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## **Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Statement on the Marquette University President's Challenge**

WEST ALLIS, Wis. (Jan. 23, 2019) [Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan](#) (LSS) is proud of its participation in the Marquette University President's Challenge. LSS's new School-Centered Mental Health (SCMH) program was submitted for consideration in the Challenge. The SCMH program is currently being piloted in collaboration with the [United Community Center](#) (UCC) at Bruce Guadalupe Community Schools and Acosta Middle School. Please see below for a statement from Héctor Cólón, President and CEO of LSS.

"Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan congratulates The Next Step Clinic team on their success with the Marquette University President Challenge. I want to extend my gratitude to President Mike Lovell for the incredible opportunity to participate in the Challenge. Marquette provided a tremendous amount of support and we are proud of the work we accomplished. We find great value in the opportunity to co-create solutions with our community and work toward change through collaborative efforts like the President's Challenge. We are also grateful to our research partners from Marquette for their support along the way. LSS learned so much through our involvement in this process and developed strong partnerships that will continue into the future. We look forward to working alongside the Partners of Change committee created through this process to provide even greater access to mental health support for the children and families of our local Milwaukee community and throughout the state.

"Our mission at LSS is to act compassionately, serve humbly and lead courageously. We believe in the strength of our school-centered mental health model, and we're already seeing positive results from our pilot program with UCC. We hope to identify additional sources of funding to ensure this program is positioned to grow in the future, allowing us to serve even more students and families in the community."

### ***About Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.***

Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan strives to build healthy communities filled with people using their God-given gifts to serve. For more than 100 years, this has been our goal. At LSS we value compassion, co-creation, change and courage, instilling these core values in every community and residential program we offer. We believe in the infinite worth of every individual and because of this we are committed to the growth and empowerment of others. To learn more about how LSS acts compassionately, serves humbly and leads courageously, visit [www.LSSwis.org](http://www.LSSwis.org).

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