

Maria supervises the pantry and makes certain all volunteers complete their daily tasks. She runs an efficient program that ensures every client receives personal assistance, and that all of them are treated with dignity and respect.

In August 2006 Maria was diagnosed with cervical cancer, and she underwent chemotherapy treatment. Even with that challenge, she still reported to work every day at LSS. Maria says that because of her medical struggle she has learned to be kinder to all people, and tries always to feel the pain of every person she meets.

Her favorite Biblical passage is Psalm 23:1,  
*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

For 2½ decades Maria has stood faithfully between those who have serious needs, and those who provide significant aid. She is an awesome example of the way in which LSS Community Care has reached out in compassion all over Southern California to embrace God’s children who need both a hand out and a hand up during a downturn in their journey of life.



We are honored and blessed to have Maria Cruz Fernandez as a part of LSS Community Care. She works in our Long Beach Pantry volunteering for ministry, in service to Christ, bringing hope and help to so many of God’s children who have nowhere else to turn.

Not everyone can volunteer, of course. ***But your financial support for our LSS Community Care centers allows Maria and all LSS staff and volunteers to embrace our sisters and brothers in need.*** We have included a response envelope for your convenience. With your gift, Easter can turn despair into hope for many.

God bless you this Holy Season of the year!

Barbara Kokkinakis  
Chair, LSS Community Care Board of Directors



[www.lsscommunitycare.org](http://www.lsscommunitycare.org)

**Here is my support for Lutheran Social Services in Southern CA.**

I would like to make a monthly pledge of \$10 \$25 \$50 \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a one-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to LSS/SC. **See envelope insert to pay by Credit or Debit.** Gifts are tax-deductible

**Please send me information on how I can partner with LSS Community Care.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Opt In: Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Your gift will enable LSS to provide people with tools and knowledge to help end poverty one family at a time, for generations to come. Thank You.**