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Opening Doors to Extraordinary Lives

**A Member of Lutheran
Services in America ▪**

For Immediate Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOSAIC ANNOUNCES NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM IN TANZANIA, AFRICA

OMAHA, Neb. – February 21, 2008 – Mosaic and its partners are improving the quality of lives of children with disabilities and their families in Moshi, Tanzania. Mosaic has partnered with the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, a companion synod of the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) and an international alliance called IMPACT for this innovative project.

The project, titled “Building a Caring Community,” seeks to empower women through training and employment, develop community-based supports for children with disabilities and their families, and establish neighborhood centers where children receive services in an integrated setting. Families will also receive in-home support and respite supports so they can become employed outside the home. The program has already begun with three local parish centers and will grow to eight within the next three years.

Moshi is a region of Africa of extreme poverty and few opportunities for families, especially for women who have children with disabilities. The devastation due to poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa has prompted a need for change. Linda Timmons, Mosaic President, states, “Mosaic’s founders had a vision for positively impacting the lives of people with disabilities through loving service to others. We have the privilege of keeping this vision alive as Mosaic supports the development of much needed services and supports throughout the world.”

Rich Carman, Senior Vice President of Public Policy and International Development, along with several other Mosaic employees and donors, are currently returning from Tanzania, Africa where they have been conducting observations at family homes and centers and providing respite, intervention and occupational training. They will be available for interviews early next week.

Mosaic provides individualized services, living options, work choices, spiritual nurture and advocacy to people with disabilities in more than 250 communities across 14 states and Great Britain. Mosaic is an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a recognized service organization of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and a member of Lutheran Services in America. Mosaic is a 501(c)(3) organization.