

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Michelle Yadoo
Marketing Communications Coordinator
(516) 922-4100, ext. 231

19 September 2012

Mill Neck Foundation Appoints Rev. Thomas Dunseth as it Looks toward Global Growth

Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry is pleased to announce that Reverend Thomas Dunseth has joined the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf (LFD), a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations. In his role as Associate Director for Deaf Ministry, Rev. Dunseth will assist in expanding the mission of LFD, both here in the States, and internationally.

Rev. Dunseth's appointment four months ago resulted from the Mill Neck Foundation's continual efforts to broaden LFD's ministry to Deaf communities regionally, nationally and at the international level. As a worldwide organization already operating in several global areas, including Africa, Dr. Mark R. Prowatzke, Ph.D., Mill Neck's Executive Director, sought to extend outreach to regions in Asia, beginning with China.

The Pastor, who speaks and signs Cantonese, was tapped to assist in the efforts in Asia and is currently coordinating the translation of Mill Neck's Bible Story Project into Chinese. These Bible stories, geared toward both hearing and Deaf children, use a combination of written language, expressive artwork and illustrated sign language. Several books (of a planned 12) have been published and all will eventually be translated into other written and sign languages, such as Spanish and Russian, in addition to Chinese. In China, to which he travels about three times a year, Rev. Dunseth is President of the Board at a Deaf school, where some of his duties include giving commencement addresses and overseeing the organization's policies, both internally and externally. He also plans and chairs general meetings.

A pastor since 1993, Rev. Dunseth says he never met a Deaf person until he began his work in the Lutheran mission in Macau, where there was a Concordia School filled with children who were Deaf. When principal and pastor Reverend Louis Jasper retired, Rev. Dunseth began working as the school's chaplain.

The Pastor is looking toward assisting the Mill Neck Foundation with LFD's expansion in Asian regions. "There are many Deaf graduates and students who have no access to a Lutheran church and

the word of God. Our goal is to establish the first LFD Deaf Center in Asia, and help start the church from there. Following the success of this first location, LFD Asia will look for a second location.”

“Over the years, we have given grants to other Christian organizations to do Deaf ministry. We have now decided to reactivate our founding organization, Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, and we’re going to create new projects ourselves,” said Dr. Prowatzke.

A mission of Mill Neck Foundation, Inc., Lutheran Friends of the Deaf provides support for educational and evangelistic outreach to Deaf people of all ages throughout the United States and World. To date, over \$7,000,000 has been granted to a variety of church-related ministries here and abroad. Mill Neck Foundation, Inc. and Lutheran Friends of the Deaf are part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, a not-for-profit group dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are Deaf, or who have other special needs, through excellence in individually designed educational, vocational or spiritual programs and services. For more information, please call 1-800-264-0662 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.



Photo Caption:

- 1) Rev. Thomas Dunseth (right) and Rev. S.R. Schumacher, Director of Deaf Ministry for the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, visit the Mill Neck campus.

-###-