

Report of Agencies, Institutions, and Organizations

diakonia™

Purpose and Description of diakonia™:

diakonia™ is a two-year process of spiritual formation and theological education for baptized members of the Lutheran church. This process occurs in three basic ways: by thorough grounding in the classic seminary disciplines of practical, systematic, historical, and Biblical theology; by identifying particular skills and aptitudes in ministry, and encouraging their use in the local parish; and by providing spiritual growth through worship, retreats, and a supportive community of fellow students, mentors, and teaching pastors.

Highlights of 2018-2019:

diakonia™ began its fifteenth year of classes in the Northern Illinois Synod in September 2018. Classes were held in five locations this past year: Joliet and Moline (Tuesday evenings); and McHenry, Mount Carroll, and Rockford (Thursday evenings).

We give thanks to God for the 30-35 students who have been enrolled this year and for the many teaching pastors who have led our students as they grow in faith and understanding of God's presence in their lives. There are now approximately 275 diakonia™ graduates serving within the Northern Illinois Synod in their congregations, communities, and on Synod boards and committees. Thanks be to God!

A steering committee of laypersons, pastors, and Synod staff guides the program in Northern Illinois. In addition, Pastor Doug Liston (National Executive Director for diakonia™), Pastor Kenneth Storck (Executive Director for diakonia™ in the Northern Illinois Synod), Dr. Trenton Ferro, Parson Bob Stark, and Dr. Denise Rode serve on the national diakonia™ board or as consultants for the program. Nancy Lillevold is treasurer for the NIS program, Location managers this past year have included Dr. Trenton Ferro (Joliet), Cyn Bowen (Moline), Don Long (Rockford), Rev. Ellen Arthur (McHenry), and Larry Cording (Stockton). "Come and See" events were held in July and August 2018 throughout the Synod to promote the program and will be offered again this summer.

A highlight of the past diakonia™ year was the graduation service which took place on July 8, 2018 at First Lutheran Church in Rockford (Pastor Jane McChesney, host and presider), assisted by Rockford area diakonia™ graduates); seven graduates completed the program. Northern Bishop Jeff Clements preached.

Forty diakonia™ current students, graduates, and teaching pastors gathered at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center on October 20, 2018 for a retreat with featured speaker, the Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Bouman. A celebratory luncheon recognized the 15th anniversary of diakonia™ in the Northern Illinois Synod and the 40th anniversary of the national program, which was founded by Pastor Bouman.

Future Plans and Goals:

Celebration of the Eucharist will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 14, at Salem Lutheran Church in Sycamore for 15 Northern Illinois Synod graduates, with Pastor Preston Fields as host. This will be a joint graduation with the Metro Chicago Synod. A reception will be held after the service. All are welcome to share in the joy of diakonia™ graduation. Rostered leaders and graduates are invited to robe and process.

Recruitment is underway for students at all locations for the 2019-2018 year. Classes are expected to begin on; Tuesday, September 3 in Joliet and Moline; and Thursday, September 5 in McHenry, Mount Carroll, and Rockford. Other locations will be added depending on student interest. Locations are contingent on having sufficient students for the location to be self-sustaining.

A diakonia retreat will be offered in Fall 2019 at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, with date, topic, and cost to be announced. Diakonia™ retreats are open to current students, graduates, teaching pastors, prospective students, and members of the Northern Illinois Synod.

After surveying the needs and interest of diakonia™ graduates, a second level of diakonia™ was piloted this past year in the Northern Illinois Synod on behalf of the national diakonia™ Program. "Shalom

Church,” taught by Pastor Kenn Storck was offered in Rockford, and Beginning Greek I was offered by Dr. Trenton Ferro in Geneva., These courses are open to NIS and Metro Chicago Synod diakonia™ graduates, rostered leaders, and others who may have a special desire to take them. The pilot courses will be evaluated this summer, and upcoming course options will be announced at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise L. Rode, Ed.D., Northern Illinois diakonia™ Chairperson

Contact information: 2800 Country Club Lane, DeKalb, IL 60115, 815-756-8321, drode1@niu.edu

ELCA Fund for Leaders

Thank you to the people of Northern Illinois Synod Fund for Leaders in Mission for making an investment in the future of the church through the ELCA Fund for Leaders. We are grateful for your partnership! In the 2018-2019 academic year, ELCA Fund for Leaders provided more than \$2.6 million in support to more than 250 future deacons and pastors. Thank you for your role in ensuring these future leaders can be freed from debt so they can go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

Students supported in 2018-2019

We are grateful that the Northern Illinois Synod has provided a total of \$15,231.00 in scholarship awards since its inception. During the 2018-2019 academic year, you provided a total of \$2,200.00 in scholarship support to three of your candidates. Additional information about your fund: Current market value: \$53,571.73

New gifts given to your fund in 2018: \$2,197.05 For more information please visit ELCA Fund for Leaders or call our office at 800-638-3522, ext. 2936. Again, thank you to the people of Northern Illinois Synod Fund for Leaders in Mission for your generous support - we thank God for you!

In Christ,

Jessica Nipp Hacker

Director, ELCA Stewardship Strategy and Operations

ELCA Mission Investment Fund



Mission Investment Fund

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF) is the lending ministry of the ELCA. MIF makes low-interest loans to ELCA congregations and ELCA-

related ministries for building and renovation projects. With MIF loans, congregations and ministries can purchase property, construct new buildings, and expand or renovate existing facilities.

MIF loans expand the capacity for ministry. MIF loans help create expanded worship spaces, updated space for education and youth ministry, new kitchens for community meals and soup kitchens, affordable housing units for the community and much more.

At year-end 2018, MIF had 917 loans outstanding, totaling \$556.6 million.



To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. At year-end 2018, MIF investments totaled \$499.1 million.

MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$705.4 million and net assets of \$200.8 million at year-end 2018, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 28.5 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds. For more information, visit mif.elca.org.

MIF loans and investments in the Northern Illinois Synod (as of December 31, 2018):

- 17 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$9,558,022
- \$8,433,983 in Mission Investment Fund investments

MIF representative:

The Rev. Richard Wehrs, Regional Manager, Tel: (708) 475-2169; email: richard.wehrs@elca.org

Mission Investment Fund | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631 | Tel: 877-886-3522 | mif.elca.org

Jenny Lind Chapel

As a ministry of the Northern Illinois Synod (NIS), the Jenny Lind Chapel (JLC), located in Andover, IL, is a landmark of pioneer faith, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the first church of the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America, a predecessor of the ELCA. It is also the founding site of the Norwegian-Danish Augustana Synod. It is named after the “Swedish Nightingale,” Jenny Lind, who gave a sizeable contribution toward the cost of construction of the Chapel.

When Pastor Lars Paul Esbjörn, accompanied by his family and a small group of Swedish immigrants, arrived in Andover in 1849, they almost immediately organized a congregation. They needed a place to worship; but it took three years and untold sacrifice to complete the building in 1854. There is no steeple on the church because the lumber had to be used for coffins for those stricken in a cholera epidemic.

A variety of worship services are held at the JLC, including a Founders Day service, vespers during the summer months, a Swedish service, and several Christmas events and services. Last November, a special service was held commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Sunday move of worship services from the JLC to the then new Augustana Church in 1868. The speaker for this year’s Founders Day Service was NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clements. The 160-year old melodeon, which had just been refurbished, was re-dedicated during this service.

In March, the documentary *Sons & Daughters of Thunder*, which was partially filmed at the JLC, was released. It tells about the beginning and end of slavery in this country; and, was shown to large crowds at theaters in Davenport, IA and Cincinnati, OH; as well as at Augustana Church in Andover. The JLC was used to portray Lane Seminary in Cincinnati, OH, where 18 days of student-sponsored debates on the issue of slavery were held in 1834. One of the principal characters is Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. It is now running on PBS stations, and DVDs will be available for sale later this year.

Last October, the Swedish Council of America bestowed upon Lisa Huntsha their Award of Merit for her outstanding service as curator of the JLC Immigration Museum. She has updated the text/photo panels related to Swedish immigration and history, and has provided additional panels about Jenny Lind, the singer. Lisa has updated and digitized the listing of JLC inscriptions; as well as taking GPS readings and photographs at each of the gravestones in the JLC cemetery; and uploaded these images to a new JLC Flickr page. She has also created 360 degree images of the Chapel and Museum for inclusion in Google Street View, so people can take a virtual tour of the space, even if they can’t visit.

Several NIS members serve on the JLC Operating and Endowment Committees. These persons are responsible for the maintenance of the building and cemetery, arranging worship services, and the management of funds. Visit jennylindchapel.org for details about the ministry of the JLC and listing of services and events.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center - Oregon, Illinois

Friends in Christ,

As we reflect on all the blessings, operations, and challenges at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in 2018, we remain devoted to rebuilding our future generations and for His Kingdom in our 45 years of service in outdoor ministry with the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. We are continuously grateful for God's provisions of 640 acres of His beautiful creation; for the opportunity to use our outdoor ministry to provide experiences connecting the Word of God with the World of God; and for the responsibility of stewardship of such gifts and sharing them with ALL God's people who come to LOMC for adventure, rest or spiritual formation.

The year 2018 brought great change in leadership and staffing to our ministry. In January, Executive Director Russ Senti announced his retirement effective September 1, 2018. After serving the camp through his 14th summer, he passed on his responsibilities to Interim Co-Executive Directors Jerry and Carolyn Fritsch. Jerry and Carolyn have offered new ideas and practices, in particular with updating staff and Board policies. For staff, it was our Program Director Michelle Heinrich's first full year, who implemented some new themed summer camps and youth retreats. The biggest bang in 2018 was the fall youth retreat with Pr. Maggie Falenschek, David Scherer of AGAPE, and Joe Davis, which brought 12 congregations and 103 kids and adults and 14 Counselors/volunteers! Michelle's creativity, joy, and energy has been visible through closer connections with our constituency and steady, increased attendance in programming.

LOMC by the Numbers

Last summer, our 2018 camp theme was the same as the national ELCA Youth Gathering, "This Changes Everything." Through morning devotions, Bible study, and songs around a campfire, campers learned about how God's love changes them from the inside out, and how "by Grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8) We reach hundreds of youth, which can be seen in our camp attendance from 2018. **Day campers were up 32% over 2017 with 144 kids** spending most of their daylight hours at LOMC Monday through Friday. **Overnight campers were up almost 19% with 334 residential campers** over the 9 weeks of camp from Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Arizona and Georgia. **Overall, we had a total of 478 day and overnight campers, which was a 22% increase from last summer!**

Our guests and programs are many, offering something for everyone. Other groups that made the summer of 2018 full of ministry included:

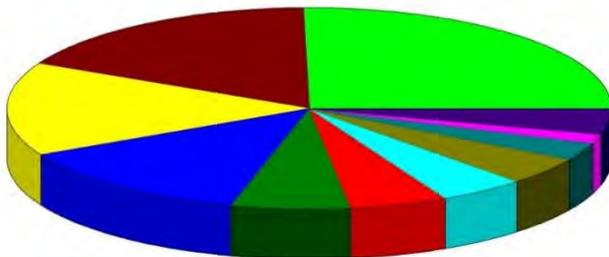
- 85 confirmation-aged youth from 11 ELCA congregations in the 3 synods of Illinois;
- 187 4-H campers from several counties in the NW part of the state;
- 25 girls from the Time, Talents and Treasurers (T.T.T.) camp from Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa;
- 60 youth from the Muslim Youth of North America (M.Y.N.A.) from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Florida, and even Toronto, Canada;
- 25 youth from the Hephzibah Children's Organization from Oak Park, Illinois;
- 30 youth from Camp of Dreams (all inner-city Chicago based); and
- 2 Family Camps (one from Iowa and one from Wisconsin).

That's a grand total of 890+ campers learning about the free gift of God's Grace!

We continue to offer our guests great adventures, like our thrilling 1,200-foot-long zip line, pond canoeing, swimming, archery or team building, such as our low ropes course. Other retreats and events included (but not limited to) Women of the ELCA conference, scrap bookers, quilters, Bible studies, Cub Scout troops, Victories for Men support group, family reunions, special occasions, and more. **Over 1,100 guests joined us overnight in our adult lodging at Freedom Tree Village, and our total day/night guests came to 2,985. Coupled with our campers, that brings our total guests to almost 3,900 a year experiencing His creation!**

Fiscal Year at a Glance

Income Summary
January through December 2018

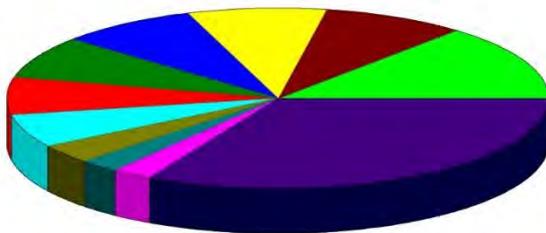


01-0113 · Annual Fund	%25.44
04-1351 · Summer Program	17.51
04-1344 · FTV Retreats	15.10
04-1355 · Weekday Retreats	13.24
01-1500 · Rental - Land	6.47
01-1903 · Synod Grant	5.39
04-1348 · Faith Works	4.65
04-1353 · Weekend Retreats	4.52
04-1352 · LOMC Program	3.01
04-1345 · Outdoor Education	1.46
Other	3.22
Total	\$666,017.99

The top three income sources were:

1. Year-round and summer programs (33%),
2. Retreats (28%), and
3. Individual donations (17%).

Expense Summary
January through December 2018



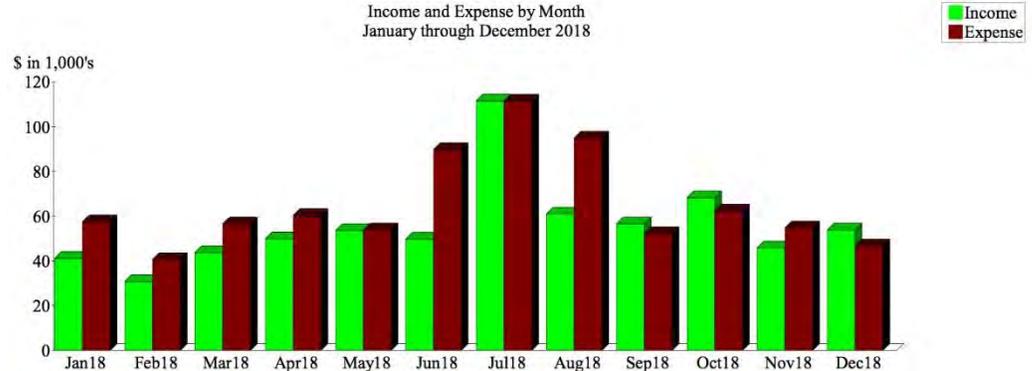
01-2160 · Salaries - Admin	%13.66
02-2160 · Salaries - Food	8.73
02-2580 · Raw Food	8.37
01-4100 · Depreciation Expense	8.37
03-2160 · Salaries - Maint.	7.73
04-2120 · Salaries - Summer Prog	6.77
03-3930 · Electricity	6.02
04-2160 · Salaries - Program	3.61
01-2881 · Insurance - General Liability	2.51
03-3741 · Building/Grounds Repair	2.42
Other	31.82
Total	\$781,332.56

The top four expenses were:

1. General and Administration (25%),
2. Food (21%),
3. Program (18%), and
4. Property (16 %).

66 congregations and 7 Women of the ELCA groups generously supported the camp in 2018. We are thankful for the faithful giving from the three synods in Illinois that makes up 5.39% of our revenue: Metropolitan Chicago (\$13,465), Northern Illinois (\$15,115), and Central Southern Illinois (\$15,280).

2018 was a fiscally challenging year for LOMC, largely due to changes in society which are beyond the control of the ministry. One such change was in outdoor education. State funds have dried up leaving schools without the means of providing outdoor experiences for children. The competition with other programs such as soccer camp, basketball camp, etc. also play a role in how children spend their summer days.



Development

Development saw some firsts in special event fundraisers, as well as new partnerships in ministry working together for the Gospel.

May Giving Day

We hosted our second annual LOMC Giving Day, held May 29, 2018, the Tuesday following Memorial Day. The appeal was to raise \$10,000 for summer camp scholarships. The day was met with great enthusiasm as people gave through our new platform GiveGab (and Facebook) to watch our goal not only be achieved but surpassed. **Our grand total for 2018 Giving Day was \$11,655 raised by 139 donors, which was 117% to our goal. We had 134 total donors: 55 returning and 79 new, which means OVER half, 59%, were new!**

Pedal for a Purpose: Spring Fundraiser and Fall 9.29.18 Bike Ride

LOMC was chosen as the recipient of the 2018 Central Southern Illinois Synod (CSIS) fundraiser Pedal for a Purpose, a standing fundraiser within the synod led by Pastor Adam Dichsen at Faith Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. Initially held during the spring months through the synod assembly in June, it was extended over the summer to continue to raise funds for our \$25,000 goal. The event culminated with a Pedal for a Purpose bike ride and celebration event on Saturday, 9/29/2018. Sponsored cyclists conquered just under 25 miles on the Byron nuclear loop and joined us back at camp for a celebratory lunch. **Our grand total received was \$15,838 (63% of our \$25,000 goal)! We'd like to give thanks and praise again to organizer, Pr. Adam Dichsen, and we were beyond grateful for this tremendous honor and partnership in ministry within the CSIS. We also give thanks to everyone who donated, collected offerings, and ran their own fundraiser to support the refurbishment of bunkhouses. Finally, our biggest achievement was gaining over 135 individual new donors to the camp, and this does not even include congregations who may have been a first-time supporter.**

#Giving Tuesday

LOMC continued to join the global #GivingTuesday movement, held on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving on 11/27/18 last year. New last year, we partnered with #ILGive to help in our efforts not only to raise \$10,000 for our Annual Fund, but also to support all the non-profits in our state.

Donations continued to come in 10 days following the event. Final numbers were as follows:

Payout Donation (less fees passed on by donor)

\$7,479.30

\$1,350 Board matching gifts

\$8,829.30 total payout

Even greater news, the above donations came from 81 donors, of which 41 were new. That means 50% of the donors for this fundraising appeal were new!

Some Final 2018 Numbers of Giving

- Silent Auction/Pie Sale: 77 pies donated from Trinity Lutheran, Durand plus silent auction, Autumn Fest offerings and donations: \$4,370 (highest amount in 3 years).
- WELCA fall mailing (a first last year): \$1,050 from 7 congregations: \$750 towards camperships, \$300 towards Annual Fund
- Russ Swing Choir Tour Scholarship Fund: \$8,883
- Campership funds received for summer (including Russ' SCT fund): \$23,542
- Final 2018 Annual Fund Total: \$169,445, exceeding our goal of \$169,000!
- Capital Campaign: \$23,586 (running silently, plus proceeds from Pedal for a Purpose)

The LOMC staff and Board of Directors expresses gratitude to the congregations of the NIS for your continued support of God's work at LOMC! Board members serving from the NIS in 2018 were Bishop Jeffrey Clements, Rev. Tammy Anderson, Rev. Kathy Burkheimer, Dr. Tom Champley, Rev. Mike Clark, Rev. Margi Ficken, Bob Gingras, Al Janicek, Rev. Vicki Sauter, and Rev. Bree Truax. Thank you to all who make this outdoor ministry possible. The impact of LOMC on the lives of countless people cannot be underestimated. We look forward to a year of growth and change in 2019 as we continue to serve out our mission.

In His Service,

Jerry and Carolyn Fritsch
Interim Co-Executive Directors

Adriana Plocinski
Development Director

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois



Dear Valued Partners in Ministry:

Last year, LSSI provided whole person care to over 42,000 children, adults, and seniors—that’s one in every 300 people in Illinois. Caring for the whole person goes beyond providing safety, shelter, food, and clothing. LSSI strives to view the whole person, just as God does, in order to surround people with the necessary supports to build and enhance life.

The services LSSI offers—foster care, early childhood education, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, affordable senior housing, residential programs for people with developmental disabilities, and programs that help formerly incarcerated individuals integrate back into society—build and enhance lives in the Northern Illinois Synod and throughout Illinois. We are grateful to the congregations and individual members who make up the Northern Illinois Synod who remain steadfast advocates of these services and LSSI’s mission overall.

LSSI will complete its current strategic plan in June 2018. Our future focus will continue embracing a generative model of care to fulfill our human service mission and maintain financial sustainability. By addressing the *root causes* that underlie presenting problems, LSSI respects the dignity of clients and facilitates greater well-being and independence in reaching their full potential.

Over LSSI’s nearly 152-year history, we have learned that we are far more successful when we provide our services in a proactive approach. In this context, we’re pleased to highlight some of those programs here:

We continue to graduate children from our **Therapeutic Foster Care Program** at offices in Aurora, Chicago, and Rockford. This pilot program is part of a DCFS initiative to place children with histories of severe trauma and emotional/behavioral needs into single-family homes rather than institutional settings or group homes, with the goal of permanency. Thirty-five children have been enrolled in the program since it began in May 2017, with 13 children having graduated to date; 80 percent of the children who graduated were reunited with relatives.

Our **Step-Up School-Based Counseling Program** grew out of a need in our Chicago service area—children needing mental health services faced wait times up to eight months and were forced to access crisis services instead. Our staff asked the question, “How can we serve these kids better?” Step-Up embeds counselors in 26 Chicago Public Schools where students access care convenient to them in their community—a strong tenet of LSSI’s whole person care. The program has more than tripled in size since it began several years ago. We expect it to grow further and expand to other school districts.

LSSI compiled results from a pilot project called “**Day One**” that aims to help people with combined physical and behavioral health needs and whose primary health insurance is Medicaid. These individuals make up 25 percent of people receiving Medicaid but represent 56 percent of the program’s total cost. The LSSI Day One program provides proven solutions to help those at-risk of crisis or hospitalization, while producing better outcomes and reducing the cost of care. Our Day One program provides clients with immediate access to whole-person services. This eases their risk of crisis or hospitalization and provides them the opportunity to remain healthy and stable in the community with necessary supports and services.

In one year, 205 people were enrolled; there was a nearly 36 percent reduction in inpatient admissions/readmissions and a 39 percent reduction in inpatient days. Thirty-one percent were placed in housing or transitional housing, in addition to other services and supports.

In the past year, LSSI’s **Prisoner and Family Ministry** formed strong partnerships with community organizations to provide additional services. In May 2018, LSSI joined with Our Brother’s Keeper, a Catholic-based organization providing cooperative re-entry services, to offer case management services to returning citizens at offices in New Life Community Church, East St. Louis. Working with the Diocese of Belleville, LSSI’s Peer-to-Peer Literacy Program launched in Centralia and Pinckneyville Correctional

Facilities in August 2018. The program trains peer mentors to teach literacy and tracks progress. LSSI also started providing literacy education to returning citizens.

We wish to express our gratitude to Bishop Jeffrey Clements for his leadership of the Northern Illinois Synod, as well as his service on the LSSI Board of Directors. We extend our thanks to the following individuals from the Northern Illinois Synod who currently serve on the LSSI Board of Directors: John W. Countryman, Karen Dowsett, and Randall L. Mullin, MD.

We are grateful to the trustees of LSSI's endowment, The Cornerstone Foundation, who are from Northern Illinois Synod: Susan Bernardi, Rev. Michel Clark, Linda Miller, Leona Peterson-Spear, Tomas J. Ribbeck, Gordon Tormohlen, and Jay Weyers.

What a privilege it is to share in life with children, adults, and seniors, as together we fulfill LSSI's mission to bring healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities. We remain grateful for your ongoing involvement and support.

In faith,



Mark A. Stutrud
President and Chief Executive Officer
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LSSI.org

Lutherdale - Elkhorn, Wisconsin

2019 is an exciting year of transformation and expansion for Lutherdale. We are celebrating our 75th Anniversary of providing life-changing adventures for all. We give thanks to God for the witness Lutherdale has provided for so many years and its mission of building lives in Christ. Lutherdale continues to grow in service to our synod partners, church partners and more. Plans are in action to open new ministry in the coming year with the completion of a new adult lodge and conference center. Come and enjoy the sacred spaces of Lutherdale.



ELCA Mission Builders Return in 2019

The ELCA Mission Builders came the summer of 2018 to build a new staff house on the vacant lot that Lutherdale owns just north of the Watson Retreat Center. We thank Mission Builders for their dedication to this building project and are grateful for all of the local volunteers that came to lend a hand. Mission Builders will return in the spring of 2019 to build a new conference center and adult lodge. Volunteers are needed to work side by side with Mission Builders on the new lodge. For more information visit: <https://www.lutherdale.org/support-us/mission-builders/>



Share the Adventure Appeal Update

On September 15 we held a groundbreaking service to dedicate the future building. A great crowd of people joined in sing, praying, and blessing the expansion plans for ministry. In faithful honor of those who prayed Lutherdale into being back in 1944, we had a tree trunk placed at the site of the new building. Folks were invited to sit on the log and vision a new building and an expanding ministry. Construction began in October with work on the foundation for the building.

God's Work, Our Hands

Every September, Lutherdale sponsors an activity for congregations to participate in God's Work, Our Hands day. It is a meal packing event to fight domestic hunger. Congregation's package dry macaroni and cheese meals and when they are done, they take the meals they packaged and distribute them to food pantries in their community. Come join us this September and help fight domestic hunger in your community.



Summer is a great time to be at Lutherdale

There is a program option for everyone. Busy families can enjoy CAMP 24 and spend some quality family time together for a 24-hour, weekend experience. Campers can choose between a half-week program, full week program, or weekend program with a variety of theme options. For details on all the exciting summer programs visit: <https://www.lutherdale.org/programs/summer-camps/> .

One of the best things about Lutherdale is that we do ministry together with you.

Lutherdale boldly provides a ministry of hospitality to all. Thank you for your partnership.

Mosaic



I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. — Philippians 1:3-11

To our friends and partners in the Northern Illinois Synod where Mosaic provides services out of Rockford,

2019 was a year of growth and gratitude for Mosaic. In times of dramatic change, we're encouraged by God's continued grace and remain grateful for your synod's commitment to ministry with and among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We're pleased to partner with dozens of churches to support church hubs, which provide opportunities for people with and without disabilities to spend their days building relationships and community. These connections are key to the health and wellness of all people. To learn more about our community hubs, visit mosaicinfo.org/church-hubs.

At the end of 2018, we released a report that detailed just how much social connections and other factors influence people's health. It may seem ground-breaking, but we're not surprised. We've known for a long time that God's people belong in community with each other. To read the full report, visit mosaicinfo.org/qualityreport.

Rejoicing Spirits, which helps congregations support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their loved ones in worship, continues to grow and evolve. More than 50 congregations across the nation participate in this transformative ministry. To learn more about this unique ministry, visit rejoicingspirits.org.

Mosaic also announced the acquisition of Soreo in November. Soreo provides in-home supports to Arizonans with intellectual disabilities and older adults who want to remain in their homes. This new ministry is a natural way for us to continue to love and serve our neighbors in need. To learn more, visit soreo.com/in-home-support.

We are continually impressed by the generosity of so many faithful donors and volunteers across the nation who support our mission. It is a deep joy of mine to ask new and long-term donors why they continue to give. More often than not, their answer centers around gratitude for all they have been given by God and a commitment to serve God's people. This gratitude and commitment strengthens and sustains our employees, contractors and the people we support.

Thank you,

Linda Timmons, President and CEO, Mosaic
www.mosaicinfo.org
4980 S. 118th St. | Omaha, NE 68137-2200 | 877.366.7242



Portico



Benefits in Action

Walking Our Promise to Support Those Who Serve

Yes, things have changed in the church, especially in the last decade. But like Martin Luther's description of faith — "a living, busy, active, mighty thing" — Portico Benefit Services is constantly evolving, finding more efficient ways to help clergy and employees steward their gifts for the sake of the world.

As the ELCA's benefit ministry, we're called to live out a 200+ year legacy of service to clergy and employees. Our talented staff leverage Portico's long-term experience, industry partnerships, and innovation-embracing culture to deliver benefits that can help people live well throughout their service and into retirement.



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Blessings on your ministry. It's a privilege to serve you.

By the Numbers — Helping People Live With More Confidence

640

Members Retired

in 2018, and we celebrated with every one!

8,943

Pounds Lost

so far by ELCA-Primary members enrolled in our new Omaha health improvement program.

621

Employees Joined

when four new Lutheran social ministry organizations decided to offer Portico benefits to their staff last year.

23

Companies Screened

from ELCA social purpose funds for holding reserves of oil shale and tar sands.

\$1M

Debt Paid Off

by plan members working with LSS Financial Counseling, as of year-end 2018.

4.5%

Baseline Rate Increase

for employer health contributions in 2019 — on average, the lowest increase in 5 years.

\$94

Less Per Month

paid in premiums by most ELCA Medicare-Primary retired members in 2019 thanks to our switch to Humana.

2,500

Worries Released

by ELCA Youth Gathering attendees at Portico's unbinding prayer station.

6,080

Learning Hours

invested by members in Portico's financial education seminars, webinars, and videos last year.

Region 5, ELCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the ministry of Region 5 as you prepare for and engage in the business of your synod assembly. This synod joins with eleven other synods in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, Iowa, and Illinois to form Region 5; one of the 9 regions across the ELCA. The ministry of region 5 is roughly divided into 3 categories: convening synod ministry leaders; accompaniment of those preparing to become pastors and deacons; and tending to archival records.

As a region, your synod bishop, staff, and other leaders gather with their colleagues from time to time throughout the year. These gatherings are a way for them to support and pray with one another; and to share their ideas, experience and expertise with one another in order to faithfully minister in your synod.

As candidacy and leadership manager for region 5, much of my work is spent working with synod candidacy committees. "Candidacy" is the term used to describe our process of forming and preparing people to serve as a pastor or deacon in the ELCA. Like the many faithful volunteers that serve on your synod candidacy committee, I am honored to meet our seminary students and explore with them how God is calling them to service in the world.

You have a part in raising up, nurturing, and sending those whom God calls into service as pastor and deacon. To that end, I commend to you a new resource, "Called to Lead", available online at elca.org/resources/candidacy. This discernment guide is for those who are wondering about ministry as a pastor or deacon. As a leader in your congregation, it is also a resource for you as a helpful conversation tool when talking with people you know who have gifts for ministry in the ELCA. Building upon our calling as baptized people of God, readers of this guide will have the opportunity to explore gifts and abilities, as well as readiness to begin an intentional time of formation for ministry leadership.

As a region, we also share in the care of archival records. Region 5 archives are housed at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Our archivist, Sue Dodd, collects records of and responds to inquiries concerning: synods, deceased rostered personnel, and dissolved congregations within region 5. This work both preserves institutional records and documents the historical record of the institution within the context of the larger world. Approximately 200 requests come in each year from individuals for information found in the region 5 archives. As congregations in the region make decisions to close, Sue is a resource to you in determining what records to save and how to transfer them to the archives.

Thank you for your synod's participation in this shared ministry and for the privilege to serve among you.

Rev. Ramie L. Bakken Sue Dodd
Candidacy and Leadership Manager Region 5 Archivist
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In partnership with the Synods of Metropolitan Chicago ~ Northern Illinois ~ Central/Southern Illinois ~ Southeastern Iowa ~ Western Iowa ~ Northeastern Iowa ~ Northern Great Lakes ~ Northwest Wisconsin ~ East-Central Wisconsin ~ Greater Milwaukee ~ South-Central Wisconsin ~ La Crosse Area

Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries

ROCKFORD AREA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

200 North 1st Street Rockford, IL 61107 815-962-4279 RalmMail@aol.com

One God, One Body, One Voice —

Collaborating to Transform our Communities



www.RockTheGood.com

Do you like us on facebook?



www.facebook.com/RockfordAreaLutheran

PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

Alpine Lutheran Church, Rockford
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Rockford
 Calvary Lutheran Church, Rockford
 Capron Lutheran Church, Capron
 Christ Lutheran Church, Belvidere
 Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, Roscoe
 Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Rockford
 Faith Lutheran Church, South Beloit
 First Lutheran Church, Rockford
 Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Rockford
 Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Grace Lutheran Church, Loves Park
 GPS Faith Community, Machesney Park
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Rockford
 St. Mark Lutheran Church, Rockford
 Salem Lutheran Church, Rockford
 Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Rockford
 United Lutheran Church, Rockford
 Zion Lutheran Church, Belvidere
 Zion Lutheran Church, Rockford

WHAT IS RALM?

Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries is a collaboration of Lutheran churches and ministries that celebrate being One church, One Body doing God's work with our hands. We are 21 locations. We join together to do what one congregation could not do on its own.

NEW MINISTRY IN 2018



Laundry Love, we joyfully announce a partnership with Laundry Love. It provides free laundry services for those who need it most. Laundry Love exists to help alleviate

the strain that poor health and hygiene places on the most vulnerable members of our community. Volunteer the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:15 at the Charles Street Laundromat. To volunteer, contact the RALM office.

Rejoicing Spirits

This ministry reaches out to enrich the spiritual lives of individuals with



developmental disabilities, their families, caregivers, and others as we celebrate being one body. This is an accepting, unique worship and fellowship that delivers God's message of love in an inclusive, non-shushing faith community. Worship services are the 2nd Thursday, 8pm at Alpine Lutheran Church.

Basic Needs Bags were assembled for area homeless and survivors of human trafficking. Area congregations and interested citizens joined together for education and assisting our neighbors.

#CycletoSynod spun this year across the synod.

Cyclists from throughout the synod rode bikes from Rockford to Augustana College to build relationships and teach about the ministry of ELCA World Hunger. The cyclists rode over 120 miles, met over 400 people, and raised funds for a just world where all are fed.

ONGOING MINISTRY

Park Players

Teens from the area spent the summer learning job readiness skills and peaceful conflict resolution skills. The teens, through games and a drama, taught the conflict resolution to hundreds of school-aged children.

Becca's Closet

provides dresses so area girls can attend proms and homecomings. Each dress is more than a gown, it is increased confidence and improved self-worth. In 2018, Becca's Closet gave away about 1000 dresses.

#ROCKTHEGOOD

Do you post on social media about church events? Are you hosting an event and want to share with others? When you post, add #RockTheGood. Let's share the many blessings we have as God's people together. Then check the hashtag regularly. Need more info, contact 815-962-4279 and ask questions.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS DAY

Celebrating with ELCA congregations across the country RALM hosted a day of service. God's Work Our Hands Day brought together congregations, schools, community organizations, and people of all ages together for a day to help end hunger in our communities. Over 300 people packaged 80,000 meals to help feed our neighbors.



COMING FOR 2019

God's Work Our Hands Day 2019 will be celebrated as Praise Band Fest. A multicultural collection of choirs, praise bands, and gospel choirs that represent congregations throughout the greater Rockford area will praise with music that uplifts the diversity of the area. Underwear and socks will be collected throughout our congregations, as well as serve for admission.

Synodical Women's Organization - Women of the ELCA

I am honored to serve as president of the board of the NIS, SWO, WELCA, and represent our synod. For me it has been a time of spiritual growth and social awareness.

In February, I attended the Women of the ELCA president's conference. There were presidents in attendance from all over the United States. We worshiped, learned about immigration at the border and how lawyers with AMMPARO are volunteering their time to prepare women for their interviews, suicide prevention, and were informed about the theme for the 2020 Triennial convention: JUST LOVE.

We have a library of books and a movie that are available to anyone to check out for extended periods of time to read and pass around. Joan Soltwisch is the librarian and can be reached by phone, 815-690-3658 or email jksoltwischblue@yahoo.com to get a list of our inventory and check out a resource. We have a DVD called "Chosen" that tells the story of a small-town girl getting swept in to the grasp of sex traffickers. You can use the materials to plan a retreat or borrow for your personal use.

On April 27 we held our Spring Retreat at LOMC. "Seasons of our Lives" was our theme. Bible study was led by Esther Prabhakar, and music was presented by Peg Lehman. Worship led by Pastor Jessica Bakken.

The deadline is getting close to sign up for the Servant/Immersion trip to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church located on Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Box Elder, MT. It will be a week of learning and sharing with the people of the church and community August 24-31. We are honored to be delivering 10 refurbished microscopes to the school donated by Mike Wadle. Thank you, Mike.

We are planning our convention for September 21 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moline. The theme is "New Horizons," focusing on immigration and what is happening at our borders. Bishop Clements will be preaching at the worship service. All women of NIS ELCA are invited to attend. We send our quarterly newsletter to every church in the synod with information on registering for our events as well as upcoming church events that are open for anyone who would like to participate.

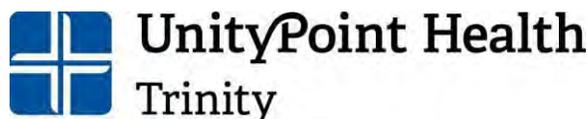
As I complete my final year as NIS Women of the ELCA president I am honored to have had this opportunity to work with so many devoted Christian women of our synod and in our country. I have been truly blessed.

Kim Choin

President, NIS Women of the ELCA

UnityPoint Health - Rock Island, Illinois

At UnityPoint Health - Trinity, our mission is to improve the health of the people and communities we serve. Not only do we care for patients in our hospitals and clinics, but we also focus on being a strong community partner to identify other people who could benefit from health care services, ranging from disease prevention, health education and treatment. Here is a sampling of 2018 Trinity initiatives:



Parish Nurse Program

In its thirtieth year, Trinity's Parish Nurse Program continued to serve the community with holistic health services which include many aspects of care such as emotional and spiritual support, health education and prevention services. The parish nurse foundations course was cancelled in the fall due to few registrations. Thirty-six churches participated in the Parish Nurse Program during all or part of 2018 with 16 paid positions and 28 volunteers. These programs served a combined church membership of approximately 21,000 people through 23 Illinois churches and 13 Iowa churches.

Their activities resulted in the following: Individual contacts - 22,909, Educational programs - participants 5,577 in 458 classes, Support groups - participants 2,778 in 420 groups, Blood pressure (B/P) screenings - 3,980 individuals, Abnormal B/P readings with subsequent referrals - 527 individuals (13%)

Trinity’s parish nurses worked a total of 21,290 hours and supervised an additional 10,756 hours volunteered by church members. Total contacts averaged 1,909 per month, of those 37 percent were brief client visits of less than 15 minutes, while 63 percent exceeded that time frame. The breakdown of visits by gender is 32 percent male clients and 68 percent female. The following chart provides distribution of individual contacts by all age groups. (Note: age was not given for all contacts.)

Age	Number of Clients
0-14 years	466
15 - 19 years	175} 4%
20 - 24 years	245
25 - 44 years	1,431 > 6%
45 - 59 years	3,060 > 13%
60 - 84 years	12,039 > 52%
85+ years	5,493 > 24%

In 2018, most contacts pertained to health education and surveillance of clients. Referrals comprise a large part of parish nurse activities. For diagnosis and treatment of issues and connecting clients to health services, parish nurses made **5,593** referrals to pastors and church resources, **841** to physicians, **741** to health care professionals, **568** to community agencies, **165** to walk-in clinics and **204** to new physicians.

Parish nurses saw clients in several locations: **2,384** home visits, **1,603** hospital visits, **2,285** assisted living facilities, **3,493** individuals who came to their church office and **4,346** phone contacts were made. The client base is very similar to past years with: **96 percent** Caucasian, **2 percent** African-American, **1.4 percent** Hispanic, **0.4 percent** Asian and **0.2 percent** for all other ethnicities.

We again participated in the ELCA Synod meeting at Augustana College in June with a Parish Nurse Program display along with various wellness materials. We offered blood pressure screenings and first aid services throughout the entire weekend. This provided a great opportunity to promote parish nursing with many pastors, health ministers as well as lay leaders.

During October, which is pastor appreciation month, our pastors and parish nurses met together at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Davenport. We served breakfast to our pastors to honor them. We then had a panel discussion with six panelists who provide homeless services in our community. A time for questions and answers and good dialogue took place.

We received a grant from Bettendorf Rotary and Trinity Health Foundation to allow a parish nurse to work one day a week for two hours starting in March at the homeless shelter in Rock Island, Christian Care. Rhonda has been able to meet with many and promote wellness, offer blood pressure screenings, foot care, medication education, referrals as well as spiritual care to homeless individuals. The staff have been so happy to have a dedicated health professional at their site and believe she has established rapport and made a difference in the lives she has touched.

We had numerous opportunities to serve in our community during the year, including volunteering at homeless shelters serving meals, providing health education and blood pressure screenings at River Bend Foodbank sites, serving as Nursing Honor Guard at nurses’ funerals, assisting with high school sports physicals, helping at the Boys and Girls Clubs, teaching CPR and offering community presentations on parish nursing and wellness topics.

As the year ended one nurse retired after 20 years of service and another after 10 years. We invited the Genesis Parish Nurses to join our Trinity team after Genesis eliminated their program. Four parish nurses and two health ministers from the Genesis program are now with us. It has been a great transition. We also added two RN’s to our team after they both retired from acute care nursing. They are happy to continue to use their expertise and skills in their faith communities.

Volunteers/Friends of Trinity

Health care volunteers have been a community tradition for as long as there have been hospitals in the Quad Cities. Many of our current volunteers began their service with us long before we became UnityPoint Health - Trinity.

Our volunteer groups are actively involved in supplementing several hospital services provided to patients and community members, as well as assisting UnityPoint Health - Trinity team members in the important work of providing exceptional health care to our community.

One way this is accomplished is through 442 volunteers, including high school and college students. In 2018, Trinity volunteers logged 52,832 hours of service in a variety of ways including the following:

- Dozens of volunteers have regular weekly time slots on three different campuses, aiding patients, visitors and staff members.
- Two community blood drives were held, one in June and one in November.
- 3,985 hours were spent on community projects including the Patient Advisory Council, associate and community flu clinics, American Heart Association fundraisers and Gilda's Club partnership. 39 Caring Canine teams, certified pet therapy teams, made visits to over 19,879 patients.
- Volunteers made the following for distribution to patients: baby hats and blankets for newborns and stillborn babies, prayer shawls, cancer hats, pillow cases, infusion pillows, lap pads/robes, ostomy covers and wee-care gowns.
- Volunteers distributed 301 "Get Well" emails sent to patients from family and community members.
- Trinity volunteers served in over 52 different departments in the hospital in many roles throughout the three Quad City campuses, helping Trinity provide a better experience for patients, staff and the community.

The second way this is accomplished is through Friends of Trinity, an organization whose mission is to support UnityPoint Health - Trinity and the community through fundraising and service. In 2018, Friends of Trinity accomplished the following:

- Friends of Trinity has 312 members.
- In 2018, Friends of Trinity granted \$163,800 to UnityPoint Health - Trinity and the Quad City community through the following grants:
 - \$250,000 for the Bettendorf Birthplace Expansion (\$75,000 paid in 2018)
 - \$20,500 for the purchase of a Ligasure Generator for Bettendorf Surgical Services
 - \$20,100 for the purchase of (3) Philips Lumify Ultrasound Machines for the Cardiology Division
 - \$19,800 for the purchase of a Manometry Catheter for Bettendorf Ambulatory Department
 - \$20,000 in Healthcare Scholarships
 - \$8,400 for Caring Community Projects Ongoing Funding (Caring Closet, Caring Canines & Prayer Shawl Ministry)
- Friends of Trinity put on a major community-wide event and held nine vendor sales.
- Friends of Trinity have donated over \$4.06 million since their inception in 1993.
- The Trinity Caring Closet served over 3,100 patients by providing new clothing to wear when discharged, if clothing was retained for evidence, destroyed or soiled.
- Operated three gift shops and an award-winning floral service.

Pastoral Care

In 2018, Trinity's Pastoral Care department continued to educate the public and Trinity employees about the importance of advance care planning and assist individuals in completing advance directives. This educational process included community presentations on various aspects of the spiritual, mental and physician health connection as well as individual facilitations for both in-patients and community members.

Pastoral Care also served on the Board for Parish Nurses, Mission Effectiveness committee, Ethics committee and the Institutional Review Board for reviewing medical research proposals.

During the year numerous in-patient visits were made by our staff of three chaplains, focusing on providing psychosocial, emotional and spiritual support to patients and their families in the face of crisis, transition, grief, anxiety, pain, joy, hopelessness or loneliness. Our chaplains also made in-patient visits on behalf of pastors who were unable to come to the hospital due to weather, vacation, illness, or other conflict bearing greeting and concern from the patient's faith leader.

Additional pastoral care accomplishments:

- Eighteen volunteer befrienders in the department made 6,213 in-patient visits focusing on screening newly admitted patients; 3,881 of which were first day admissions.
- Sponsored two grief support gatherings for families affected by perinatal loss with a fall graveside burial service for miscarried infants as well as Butterfly Blessings, an intergenerational memorial event.
- Hosted two blessing events, including Blessing of the Hands for Nurses Week and Hospital Week and blessing of the canines for the Friends of Trinity Caring Canine Program.
- Provided distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday to patients, families, and staff working shifts that prevented them from attending their faith community's Ash Wednesday services.
- Provided 24 hours of training to two individuals in pastoral visiting skills, held trainings and one continuing educational program for eight current befrienders.
- Called local faith communities when a member both identified the faith community and gave us permission to call. Calls were placed Monday through Friday, averaging about 100 calls per week.
- Provided patient care staff orientation on the basics of spiritual care and ethics twice a month.
- Taught Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) Extended course, including for ten local faith leaders.
- Provided 24/7 pastoral care coverage for the UnityPoint Health - Trinity Quad Cities hospitals, responding to the emotional and spiritual crisis of patients, family and staff.

Community Health Needs Assessment

The 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment for Rock Island, Scott and Muscatine Counties was completed in September 2018. The results from this assessment will be used to guide future efforts and decisions regarding areas of greatest impact to the health of our community.

Community Collaboration | Military Advisory Council

In 2018, UnityPoint Health - Trinity partnered with many organizations to support and provide resources to the local military community. These organizations include USO, Association of the United States Army, Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois and Iowa Veterans Affairs, VA National Cemetery, NAMI, Quad-Cities Veterans Outreach Center and more.

As a result of these partnerships, UnityPoint Health - Trinity's Military Advisory Council received the Community Veteran Engagement Board designation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This is the second coalition to receive this recognition in the state of Iowa, and the fourth in Illinois.

Health Fairs and Community Health Education

UnityPoint Health - Trinity works with a number of community partners to live out its mission of improving the health of the people and communities it serves. Throughout the past year, Trinity has collaborated with the following community partners:

Health Literacy and Access: Quad City Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees (QC Air). Global Communities, The Esperanza Center, The Project of the Quad Cities, Project NOW, Habitat for Humanity, NAACP - Rock Island

Nutrition and Wellness: River Bend Foodbank, School Health LINK, Heart of Hope Ministries, March for Babies Quad City Marathon

Community Health Needs: Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee, Quad City Health Initiative

Behavioral Health Care and Access: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Rock Island Arsenal, Quad City Mental Health Coalition, Mickle Communications, Center for Alcohol and Drug Services (CADS), Community Health Care, Area Physician Offices

Social Support: Boys and Girls Club, YouthHope, The Arc of the Quad Cities, Skip-a-Long, Children's Therapy Center, Bethany for Children & Families, Junior Achievement, Gilda's Club, Family Resources, Child Abuse Council, Big Brothers Big Sisters

Advocacy: Rock Island Arsenal, Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, IL, Iowa and Illinois Hospital Association

Community Impact Initiative | Mission Effectiveness Committee

The Mission Effectiveness Committee was created to assist and guide UnityPoint Health - Trinity to align decisions and actions with the goal of achieving its mission of improving the health of the community it serves.

Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a nine-month internship for persons with disabilities established to help adults gain the skills needed to be successfully employed, and a contributing member of the Quad Cities community.

UnityPoint Health - Trinity has partnered with North Scott, Bettendorf, and Pleasant Valley school districts, as well as, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Mississippi Bend AEA and Goodwill to support this initiative.

Trinity is proud to recognize the seven interns who graduated from the Project SEARCH internship program in its first year of implementation.

Patient and Family Advisory Committee

The Patient and Family Advisory Committee was formed to create awareness of past patient experiences, assist hospital staff in providing a quality patient experience, improve health outcomes and help UnityPoint Health - Trinity maintain a patient driven culture.

2017 Community Benefit Summary by Category

A “community benefit” is defined as programs or activities that address community health and health-related needs which can provide measurable improvement in health access, health status and the use of health resources. Annually, the community benefits provided by Trinity are tracked. Attached is the Impact to the Community Report that explains benefits provided to the community, in addition to the quality patient care normally expected of our health system. The 2018 Community Benefits totals will be finalized and released to the public in the spring of 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Seidler, President/CEO
UnityPoint Health - Trinity