

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LSS President/CEO Betty Oldenkamp Announces Retirement

Betty Oldenkamp, President/CEO of Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota, is announcing her decision to retire December 17. This gives the LSS Board of Directors time to conduct a thorough search to find the right person to lead LSS into its second century of service.

"It's always been my goal to retire early," says Oldenkamp. "I've never been great at managing a work/life balance. My resolution has been, I'm going to work really hard while I'm working, and then I'm going to retire and do other things."

"Betty has taught us what it means to be a servant leader. Her compassion for all South Dakotans in need and her commitment to mission are legacies that will guide LSS now and into the future," says Paul Bruflat, LSS Board of Directors Chair. "We celebrate Betty and congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement! "

Oldenkamp served as LSS President/CEO since the spring of 2006. Under her leadership, the annual budget has grown from \$14 million to \$24 million, and LSS has seen significant growth in its capacity to serve. LSS services expanded from ten service lines to sixteen. New services include Better Together, Re-Entry Services, Alternatives to Detention, Community Resource Program, Kinship Services, and Resource Family Services.

"In preparation for our centennial, we look to the future. I've also taken time to reflect on my years at LSS, and contemplate what my future holds," says Oldenkamp. "I've often said our centennial is about going boldly

into our second century of service, and that means as a leader making the decision and commitment to be there to see it into that next century.”

Oldenkamp feels LSS is in a strong position right now—financial sustainability, ability to respond to emerging needs, and capacity to lead. “I knew coming in 15 years ago that LSS was a good organization with strong services and a commitment to quality. I also knew that we were going to have to continue to change, evolve and do things differently into the future,” says Oldenkamp. “I feel good about the work that we have done and where we are heading. We have a strong cadre of leaders; I have confidence in their abilities to be on the leading edge of change.”

This last year has been a challenge for everyone, including LSS. “These are the times when we are called to serve. We need to be there when it’s difficult, when people are facing uncertainty,” says Oldenkamp. “We also need to be responsible leaders so that LSS is here to serve the people of South Dakota today and into the future.”

Lutheran Social Services is a private non-profit human service agency. Last year, 38,099 lives were touched through a variety of services offered through LSS statewide.

Core services offered by LSS include adoption, pregnancy counseling, foster care, kinship services, childcare & education, disaster response, behavioral health services, re-entry services, Center for Financial Resources, residential services for children and youth, alternatives to detention, independent living services for young adults, mentoring, Better Together, Center for New Americans, and Resource Family Services. LSS serves people of all ages, races, faiths and economic levels with professional, confidential and affordable services.

LSS services are licensed by the State of South Dakota and accredited by the Council on Accreditation. LSS is a United Way agency.