



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEST PHILADELPHIA SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER RECEIVES \$45,000 GRANT

W.W. Smith Charitable Trust funds to benefit seniors in Philadelphia

Philadelphia, PA., Apr. 19, 2018 – Lutheran Children and Family Service (LCFS) today announces the receipt of a \$45,000 grant from W. W. Smith Charitable Trust. These funds will be used to identify and serve the elderly population of Philadelphia through LCFS’s West Philadelphia Senior Community Center (WPSCC) and growing In-Home Support Program (IHSP).

“WPSCC & ISHP will use the funds to implement the *Emergency Food and Shelter for Philadelphia Seniors* project to accommodate seniors in need,” said Rose Richardson, executive director of WPSCC. “Through this program, we will enable over 1,000 residents of Philadelphia to meet basic needs by supporting their nutritional, social, health and housing needs.”

Projects funded by the grant will include:

- LCFS will distribute nearly 800 emergency food vouchers with a value of \$25 to needy elderly in the community.
- WPSCC will host a variety of workshops about the dietary needs of the elderly, nutritious food preparation techniques, local sources of fresh and affordable foods and more.
- LCFS will distribute nearly 60 shelter vouchers in the form of checks, which are written directly to utility/oil companies, landlords or mortgage companies, and/or contractors or service providers so that home owners can remain safely in their own residences.
- Volunteers will create and distribute approximately 400 “breakfast bags” filled with healthy food items to needy homebound elderly in the community.

LCFS’s In-Home Support program engages homebound residents of West Philadelphia age 60 or better who are unable to access WPSCC and who have severe physical, economic and social needs. The mission is to promote independence, prevent further decline and help older adults regain control of their life and surroundings. In 2017, IHSP served 932 homebound seniors over age 60 in West Philadelphia by offering home-delivered meals, providing transportation, assisting with household tasks, counseling clients on accessing benefits and entitlements and more.

W. W. Smith Charitable Trust is a private foundation established by William Wikoff Smith in 1977 to make grants in the Greater Philadelphia region to support basic needs, higher education scholarships, maritime heritage, and medical research primarily for Heart Disease, Cancer and AIDS.

“We are grateful to the W. W. Smith Charitable Trust in that they acknowledge that the basic needs of the elderly are critically important to those served in the Philadelphia area,” said Richardson. “Together we will help empower individuals who are looking for hope in regaining their independence and way of life.”



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About the West Philadelphia Senior Community Center

The West Philadelphia Senior Community Center (WPSCC) improves the lives of 4,000 older adults through social services, initiatives that help to remediate food insecurity and poor nutrition, outreach to homebound seniors, support groups, and fitness and life enrichment programs. WPSCC is managed by LCFS, a member of the Liberty Lutheran family of services, with funds from the Philadelphia Corporation of Aging and the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. For more information, visit westphilaseniorcenter.org.