

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Lutherwood Academy Students Excel in Reading Scores

IPS Superintendent Dr. Eugene White, Marion County Judge Marilyn Moores to celebrate children's academic achievements

Lutheran Child & Family Services of Indiana (LCFS) will honor Lutherwood Academy students for making significant gains in reading proficiency scores at the ***Lutherwood Academy Awards Day Celebration*** on **Friday, June 1, 2007**.

Indianapolis Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Eugene White will present a Teacher of the Year award, and Marion Superior Court Judge Marilyn Moores will deliver a keynote address sharing words of encouragement with 150 young people and their families. Dr. David Klinkose, a representative from the Mayor's office, will bring greetings from Mayor Peterson.

One example of Lutherwood Academy's educational success: An average of 90 percent of Lutherwood youth improved their reading scores significantly using the Read 180 program, and 78 percent of students in the Read 180 program raised their reading scores by two levels. The computer-based literacy program takes a four pronged approach to expanding reading skills: word recognition, spelling, comprehension, and reading fluency. Using the Lexile measures (which reflect the difficulty of a text), Lutherwood youth met or exceeded their goal of improving reading scores by 75-100 points per year.

According to Lutheran Child & Family Services Executive Director Michael Johnson, "Many Lutherwood children come from extremely challenging circumstances; therefore, these kinds of educational advancements are impressive and will help prepare our children to excel in their academic endeavors."

Lutherwood is strengthening educational performance as a partner with the IPS satellite program and the entire City of Indianapolis. These remarkable achievements demonstrate Lutherwood's continued commitment to success as recognized when Lutherwood received the ***Mayor's Excellence in Education Award in 2005***.

Lutheran Child & Family Services (LCFS) also will receive a \$10,000 gift from the Caring for Kids Foundation for computers and other educational materials. Additionally, LCFS will receive a \$3,000 gift from the Lawrence Chapter of Sertoma Club as part of the *Give Hope a Home* capital and endowment campaign. This gift is earmarked for a new Recreation Center and Library for the children.

When: Friday, June 1, 2007
9:30 am – 11:30 am

Where: Lutheran Child & Family Services
Lutherwood Academy Gymnasium
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 25,000 people annually.