Mr. O is a 41-year-old Hispanic male who came into our LSS office in Garden Grove last April. For the first time in his life, he was homeless, which made him depressed and overwhelmed with a sense of hopelessness. He asked for food and clothing, and inquired if we could help him pay his monthly storage bill. Never having experienced this kind of need, he really did not know where else to turn. Everything he owned was in a storage unit, and without payment of rent, his belongings would be sold at auction. He didn't have much, but what he still possessed, he wanted to keep. We helped him pay for the month, and provided him with food and clean clothing. We actively listened to his story and the trauma he was facing. Homeless people are often stared at, but seldom are they listened to; that’s what LSS does with everyone we encounter.

As a way of saying “Thank you,” Mr. O decided to come the following week, to volunteer. He also began meeting weekly with our social worker. Through case management (see Investment Options), he started addressing his situation and developing a plan to move beyond it. We referred him to the One Stop Center for weekly updates on job openings. We helped him write his resume and discussed strategies he might use to work through some of his barriers to employment. We gave him a 30-day bus pass so he could go to his job interviews, and a one-night emergency motel voucher (see Investment Options) to provide him a clean place to sleep for the evening, so he would be rested for his job interview the next day. Throughout his case management he continued to volunteer every week. We wrote a letter of recommendation to assist him with his employment endeavors. Out of appreciation, he began working odd jobs around the church, and eventually found employment at Wal-Mart in June.

That same month, one of our LSS volunteers offered to rent him a room. Finally, Mr. O was off the street and gainfully employed. He continues to volunteer weekly, and has built a mutual relationship of trust with St. Olaf, where he finds numerous ways to assist the parish every week. Mr. O is on his feet again, but regularly taking time to help others. Our support has brought him to a place where he wants to help those facing similar circumstances. He is paying compassion forward to encourage those still lost in hopelessness.

You may never meet this gentleman, but your support helped him reclaim his life. Please make your gift today so that others can reclaim their lives. We can’t do it without you. Thank you for your generous support.

**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)**

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<tr>
<th>WALK-A-THON SPONSOR</th>
<th>CASE MANAGEMENT</th>
<th>PLAY THERAPY</th>
<th>CCLM ROOF TILES</th>
<th>FOOD PANTRY</th>
<th>MOTEL VOUCHERS</th>
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Number of INVESTMENT OPTIONS Selected: [ ] TOTAL $ [ ]
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: □ $ __________ □ $__________
□ $ __________ □ $ __________ □ Other $__________

Designated my gift to:
□ As needed □ As checked on reverse side
□ Other

______________________________
Name (as it appears on credit card)

□ AMEX □ VISA □ MASTERCARD
CC#__________________________ Exp.________________
Signature_____________________

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

LSS
Southern California 70th
Lutheran Social Services of Southern California
2101 E. 4th St Ste 240A
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Save the Dates!!!
Oct. 1-31 Walk to Fight Poverty
www.lsscommunitycare.org/walkathons/
Oct. 14-16 WELCA-SW CA. Convention
Grand Vista Hotel, Sini Valley
Oct. 17-21 Quilt Ingatherings
For pick up contact OC@LSSCommunity Care.org
Oct. 23 Rev. Bishop Andrew A. Taylor’s Installation
Hope IC, Palm Desert
Nov. 4-5 WELCA-Pacifica Convention
Bethlehem, Los Alamitos
Nov. 5 The President’s Awards
The Grand, Long Beach
Dec. 3 The President’s Awards
CLU, Thousand Oaks

Sharing a Meal

Food plays an enormous role in everybody’s life, beyond being just substance that keeps our bodies alive. Every major event in society is accompanied by food: joyful times like weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, civic celebrations, and also in traumatic times. When people come together they share a meal; it’s part of the fabric that keeps society together.

Despite the wealth of our nation and the abundance throughout the Golden State, many individuals in Southern California don’t have enough food to eat. Lutheran Social Services of Southern California has provided pantries filled with food for over seven decades. Jesus is the Bread of Life, and as His disciples we are called to provide bread for life every day of the week.

There is a related need that is not as visible, but very much as real. Many people are food-insecure. Los Angeles County has the largest food-insecurity population in the U.S. and also has the largest number of food-insecure children. Some are hardworking citizens who don’t earn adequate funds to purchase everything necessary for their families to eat.

On the next page you will read a story about a man who came to LSS just because he was hungry. He was embraced in compassion, and equipped to join the workforce. He is now in the process of empowering his life with purpose, and pursuing his dreams with courage. Your financial support of $100 provides a family healthy food for a week and helps LSS reach its goal to offer this kind of life-changing assistance to anybody who walks through our door.

In Christ,
Ron Drews
PRESIDENT/CEO