



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)
Receives Alexandria's Community Valor Award
for its contribution to the wellbeing of Alexandrians**

Washington, D.C. (June 1, 2023) - Today, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) received the Alexandria (Va.) Chamber of Commerce's Community Valor Award.

The Community Valor Award began during COVID-19 pandemic in recognition of businesses and individuals beyond first responders who make considerable contributions to the wellbeing of Alexandrians.

"We are honored to receive the Community Valor Award from the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and congratulate our co-awardees. We know that this would not have been possible without the support of fellow Alexandrians and Northern Virginians," said LSSNCA CEO Kristyn Peck. "The refugee and immigration paradigm continues to shift, and we never want to turn someone away from receiving services because they're at the wrong phase in their migration journey. With the support of our community, people forced to flee violence and persecution are welcomed and their needs are addressed," she continued.

Grateful for the Alexandria community, Peck notes that "together, we facilitate access to women's empowerment workshops, job readiness programs, low or pro bono legal and medical services, and mental health services to process their trauma and rebuild resilience. Together we're building long-term relationships with the community, and an inclusive community of well-being where people thrive. We're proud to have the support of the Alexandria community in doing so."

LSSNCA received this award in recognition of the exemplary efforts performed to resettle asylum-seekers, provide mental health support to survivors of trafficking, hosting legal workshops for Afghan Allies, and providing dedicated employment training programs to strengthen the regional workforce. The award also recognizes LSSNCA's new Resource Center which has served more than 1,000 individuals since opening in January 2023. The Resource Center serves as a community hub and source for essentials needs, community, and programming as families make Northern Virginia their new home.

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About Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA): Since 1917, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) has accompanied those in need throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the Washington D.C. metro area to foster resiliency, self-sufficiency, and access to opportunities by creating, connecting with, and engaging welcoming communities. In 2022, LSSNCA provided services to more than 6,500 individuals from more than 48 countries.

Motivated daily by the belief in the inherent dignity of all, LSSNCA's innovative participant-informed programs serve refugees, forced migrants, immigrants, children and youth, and underserved communities by filling in the gaps. Piloting initiatives like the area's first camp for kids impacted by the HIV/AIDS crisis, originating local pro se asylum workshops for Afghan Allies, launching a Resource Center to serve as a community hub for all recently arrived program participants, and backing an array of ongoing mental health support services, alongside community partners, LSSNCA strives to create an inclusive community of well-being where people thrive.

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