

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Leslie McCotry
Volunteer Resource Coordinator
317-359-5467
lmccotry@lutheranfamily.org



LOCAL CHURCH SERVES CHILDREN IN CHILD WELFARE AGENCY BY RENOVATING DORMS
MORE THAN 40 VOLUNTEERS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND

More than 40 members from Holy Cross Lutheran Church will 'Be the Church' on April 19th and 20th by serving two programs of Lutheran Child and Family Services. This new project is a church initiative to serve the community by utilizing the skills and time of dedicated congregation members. At least 30 members from Holy Cross will come to Lutherwood Residential Treatment Facility during the two-day volunteer blitz to paint dorms and add color and pizzazz to resident's living areas. An additional group of skilled church members will renovate Trinity House, an independent living home for adolescent males, creating an additional bedroom and transforming the basement to add an another common area.

"We're very excited about this project," said Rita Zeek, Project Coordinator for Holy Cross. "Our hearts go out to the Lutherwood program and it is our charge to assist the agency as often as possible." This project is a great opportunity for Lutheran Child and Family Services to create long-lasting partnerships with local Lutheran churches to enhance the services provided to our clients.

"Holy Cross has been a faithful supporter of LCFS in the past and we are blessed to have them choose our agency for their community service project," said Michael Johnson, Executive Director of Lutheran Child and Family Services. "This is a wonderful continuation of our relationship with communities of faith and we hope to continue our relationship with our local churches."

"Volunteering at Trinity House is so exciting because it helps get people transitioned into the community and we can help make their situation better," Holy Cross Pastor Dave McClean said. "We will start with this project as the gateway to mentoring and building relationships with the guys there. We don't want to just improve the facility, but also get to know the guys and help them transition into the community in a positive way."

The partnership between Lutheran Child and Family Services and Holy Cross Lutheran Church began nearly 20 years ago. Holy Cross has supported LCFS through many initiatives including a walk-a-thon fundraiser for Sharing Place Food Bank and Clothing Pantry and church services for Lutherwood residents.

About 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 Education 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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