

Media Release



Foster Families Needed in Dodge County

Lunch and Learn Planned May 2

April 15, 2014 (Fremont, NE) – When a Fremont-area child enters the foster care system, odds are great that child will have to leave the community, as well as their home and school. Because of the scarcity of foster homes in Dodge County, 63% of the children removed from their homes will be placed in a different county.

Sadly, Dodge County also consistently ranks in the top ten of Nebraska counties for children placed in out-of-home care. All of these statistics underscore the importance of new opportunities to establish licensed foster homes in Dodge County. **Currently in Fremont, there are only three such homes available.**

On Friday, May 2, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska and Project Everlast (Fremont Council) are hosting a "Fremont's Foster Caring Community Event." The event will be held at the Wooden Windmill, located at 1155 South Broad Street in Fremont.

The public is invited to attend this special lunch to learn more about the process and importance of becoming a foster family. The luncheon, which will be held from 11:00am to 1:00pm, will also include a special awards ceremony "Celebrating Our Superheroes," honoring those who have made a difference in the lives of young people who have lived in or aged out of foster care. The awards will be presented by Project Everlast Youth, an organization of young people who have aged out of foster care and now work to help those still in the system.

Youth members of Project Everlast will be handing out six hand-made awards:

- Thanks for Toughing it Out Award
- #1 Case Worker
- Best Guardian Ad Litem Award
- Guardian Angel Award
- Good Friend Award
- Great Supporter Award

For more information on this event or on how to become a foster parent please call 402-661-3125.

Lutheran Family Services offers a supportive foster care program that empowers foster parents while they care for some of Nebraska's most vulnerable children ages 0 -19. The goal is to ensure that Fremont children who enter the foster care system can remain in Fremont for school, services and support, rather than having to move to a foster home outside of their community.

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Safety, Hope and Well-Being for All People

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska starting as an orphanage in Fremont, Nebraska in 1892. Since then, Lutheran Family Services has continued to work with at-risk children and families throughout the State of Nebraska.

**Nebraska Foster Care Review Office Annual Report 2013; page 149*

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska is a 122-year-old statewide, community-based human care organization. LFS seeks safety, hope and well-being for all people through three core areas of competency: children services, behavioral health and community services. On any given day, LFS has open case files on over 2,000 children – and serves over 5,000 behavioral health consumers statewide each year. LFS is the recipient of the 2013 Better Business Bureau Integrity Award.

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