

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Margaret Hawkins

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Organizations and Agencies –*  
*Central Illinois Charities Oral History project*

Interview # OC-A-L-2020-012

Margaret Hawkins, a staff member for the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' Storybook Project, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Organizations and Agencies – Central Illinois Charities Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 1, 2020      Location: Lutheran Social Services of Illinois office,  
Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Linda Rice, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1:14 / 1.23 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 2, 2021.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Transcript being  
processed

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## Abstract

Margaret Hawkins, *Central IL Charities*, OC-A-L-2020-012

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Margaret Hawkins was born in 1949 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She moved to Illinois when she married, and in 1997 began working with the Storybook Project when the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois program opened up to women. Originally, only men could participate in the program.

More than 50,000 children throughout Illinois have received recordings and books thanks to the Storybook Project. Incarcerated parents choose a donated book and volunteers record them reading the book from prison, while encouraging the parent to end with a special message of love and support. A package with the book and the CD recording is mailed to the children so they may read along. Since this is the only connection many children have with their parent, it is common to hear about them sleeping with the CDs under their pillows. Although not fully funded by LSSI, many Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) churches throughout central Illinois donate funds and/or books. The books cannot have any mechanical component or handwritten message, so Ms. Hawkins must screen each book individually before it can be used in the program. Sixteen prisons and jails, from Statesville Correctional Center in Joliet to Jackson County Jail in southern Illinois, participate in the Storybook Project.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Lutheran Social Services of Illinois; Storybook Project; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); prison ministries.

**Notes to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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