

Taking a Walk – Making a Difference

How many times have you said, “I’ve got to run to the store for milk”; or “Hurry to the market; we need bread”? We’ve all spoken those words, but not all people have the finances to make that happen.



2017 WALK to FIGHT POVERTY

BIG BEAR.CANOGA PARK.LONG BEACH.ORANGE COUNTY.PASADENA.RIVERSIDE.SAN BERNARDINO.SAN DIEGO.VENTURA

During October, Lutherans all over Southern California will participate in our **ANNUAL WALK to FIGHT POVERTY**. For over 25 years, Lutheran Social Services has sponsored this walk to underwrite helping poor and marginalized men, women, and children.

LSSSC embraces so many people in countless numbers of ways but an overwhelming majority of our clients first come to us for emergency services. It might be a sack lunch, a hot meal, a bag of groceries, a hygiene kit, a blanket, a warm shower, a washer and dryer to launder their clothes, or gently-used shoes and clean clothing, because they wear on their backs the only clothes they possess.

Emily was a caseworker for LSSSC, earning her Master of Social Work from a local university. In explaining why our presence is important, Emily said, “Before I was a staff member, I was a client. I initially came to LSSSC because there was no food in my pantry.”

Herbert went to prison for burglary. A little cash, and his CDC card, was all he had when he appeared at our door. LSSSC helped him get an ID card, medical attention, and eventually a job to sustain him. But our first encounter was about a place for him to sleep, clothes for him to wear, and food to ease his hunger.

That’s why it is essential for everyone to join our 2017 **ANNUAL WALK to FIGHT POVERTY**.

This year we are making it easier than ever for you to participate:

- **Join in a local area walk near your home or parish.**
- **Host a walk of your own any time in October.**
- **Sponsor a participant(s) in a walk.**
- **Create a virtual walk, in which people can sponsor you through giving online**

\$25 provides one person with a week’s groceries, or new school shoes for three children. Last month, \$50 bought an eye exam for a man living in his car, and passes for five seniors to take the bus to an LSSSC dinner/shelter. This summer \$100 purchased two nights at a motel for a homeless man undergoing treatment for brain cancer, and paid the water bill for a family of five.

You are a faithful LSSSC donor. We are grateful for what you have contributed. But this year, with so many individuals and families struggling simply to keep from falling off the financial cliff, your gifts are essential.

Will you make a gift today that changes emergencies into rescue, and hopelessness into hope?

Your gift to our **ANNUAL WALK to FIGHT POVERTY** will make an immediate difference for almost three million people living under the poverty line in Southern California.

Visit www.lsssc.org/walkathon/ to host a walk in your area or find a walk near you! Contact Debi Groom at dgroom@lsssc.org, for more information, and plan to join us as we **WALK to FIGHT POVERTY**, one step at a time!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Drews".

Ron Drews,
President/CEO Lutheran Social Services



SEPTEMBER 2017

**P.S. Attached is your LSSSC reply slip.
Please check the box for the amount of your gift.
No gift is too small, but please be as generous as possible.
Return the reply slip in the enclosed envelope. Thanks so much!**

Update on LSSSC Canoga Park

The LSSSC Canoga Park lease ends on September 30, but our historic commitment to women, men and children living on the margins of society will continue. We have developed an agreement with the Southwest California Synod to lease space at Sao Pablo Lutheran Church in North Hollywood in order to continue fighting poverty.

- We are seeking a new Area Director for the San Fernando Valley.
- Jan Maseda, former Director of this area, has agreed to assist us during this transition, beginning in October and through the fall, if necessary.
- We are in conversations with several congregations throughout the Valley about the possibility of providing case management and emergency services at their locations.

Our long-range plan is to expand the services we offer, while at the same time moving out closer to the clients we serve.

**To maintain confidentiality, identifying story details, names and pictures are changed*

Thank you for your gift!

Yes! I want to support more opportunity for active listening

Make checks payable to **LSSSC**. Gifts are deductible from taxable income to the full extent allowable by law.

Direct my gift of: \$ _____ _____
 \$ _____ \$ _____ Other \$ _____

Designate my gift to:

As needed CCLM Shelter Other _____

Name (as it appears on credit card)

AMEX VISA MASTERCARD

CC# _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____



Please fill out and enclose this form with your gift in the envelope provided.



S O U T H E R N C A L I F O R N I A

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California
215 N Lemon Unit A
Fullerton, CA 92832

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www.lsssc.org / Toll-Free 1.877.577.7267

Voices  *OF Hope*
SEPTEMBER 2017



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