



# Lutheran Family Services

## Media Release

### **Fundraiser Supports Pottawattamie County's Youngest Residents**

*Popular basket auction supports growing programs for children & families*

October 10, 2011 (Council Bluffs, IA) – Children in Pottawattamie County – birth to age five -- will be the beneficiaries of the upcoming “**Wicker & Wine Basket Auction.**”

Mike and Marie Knedler are the honorary chairs of the 2011 event, which will be held at the Mid-America Center on Thursday, October 27. The evening features both live and silent auctions, cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres. Guests will hear about the work of the Center via a brief video presentation.

**The Pottawattamie County Center for Healthy Families** serves over 500 preschool children, babies and their families every year. The Center's mission is providing early intervention and prevention programs to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect. In addition to a vibrant incentive program (The Boutique Store), the Center offers federally-accredited parenting classes and early childhood mental health therapies.

**Also new in 2011:** the addition of RSafe therapies at the Pottawattamie County Center. Thanks to a grant from Promise Partners, the highly successful sexual abuse treatment program is now available in Council Bluffs. RSafe breaks destructive cycles by providing a unique continuum of care to families healing from sexual abuse. It has been shown that with treatment, repeat offenses drop dramatically. Since the program's inception over ten years ago, RSafe has a 0 to 1% recidivism rate.

In 2010, the Pottawattamie County Center for Healthy Families served:

- 448 families (60% with income below \$20,000/yr)
- 524 children ages five and under
- 90 pregnant mothers

All Center programs are made possible through the generosity of community donations and support. Alegent Health/Mercy Hospital is the premiere sponsor of this year's Wicker & Wine Basket Auction.

**Tickets to the Wicker & Wine event are \$35 and available at [www.lfsneb.org](http://www.lfsneb.org) through October 26. They can be purchased at the door for \$40. The event is Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm to 7:30pm at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs. Attendees should be at least 21 years old.**

**Lutheran Family Services** is a community-based organization which impacts over 35,000 individuals annually, from 31 offices in 18 cities in the areas of behavioral health, children services and community services.

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*Building and Strengthening Families*