

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois to separate from the Diocese of Belleville; Will become Christian Social Services of Illinois.

Catholic Social Services, incorporated in 1947 as Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Belleville, will separate from The Catholic Diocese of Belleville. This action is being taken so that the agency, which will be known as Christian Social Services of Illinois, may adhere to the new State of Illinois *Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act*.

Gary Huelsmann, Executive Director, states, "This solution is what is best for the children by providing for their continuity of care and allowing for the retention of the caring, dedicated and professional staff employed by the agency."

Christian Social Services of Illinois will also continue to provide high quality services within its other programs: residential treatment care for children, residential care for the aged, daycare, its Senior Employment program, clinical counseling services, pregnancy care and adoption services.

Christian Social Services of Illinois has offices in five communities in Southern Illinois: Belleville, Carbondale, Mt. Carmel, Mt. Vernon and Olney, and there currently are 187 employees serving approximately 2,000 clients each year.

"As Christian Social Services begins, its leadership requests prayers and support from the entire Southern Illinois community in responding to the many needs of the individuals and families located in some of the most economically depressed regions of the State of Illinois. Christian Social Services hopes that people of all backgrounds and faiths will assist it in providing services to the most vulnerable in our society" said Huelsmann.

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