

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LUTHERAN CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ANNOUNCES LUTHERWOOD ACADEMY'S ART SHOWCASE
Community's Often Overlooked At-Risk Youth Get An Opportunity to Shine!

Lutheran Child and Family Services is pleased to announce an art exhibit that will showcase the art renderings of its Lutherwood Academy students to be held from March 17-20, 2008 in the Community Hospital East Atrium. A reception will be held on March 17 from 5:30-7:00 PM to mark the opening of the exhibit. Lutherwood Education Academy is an Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) Satellite Program that offers students grades 1 through 12 an opportunity to continue their education in an atmosphere of therapeutic care and small classes. Lutherwood is a residential treatment facility licensed to care for youth age 6-19 who exhibit chronic behavior and/or emotional problems due to abuse and/or neglect, internal neurological, biological or psychiatric disorders. Lutherwood Academy's enrollment is comprised of its current residents and day students who are bussed onto the campus.

Lutherwood's Arts program offers the students an avenue to learn the dynamics of art as well as means of expressing themselves through their creative pieces. Approximately 50 pieces will be on display at the art show. Mrs. Sara O'Brien, the event organizer, is a Lutherwood teacher who instructs the middle school and high school students. Wendell Lowe is an IPS Satellite School artist who teaches students grades 1 through 6 weekly.

Executive Director Michael Johnson said, "We are extremely proud of our Lutherwood students and we celebrate not only their artistic ability but their academic accomplishments as well."

"The artwork created by our Lutherwood students is outstanding," said IPS Superintendent Eugene G. White. "Their ability to weave current events, messages of hope and stories of triumph together through their art is incredible. I encourage the community to make plans to view this impressive collection."

Ultimately, the art will be displayed in LCFS's new residential facility in permanently affixed frames and on display this spring for the open house of that building.

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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