

A night sky with a bright starburst in the upper right, casting rays of light. A silhouette of a person sitting on a chair is visible in the lower right, positioned behind the letter 'C' of the word 'PEACE'. The word 'PEACE' is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

PEACE

O N E A R T H

"I am the Light of the world" John 8:12

Advent is a season in which to celebrate the Messiah's birth,
and the hope it provides to all who believe.

Jesus described it this way:

“I am the Light of the world.

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,

but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12

Every day of the year, Lutheran Social Services of Southern California encounters men, women and children who are struggling in darkness. Their circumstances differ, but they share the same reality: they don't know what to do, or where to turn.

For over 70 years, LSS has offered people a way out of the darkness and into the light. It can be as simple as a bag of groceries, or as complicated as intensive behavioral therapy. We could not provide this assistance to our sisters and brothers in Christ without your financial support.

Your gifts are turned into light in so many incredible ways. The two client stories inside this card reveal how important your support really is. Please make your gift today and help LSS to continue Gods work supporting those who are in need of a little bit of Christmas hope.

Merry Christmas
The Board, Staff and Clients of Lutheran Social Services

Over a period of twelve months, Lutheran Social Services serves 50,000 unduplicated clients throughout our many locations across Southern California.

We Embrace, Equip and Empower people living on the fringe of society, individuals who can see the abundance throughout their communities, but who have not discovered it for themselves.

Jesus came to redeem everyone. In service to Him, LSS reaches out to the least, the last and the lost, in order to share with them “the Light of the world.”



Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

Community
Care Centers

Social
Services

Central City
Lutheran Mission

Southern
California
Foundation

Embrace

Equip

Empower

Orange County

(714) 534-6450

South Bay/Long Beach

(562) 599-1321

Riverside County

(951) 689-7847

San Bernardino County

(909) 866 5070

**San Bernardino City/
Central City Lutheran Mission**

(909) 381-6921

San Diego County

SD@LSSSC.org

San Fernando Valley

(818) 901-9480

San Gabriel Valley/Avanti

(626) 564-0191

Ventura County

(805) 497-6207

2101 E 4th Street 240A, Santa Ana, CA 92705 877-577-7267 info@LSSSC.org

LSSCommunityCare.org

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California assisted these two client families in 2016. Both families encountered a crisis and turned to LSS in need. As a result, they were able to turn away from the darkness that haunted them, and were touched by the light of Christ's love.



Barbara first came to LSS as a victim of domestic violence. Her husband was physically abusive, and in a moment of rage, literally banged her body on the floor. Had the police not arrived when they did, she might have been killed.

Barbara suffered from chronic mental illness, including severe depression and anxiety. She was estranged from her adult son, which made matters even worse. LSS treated her for more than eight years. We provided psychotherapy, arranged visits to her physician and offered very intense case management.

Over time, Barbara was able to address her own issues, and the scars from her physical abuse began to heal. This past year she had a bilateral mastectomy for cancer, which involved serious complications. But our staff stayed close to her through every crisis she faced.

She often refers to our LSS staff as her "family," and the only support system she has. Barbara is now cancer-free and mentally stable. She is able to function in the community, and for the first time in a long while, she is facing the future with new hope.

LSS has many clients with emotional and mental struggles, but they do not have the finances to seek professional help. Your financial support helps us provide emotional support that otherwise would not be a possibility.

Raymond and Mary moved to Southern California for his employment. They have four children, three in elementary school and the other 15 months old.

They came to LSS the first time in July, requesting emergency assistance with food, clothing, hygiene and baby items. We provided them with a one-night emergency stay in a hotel on August 1st and a \$25 gas card to assist with transportation. They were living in their car after spending all their cash on motels. Raymond's first employment check did not arrive until August 5th, that was why he came to us. He was determined to provide for and protect his family.



Our Back to School Workshop gave the older children school supplies. LSS referred the family to SPIN & Families Forward, two programs that assist with obtaining permanent housing, and having the necessary funds for the move-in expense. We also scheduled them to meet with an agency that helped them apply for a second phone. The children came to the Harvest Festival at St. Olaf Church, and they have been adopted for gifts at Christmas.

LSS encounters many situations like this. The affected individuals work hard, care for their family and seek to be productive citizens. But they are living on the edge, existing from one paycheck to another, and any unexpected event could force them back into their automobile or literally into the street.

With your support, LSS welcomes people struggling in the darkness, because we serve the One who is the Light of the World.

Your financial support of our ministry allows us to extend a love that will never leave, and a peace that nothing on this earth can ever take away.

We pray that God will bless you, and use you as a blessing to others.



My Gift to Make a Difference Make checks payable to LSS. Gifts are deductible from taxable income to the full extent allowable by law.

Direct my gift of: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other _____

Designate my gift to: As needed Other _____

Name (as it appears on credit card): _____

AMEX VISA MASTERCARD CC# _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____ Email _____