

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPECIAL INTERPRETER VISA IRAQIS URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP

PHILADELPHIA, PA (APRIL 15TH, 2008) – Lutheran Children and Family Service (LCFS), an affiliate of Liberty Lutheran Services, seeks congregations and individuals to assist Iraqi Interpreters (with Special Interpreter Visa status (SIVs) who have fled to Philadelphia and other parts of the United States. The interpreters are being persecuted in Iraq for giving assistance to the American war effort. They arrive in the United States with little or no notice and with extremely limited resources. The SIVs are in desperate need of shelter, food and other assistance.

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring one or more SIVs by providing temporary housing, please contact Lyn Back, Refugee Resettlement Resource Developer at LCFS at 215-747-6500, extension 207, or by email at lynb@lcfsinpa.org. You can also make a donation to the Refugee Emergency Housing Fund, which can be sent to the LCFS Refugee Resettlement office at 231 N. 63rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19139. This account, used to pay for the temporary housing of refugees who have arrived to the United States with no prior notice, has been completely exhausted.

“Thankfully, there has been a groundswell of interest from local church networks of many denominations in aiding those so displaced from their homes,” says Janet Panning, LCFS Refugee Program Director. “Unfortunately, resources are limited and are being depleted faster than planned. There is a critical need for donations, sponsor families, and much more at this juncture.”

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Lutheran Children and Family Service (LCFS) of Eastern Pennsylvania, an affiliate of Liberty Lutheran Services, has been bringing hope and opportunity to children and families in need since 1922. LCFS offers an array of services to vulnerable children and families including foster care, group care, adoption, in-home services, after-school programs, parenting education, immigrant services and resettlement of refugees. By strengthening thousands of families, LCFS builds stronger, more caring communities throughout the Delaware Valley.

Liberty Lutheran Services is a broad array of faith-based services delivered by a team of world-class employees. Comprised of the non-profit organizations of Artman Lutheran Home, Paul's Run Retirement Community, Lutheran Children and Family Service, and Liberty at Home, LLS serves approximately eighteen thousand individuals annually throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania. The organizations of LLS have a combined 200 years of service for children, families, and older adults. Caring communities are built by Lutheran congregations to serve all people, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, country of origin, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation. For more information about Liberty Lutheran Services and their mission, please visit www.libertylutheran.org.

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