



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES ANNOUNCES RACHEL LUSTIG PRESIDENT AND CEO

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Board of Directors has named Rachel Lustig its president and CEO, succeeding The Rev. Larry A. Crowell, who has served as interim for the past year. Lustig starts May 15, 2023.

“Rachel’s experience leading another local organization dedicated to helping people out of poverty with dignity and respect directly relates to LSS’ mission and vision,” said Todd Treon, chair of the Board of Directors. “That experience in successfully and strategically guiding a multi-service agency, along with her passion and dedication to serving people in need in a way that honors the person and builds confidence, is the right combination that will provide the leadership to move LSS forward.”

As president and CEO, Lustig will provide strategic guidance and direction to LSS, one of central Ohio’s largest non-profit organizations, as it effectively delivers programs and services to those in need throughout 26 counties primarily in central, north central and southeast Ohio. Additionally, Lustig will represent LSS in developing and nurturing relationships with governmental agencies, community groups, social service agencies and congregations partnering with LSS.

“For more than 100 years, Lutheran Social Services has been a force of hope, compassion and justice that has transformed countless lives,” said Rachel Lustig. “I am both honored and humbled to have the opportunity to serve alongside LSS’ tremendous board, team and partners to advance our mission of creating a better world by serving people in need. As our community recovers from the pandemic and positions for a period of rapid economic growth, we will honor our legacy by doing our part to ensure that everyone in our community can live with dignity and opportunity.”



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Rachel has 14+ years' experience in executive leadership at faith-based organizations. In her previous decade-long role as President and CEO of Catholic Social Services based in Columbus, she transformed the agency and brought it into its strategic niche as an anti-poverty agency whose goal is to empower people in need—regardless of faith or background—with the tools they need to reach their full potential.

Before joining Catholic Social Services, Rachel was a senior executive at Catholic Charities USA, the nation's largest private human service association. In that role, Rachel advanced best-practice strategies that were innovative, impactful, and collaborative, and she helped seed the nation's first domestic poverty research lab at her alma mater, the University of Notre Dame.

“It is never easy to lose a leader,” said Patricia Hill-Callahan, Board Chair of Catholic Social Services (CSS), “especially one that has done extraordinary work to enhance your mission to serve poor and vulnerable seniors and families like Rachel Lustig has for CSS. But her steadfast efforts have put in place an executive team and staff who are poised and ready to continue the vital services of the organization and to respond to our community's evolving needs. On behalf of the CSS Board, we wish Rachel well, and we look forward to continuing to grow our partnership with Lutheran Social Services to better serve our community.”

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) serves thousands of people each day in 26 Ohio counties by providing the basic human needs of food, shelter, safety and healing. LSS offers food through the LSS Food Pantries, housing and supportive services through LSS Faith Mission and LSS Faith Mission of Fairfield County homeless shelters, domestic violence services through LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence, information and referral through LSS 211 Central Ohio, senior living and health care facilities, affordable housing communities and other programs and services that uplift families and strengthen communities. For more information, visit www.lssnetworkofhope.org.

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