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LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA NAMES HONORARY CHAIRPERSONS SUPPORTING PASSPORT TO THE WORLD CELEBRATION

***National and Local Legislators, Clergy and Celebrities
Join Together in Support of LSS/NCA Centennial Celebration***

December 13, 2017 (Washington, DC): Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA), today proudly introduces the Honorary Chair Committee for ***Passport to the World***, an exclusive event celebrating 100 years of LSS/NCA service and the diversity, hopes and dreams of the DC community. ***Passport to the World*** will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at the stunning American Institute of Architects building located at 421 7th St. NW. Event tickets are on sale now and can be purchased on the [LSS/NCA website](http://lssnca.org/passport-to-the-world/) (<http://lssnca.org/passport-to-the-world/>).

The 16-member Honorary Chair Committee encompasses a diverse array of LSS/NCA supporters, including United States Senators and Representatives, Maryland and Virginia state legislators, Ambassadors, City Councilmembers, national and local Lutheran church leaders, allied service providers and an iconic voice. Committee members include:

The Honorable Dick Durbin (D-IL), United States Senate
The Honorable Ben Cardin (D-MD), United States Senate
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), United States Senate
The Honorable Gerald Connolly (D-VA), United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), United States House of Representative
The Honorable John S. Edwards (D), Virginia State Senate
The Honorable Sheila E. Hixson (D), Maryland House of Delegates
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Bishop Richard Graham, Metro Washington DC Synod, ELCA
Ambassador Theodore E. Russell (Rt.)
Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (Rt.), Lutheran World Relief, President and CEO
Chairman Phil Mendelson, Council of the District of Columbia
Councilmember Brandon T. Todd (D), Council of the District of Columbia

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Councilmember At-Large Robert C. White, Jr. (D), Council of the District of Columbia
Ms. Charlotte Haberaecker, President and CEO, Lutheran Services in America
Mr. Mark Hetfield, President and CEO, HIAS
Ms. Diane Rehm, National Public Radio Host

“This eclectic group of national and local leaders stands as a testament to the impact LSS/NCA makes in the community and the importance of the issues that we address,” said Christine Connell, Chief Executive Officer of LSS/NCA. “We might be small, but our mission is mighty. We are proud to link arms with the members of this committee to create the ***Passport to the World*** experience and to launch LSS/NCA into our next 100 years of service.”

LSS/NCA began serving the DC-community in 1917. This year alone, LSS/NCA helped 1,511 refugees and immigrants find new homes and employment; found families for nearly 100 neglected and abused children in foster care, and provided supportive services to over 100 youth and adults affected by HIV/AIDS.

Passport to the World celebrates the diversity that defines the communities it serves by immersing guests in a colorful and interactive international market featuring the tastes, entertainment and cultures of a selection of countries from which LSS/NCA-supported refugee and immigrant families have migrated. The event serves as a poignant reminder of the people and families LSS/NCA has supported for the past century through the combined efforts of its staff, volunteers, local congregations and partnerships with service organizations and the private sector.

Event tickets to ***Passport to the World*** can be purchased through the [LSS/NCA website](http://lssnca.org/passport-to-the-world/) at (<http://lssnca.org/passport-to-the-world/>). for \$195(US) per-person and are tax deductible. Group tickets, as well as various event sponsorship packages are also currently available. Information on tax deductible sponsorships is available by contacting Katherine Jagow, LSS/NCA Corporate and Foundation Relations Manager at JagowK@LSSNCA.org.

About LSS/NCA

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) has devoted a century to SERVING BOLDLY, offering hope and mobilizing communities to serve the most vulnerable among us. LSS/NCA is a registered 501c3 nonprofit organization that serves approximately 2,000 families and children in crisis throughout the Greater Metro-DC region through Children’s Services and Refugee & Immigrant Services. LSS/NCA does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, age, race, creed, gender, or sexual orientation.