—a Sunday that always has a Good Shepherd theme—as a annual way of recognizing and supporting LSSI's ministry across the state. The bishops encouraged LSSI to "pre-launch" the initiative by test running the concept in 2008. With very little lead time, we were able to distribute colorful printed materials based on a Good Shepherd

