

THE ENTREATY

SUMMER 2016



Ronald S. Drews
PRESIDENT/CEO

What image fills your mind when you hear the word poverty? Is it somebody begging at the street corner, or a homeless individual pushing a grocery cart down the sidewalk? We encounter people like that every day.

But there are other poor individuals who don't get seen in public. As a result, they often fall through the cracks and lose total control of their lives.

Wealthy people have options of every kind. They can purchase what they want, travel where they desire and do whatever they choose. Extremely poor people have very limited options. They can apply for food stamps and other forms of public welfare.

Those caught in the middle – often called the working poor – have no options at all. They earn just enough to disqualify them from government aid, but not enough to care for their family's needs. A disproportionately large number of these individuals are women and children. That's what poverty looks like in Southern California, and as people of faith, we must do something.

From 2009 – 2013, the percentage of California single mother households living below the poverty level increased from 25% to 29%. For single mothers with children under 18 years, the numbers went from 34% to 39%. Single moms with children under 5 years came out even worse: from 36% to 41%. The trend continues each year.

Lutheran Social Services encounters 15,000 different families every year. They come to LSS because they know we will help them with food, clothes (see investment option below **Emergency Provisions**), and also listen to their stories – all of which will be offered with patience and genuine compassion.

Your gift of \$25 provides a woman and her children one bag of groceries (see investment option below **Food Pantry**). It also generates a hope that their lives can have a brighter future than where they are today.

A RECENT STUDY FOUND
BY AGE 4
HIGH-INCOME CHILDREN HAD HEARD
40 MILLION MORE WORDS
THAN POOR CHILDREN

LSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S STRATEGY

EMBRACE

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Serving 50,000 individuals and families with basic needs like food, hot meals, clothing, housing, transportation and more.

EQUIP

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Operating over 50 specialized programs offering training that equips individuals and families with tools and resources that move them toward independence.

EMPOWER

FAMILY SUPPORT INITIATIVE

Surrounding families with the support they need to move out of poverty and initiating changes in the community that result in eliminating barriers leading to economic stability.

INVESTMENT OPTIONS (PLEASE CHECK BOXES)

COUNSELING	PLAY THERAPY	CCLM ROOF TILES	EMERGENCY PROVISIONS	FOOD PANTRY	MOTEL VOUCHERS
\$50 1 HOUR	\$25 1 CHILD	\$50 1 TILE	\$25 2 FAMILIES	\$25 1 BAG	\$75 1 NIGHT
\$100 2 HOURS	\$50 2 CHILDREN	\$100 2 TILES	\$50 4 FAMILIES	\$50 2 BAGS	\$150 2 NIGHTS
\$150 3 HOURS	\$100 4 CHILDREN	\$150 3 TILES	\$100 8 FAMILIES	\$100 4 BAGS	\$225 3 NIGHTS

Number of INVESTMENT OPTIONS Selected _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Thank You

Thank you for your prayers as we continue strengthening lives, families and communities in Southern California.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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: \$5.00 \$10.00
 \$15.00 \$20.00 Other \$ _____

Designated my gift to:

CCLM Roof Tiles As checked on reverse side
 As needed Other _____

Name (as it appears on credit card)

AMEX VISA MASTERCARD

CC# _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____



www.LSSCommunityCare.org Toll-Free Number: (877) 577-7267



Lutheran Social Services of Southern California
2101 E. 4th St Ste 240A
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Save the Date!!!

Saturday, October 1, 2016

WALK
to FIGHT POVERTY

Orange County Saint Olaf L.C., Garden Grove
San Bernardino County SBHS, San Bernardino
San Fernando Valley LIFEhouse L.C., Northridge
Riverside County Hope L.C., Riverside
South Bay Gloria Dei L.C., Long Beach
Ventura County CLU, Thousand Oaks

www.LSSCommunityCare.org/walkathons/



A Family Reunited

Carla's life had consisted of one disaster after another. She grew up in foster care, and struggled with mental health issues beginning in early childhood. By the time she was 35, she had four children between the ages of 4 and 10, all of who had special mental health needs. She couldn't find a job, and if she had, there was no one who could assist her with the children.

She met with a counselor (see investment option on other side **Counseling**) from **Lutheran Social Services**. Our staff member listened to her as a trained therapist, but also as a mother. Carla worked with the **LSS** behavioral staff for 3 ½ years. The process was slow, and often painful, but she persisted. So did **LSS**.

Eventually, Carla found part-time employment, the children were in school and the entire family started moving out of a world filled with chaos to a life punctuated with order, meaning and hope.

People like Carla come to **Lutheran Social Services** because they have nowhere else to go. Your faithful support of our programs will enable our doors to remain open for people like Carla, who can't break the cycle of poverty by themselves.

EXTREME POVERTY CAN PRODUCE TOXIC STRESS THAT LITERALLY RE-WIRES A CHILD'S BRAIN, AND NEGATIVELY IMPACTS THE BRAIN'S FUNCTIONING FOR LIFE

