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**LIBERTY LUTHERAN SERVICES TO TEST AGING, CAREGIVING MODELS**

**PHILADELPHIA, PA (JANUARY 31, 2008)** – Luanne B. Fisher, President and CEO of Liberty Lutheran Services (LLS), is pleased to announce that Liberty was chosen to participate in a coalition of Lutheran organizations to launch a one-year pilot project to address aging and caregiving issues. The Aging in Community Initiative will build new models for in-home, non-medical care for aging individuals, and also support in-home caregivers. The collaboration includes Lutheran Services in America (LSA), 14 Lutheran social ministry organizations across the nation, and the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation.

The initiative utilizes an “open source” approach to distill best practices from current programs being used by social ministry organizations in their services to the aging and caregivers. By bringing the organizations together to learn from each other, the initiative seeks to develop and test new hybrid models that result in individuals remaining in their homes longer and caregivers feeling less burdened.

“Liberty’s selection for participation in this initiative is a great honor. Our experience with Caregiver Circles, a support and educational outreach program started in 2004, has given us many valuable insights about the many challenges for caregivers. The initiative will be developed and managed by our in-home service, Liberty at Home, and will give us the opportunity to enhance the Caregiver Circles and offer caregiver training and day respite services,” stated Fisher.

Liberty at Home, one of six affiliates of LLS, provides non-medical services to older adults who choose to remain living at home. Services are tailored to meet individual needs, including housekeeping, meal preparation, transportation, and personal care services. By supporting seniors in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Liberty at Home provides a necessary benefit to a rapidly growing elder population. To learn more about Liberty at Home, please call 215-643-6496 or 610-566-3791 or visit [www.libertyathome.org](http://www.libertyathome.org).

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