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## HUNDREDS TURN OUT TO STAND WITH REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS AT LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA'S 100-YEAR CELEBRATION

### *Passport to the World Event Opens a Dialog for Welcoming and Boldly Serving Those in Need*

**March 2, 2018 (Washington, DC):** Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) last night, culminated its 100<sup>th</sup> year of community service at *Passport to the World*, an exclusive event celebrating the diversity, hopes and dreams of the DC community. Held at the stunning, American Institute of Architects building, the event attracted hundreds of LSS/NCA supporters and partners, as well as a rich diversity of those interested in standing up for those served daily by LSS/NCA, including refugees, immigrants, foster care and adoptive families and those marginalized and stigmatized by society.

*Passport to the World* comes at a time when those served by LSS/NCA, in particular refugees and immigrants are once again in the political spotlight. The event served 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.

“Despite attempts to cast refugees and immigrants as negatively impacting our society, we know better,” explains Christine Connell, Chief Executive Officer of LSS/NCA. “*Passport to the World* was our opportunity to celebrate the diversity that makes us a more tolerant, understanding and diverse society. We stand boldly with those who came before us and in solidarity with those who will take us into our next century of service.”

In 2017, LSS/NCA helped more than 1,600 refugee and immigrant families settle into their new country, finding new homes and employment and providing much needed services and support. The organization also 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.

(more)

Passport to the World attracted more than 200 guests and supporters of the LSS/NCA mission, including notable area leaders and personalities, such as: Ambassador Anne Derse, Ambassador Daniel Speckhard, the Honorable Steny Hoyer, the Honorable Vincent Gray, and Diane Rehm.

*(Photos available upon request)*

### **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 Family and Community Services and Refugee & Immigrant Services. LSS/NCA does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, age, race, creed, gender, or sexual orientation.*

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