

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

***July 16, 2007***

For more information contact:  
Rob Stiles, Director of Public Engagement  
[Rstiles@lutheranfamily.org](mailto:Rstiles@lutheranfamily.org)  
Tel: 317-359-5467 Ex. 340



### ***CHINESE CHURCH OFFICIALS GET TIPS ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH***

*Chinese visitors learn American methods of community engagement at Lutheran Child & Family Services*

After sipping a hot cup of green tea with leaders at Lutheran Child and Family Services, ***church officials from Sichuan Province in China*** learned about American techniques for community engagement, fundraising and charitable giving on **Monday, July 16, 2007**. They also heard about the mission of faith-based organizations like Lutheran Child & Family Services that promotes charitable giving and social service in America. After the roundtable discussion, the guests visited vacation Bible school classes at Lutherwood Academy, toured the new Lutherwood Residential Treatment Center now under construction, and visited The Sharing Place thrift store at Tenth Street and Shadeland Avenue. The Sharing Place eastside and westside locations serve nearly 25,000 Indianapolis residents each year.

In addition, the international guests learned about how American faith-based agencies engage community partners and develop financial giving through relationships of trust. Relationship is a strong component of Chinese culture. They also learned about mentoring programs, adoption services and family preservation programs.

“We are pleased to share information about our successful programs with visitors from China. It is good for Indianapolis and our community partners to be able to influence faith-based outreach efforts on the other side of the globe,” said Michael Johnson, Executive Director of Lutheran Child & Family Services.

**When:** Monday, July 16, 2007  
***8:30 am – 1:30 pm***

**Where:** Lutheran Child & Family Services  
1525 N. Ritter Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46219

**LCFS:** Lutheran Child & Family Services (LCFS) is a multi-service, nonprofit 501(c)(3) member agency of United Way of Central Indiana and provides services that strengthen vulnerable youth and families. LCFS's services include: Lutherwood Residential Treatment Facility (providing specialized treatment for youth in crisis); Lutherwood Academy (a satellite partnership with IPS); Trinity Group Home (where young men transition to independent living); Mentoring, Parenting Instruction, Family Preservation Initiatives; Adoption & Foster Care Services; and the Sharing Place Food and Clothing Pantry. LCFS serves approximately 30,000 people annually.

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