



**LUTHERAN**  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
National Capital Area

Contact: Summer Parrish  
[ParrishS@LssNca.org](mailto:ParrishS@LssNca.org); (703)698-5026 x138

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **LSS/NCA CEO Announces Departure**

*Melissa Graves Will Step Down at End of 2015 after Nine Years as CEO*

Washington, DC—CEO of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) Melissa Graves announced she will leave the organization at the end of 2015.

“After nearly 15 years with LSS/NCA—nine years as CEO—it’s time for me to turn the reigns over to our senior leadership team and for a new CEO to continue LSS/NCA’s legacy of service and compassion,” Graves said in a statement to donors and funders.

Since becoming CEO in 2006, Graves

- successfully grew the programs and services offered, increasing the nonprofit’s revenue by 43% and diversifying its funding stream;
- chartered three consecutive strategic plans, a first for the human service organization;
- led the nonprofit through a revitalization of mission, vision, and values; and
- developed a major donor program that launched a multi-million dollar fundraising campaign to celebrate the organization’s centennial.

“Melissa’s leadership and vision will surely be missed,” said Board Chair Nels Hendrickson. “But, she has positioned LSS/NCA to lead our community into the next century through service. We have a firm financial foundation, a passion for serving our neighbors, and a steady focus on the horizon toward our future.”

Founded in 1917, LSS/NCA serves more than 2,000 children and families annually throughout the Greater Washington, DC Region through intense services that strengthen families, rebuild lives, and mobilize communities. Programs include Adoption & Foster Care, Caregiver Support, Refugee & Immigrant Services, and Youth Haven Camps & Retreats for families affected by HIV/AIDS.

The organization has hired Diversified Search to conduct a national search for Ms. Graves’ replacement.

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PHOTO: Melissa Graves, LSS/NCA CEO

**Main Office**  
4406 Georgia Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
p 202 723 3000  
f 202 723 3303

**Baltimore/  
Central Maryland**  
3516 Eastern Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
p 410 558 3168  
f 410 327 1941

**Montgomery/  
Prince George’s**  
8719 Colesville Rd  
Third Floor  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
p 301 562 8633  
f 301 562 8585

**Northern Virginia**  
7401 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22043  
p 703 698 5026  
f 703 698 7121

United Way #8146  
CFC #78343  
[www.lssnca.org](http://www.lssnca.org)