

# LSI OVERVIEW

# MEDIA KIT



## OVERVIEW

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is one of Iowa's largest human services agencies with over 1,000 employees. We are a nationally accredited agency, providing services in all 99 counties of Iowa and with over 20 locations throughout the state.

Our staff includes experts in the fields of child welfare, mental health, parent education, child abuse prevention, foster care, adoption, disability services, refugee services, and behavior management.

## CHILD ABUSE

For every dollar invested in parenting education and child abuse prevention, research suggests communities can gain more than \$7 in future savings.

Many parents who grew up in unstable home environments missed an opportunity to benefit from a positive parent role model. LSI helps fill that gap through strength-based, accredited early childhood programs.

With a safe and healthy start, a child is less likely to be involved in juvenile court or child welfare, and more likely to succeed in education and the workplace. Investment in early childhood is investment in economic development.

## REFUGEE

LSI is the only nonprofit agency in Des Moines with a primary focus to provide extended support services for people of refugee status in Polk County. For decades, LSI has partnered with people from countries such as Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Iraq, Bhutan, Liberia, Burma, Eritrea, Burundi, and the Congo.

Those entering the U.S. with refugee status arrive with long-term needs, but resettlement happens in a flash. Families are provided a mere 90 days of support upon arrival and are expected to learn how to navigate new systems like U.S. health care, education, and public transportation.

LSI fills the gap by providing elderly services, intensive work readiness courses, capacity building initiatives, and English as a Second Language (ESL) and GED prep classes based at our Refugee Connection Center.

## CONTINUUM OF CARE

Because of LSI's scope and size, we are able to offer a holistic continuum of care that can wrap services around a family in many ways. For example, a child in our residential program may also have a sibling back home who could benefit from a local community program or follow-up services if the child's home is in another county.

Best practice acknowledges effective child welfare or mental health services treat a family as a whole, rather than one individual within the family. Unfortunately, funding streams often evolve separately, leading to fragmented rather than comprehensive treatment.

We also act as a bridge connecting families to other services. We may assist a family through in-home services or parenting classes and end up linking them with a local dental clinic, work assistance programs, or other resources.

As Iowa's population ages, access to quality and affordable health care will be more important than ever. Helping a person remain at home is a matter of dignity and comfort. It can also reduce costs through prevention and improve quality of life.

## SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Many of us know a neighbor, a family friend, or relative who has a disability. LSI helps people with disabilities live in the community through home and community-based supports.

In 2017 so far, LSI has provided over 50,000 hours of respite care to give relief to family caregivers, which is important in keeping people out of institutions.

## FOSTER CARE

LSI's Foster Care and Adoption services team recruits, trains, licenses, and supports western Iowa foster and adoptive families.

The service was created in 2017 and prior to that, LSI was a partner agency in Iowa KidsNet, a statewide collaboration of six nonprofit agencies for foster and adoptive family support.

### Media Contact

If you are a member of the media, please contact [Marissa.Daily@LSIowa.org](mailto:Marissa.Daily@LSIowa.org) for all inquiries.

