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**PHONE-A-THON
IN PROGRESS**

From now until August 15th, the LSS Staff will be calling our donors to thank you for all your support, and to confirm that your contact information is correct. (PLEASE LISTEN FOR THEIR CALL)

**LSS CENTRAL OFFICE
HAS A NEW HOME!**

2101 East Fourth Street
Suite 240, Building A
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Phone: 714.685.1800
Fax: 714.619.9217

www.LSSCommunityCare.org

**Central City Lutheran Mission
Merges with LSS Community Care**



On July 1, 2015 Central City Lutheran Mission (CCLM) became part of LSS Community Care. With the support of ELCA Bishops Murray Finck and Guy Erwin, and LCMS President Larry Stoterau, this action will help strengthen the ministry and extend the outreach of both organizations. Located in San Bernardino, CCLM houses up to 70 male residents each night, operates living quarters for several at-risk populations, and provides hot meals, prepared by local churches on a weekly basis, to anyone who is hungry.

In addition, the H Street Medical Clinic is part of the CCLM Ministry, and with the merger, LSS will be able to add Mental Health Care alongside the medical services, thus offering much needed help for a very under-served community. Amy Fawcett, LSS Vice President of Finance and Operations, and Interim Director of CCLM, said: "Through our combined efforts, families will receive much needed health care and support, and the entire community will be strengthened through the holistic health options that are provided for all who walk through the clinic's front door."



A Word from the LSS Board of Directors

The LSS Community Care Board of Directors is excited about the recent merger, noted above, between LSS and CCLM. We thank the CCLM Board of Directors, Senior Management of both organizations, legal counsel, auditors and all others who worked tirelessly to complete the merger without disrupting the daily assistance provided for so many.

With the re-opening of the H Street Clinic and collaboration with Bassett Brown, M.D. and the Central Neighborhood Health Foundation, many people will be impacted more than ever before.

We thank God for the opportunity to work prayerfully and missionally to EMBRACE, EQUIP and EMPOWER those in need, which in turn blesses us all.

Barbara Kokkinakis
Chair, LSS Board of Directors



Dave Burtch

Outgoing Board Chair Dave Burtch holds sculpture of Servant Leadership, a parting gift from the LSS Board of Directors and Senior Staff, in appreciation for the leadership he provided for LSS Community Care.

Our Children Project First Annual Luncheon RAISES \$5,000



Dear Friends of LSS,

WOW! What exciting times we are having at LSS. One of the most exciting items is our merger with Central City Lutheran Mission (CCLM), which you can read all about in this Newsletter, and you can visit www.cclm.org to learn all about the great ministries in the San Bernardino area.

We also have relocated to a new office in Santa Ana. All of our Central Support staff is now headquartered in one place - yeah! **We are having an OPEN HOUSE** (all of you are invited) **on Saturday, August 8th, from 3:00-5:00 PM.** Drop by for some good food, tour our offices, and meet our wonderful staff.

We are re-connecting with our Orange County friends, our churches, schools, pastors and individuals and finding out what their needs are in the OC community, so that we can better meet those needs.

And, we are continuing our services in our other 8 area offices. Thousand Oaks/Ventura County, Canoga Park/San Fernando Valley, Pasadena, Long Beach/South Bay, Riverside, San Diego, San Bernardino and Orange County. There we are all serving families and children, the homeless and the hungry, and all underserved individuals who need assistance.

Our mission statement declares. "Lutheran Social Services of Southern California celebrates the love of Christ for all people through acts of service," and our vision is "that all people will have the opportunity to live and work in a community in safety, dignity and with hope." We are faith based, we have a sense of servanthood, we work towards excellence and innovation, and we exercise good stewardship.

We hope you will continue to join us and work with us as we strive to meet our mission, vision and goals, day in and day out.

Thank you for your support!

Jan Maseda
Interim CEO/President
LSS Community Care



Luncheon Sponsors pictured L to R: George Andrews, Thrivent; Christina Dollar, Freedom Tax Services; Pastor James Harris, Ascension Lutheran Church Youth Group & Ascension Thrivent Loan; Maria Gonzalez, US Bank; Sheila Bath, Advance Disposal; Fritz Durfee, Apple Valley Optimist Club; and Carole Voll, LMFT & Program Director



Over 60 people attended the luncheon held at Ascension Lutheran Church in Apple Valley. This was the first fundraising effort of the newly formed Our Children Project Advisory Council, striving to keep the program doors open and never turn away a child seeking the safety, trust and support of this amazing program.

For more than 25 years, LSS through the Our Children Project, offered a unique group therapy program that helps children, their families, and guardians heal from the devastating effects of sexual abuse. As a therapist helps the children untangle this web of abuse in their groups, the parents and caregivers often support each other and learn new ways to nurture children who have often suffered from long-term trauma in their short lives.

The average age for entry is 5 to 7 years old. Boys and girls are engaged in groups for as long as needed. The goal is to help these children develop their own strength, positive self-worth, healthy personal boundaries, and better communication skills.

Our Children Project **EMBRACES** families struggling with trauma and shame, **EQUIPS** them with the unique tools and support of other victims and their families, and **EMPOWERS** them to change their future

Did You Know...?

Every month throughout six San Bernardino county offices, LSS provides over 400 hours of individual, group therapy, and case management sessions for children, adults, and/or their families.

We also offer 35 classes in the region that help people increase skills in parenting and anger management, and prevent domestic violence and child abuse. Your donations are going to good use every day!

OPEN HOUSE

AT OUR

NEW LSS OFFICE

Saturday August 8, 2015

from 3-5:00 PM.

You are invited!

2101 E. Fourth Street
Suite 240, Building A
Santa Ana, CA 92705



LSS Senior Companion Appreciation Luncheon

On June 23, 2015 the LSS Senior Companion Appreciation Luncheon was held at the Clairemont Lutheran Church in San Diego. The large group, pictured here, enjoyed a very tasty meal and then received gifts and tokens of thanks for the work they do for LSS. These dear people spend time with seniors who are lonely, or who need assistance in other ways. A great occasion...an awesome group!



Fiona Kilner, Area Director, and Judy Vanderbok, Board Member, present awards to some of the volunteers who donate many hours of service each week.

Moving Forward Breakfast

Saturday March 14 was a festive day in Canoga Park. Over 110 people gathered at the Knights of Columbus Hall just across the street from our new LSS location. After a hearty meal, recognition was given to the center's Angels & Super Heroes: 25 men and women who give so much of their time to help LSS provide services to our clients every day.

Patrick Tomlinson was named Volunteer of the Year. Helene and Jeff Halter, Sheryl and Don Lautenschlager and Pastor Paul Shafit were honored as Homeless Community Champions. The Guardian Churches of LSS Canoga Park were also thanked: St. Andrew's, LIFEhouse and Shepherd of the Valley.

Circles Begins in Thousand Oaks

Rachel Lopez
Circles Participant



On April 7 the first LSS Circles class graduated from the initial phase of training and orientation. There were 18 graduates: 6 Leaders (persons living in poverty) and 12 Allies (middle and upper income community members).

Over the next 18 months the Allies will encircle the Leaders, support and encourage them in many ways, and assist in developing a life strategy that will bring the Leaders economic strength and personal fulfillment, and the comfort of knowing they are embraced by a loving and concerned community.

One of the graduates, Rachel Lopez, wrote why she likes Circles:

“Having somebody in my corner supporting and advising me about my life’s objectives is vital to my growth... I wish I had the Circles Group earlier in my life to help me along the way.”

Note: As of August 1, 2015 this project, throughout LSS, will no longer be referred to as "Circles." The work WILL CONTINUE; just not under the Circles USA banner



LSS Central Office
2101 East Fourth Street
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Santa Ana, CA 92705

Walk to Fight Poverty



SAVE THE DATE!! Saturday, October 3rd

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Chula Vista
Registration: 8:00 am
Start Time: 9:00 am

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Hope Lutheran Church
Riverside
Registration: 7:30 am
Start Time: 8:00 am

VENTURA COUNTY

California Lutheran University's Kingsmen Park
Thousand Oaks
Registration: 8:30 am
Start Time: 9:00 am

SOUTH BAY/LONG BEACH

Saint Timothy Lutheran Church
Lakewood
Registration: 9:00 am
Start Time: 10:00 am

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY/CANOGA PARK

LSS Community Care Center
Canoga Park
Registration: 9:00 am
Start Time: 9:30 am

ORANGE COUNTY

Saint Olaf Lutheran Church
Garden Grove
Registration: 8:00 am
Start Time: 9:00 am

Use our "Friends Asking Friends" website (www.lsscommunitycare.org/walkathons/) to register to walk and/or volunteer for this fun event. Once you register, you can create your own web page, and use the easy-to-use email app to get all your friends, family and co-workers to help you raise money for this great cause.