

Voices OF Hope

FEBRUARY 2017




Dear Friend,

Moving from the outside in: That's what your support enables Lutheran Social Services of Southern California to do. For over 70 years, in service to Christ, we have gone out to God's children who are struggling, but who often go unnoticed, and brought them into our family of faith.

We are especially grateful for your donations in 2016. They allowed LSS to turn dollars into dinners, groceries into grace, clothing into compassion, and blankets into blessings. I appreciate so much that you partnered with us last year, and pray you will re-commit your financial support for 2017. Young women like Areana need help in desperate situations.

She dropped out of school in the 11th grade because she was pregnant. She and her boyfriend, later her husband, moved into her parent's home. He worked in an auto shop and at odd jobs. They paid a modest rent, but were always short at the end of the month.

After a few years, Areana, now 21 years old, had two sons, no high school diploma, and the father of her boys was not able to earn enough to support the family. She didn't know what the future held for her, and her life felt totally out of control. That's when she came to LSS.

Our staff social worker calmed her down and focused on her immediate needs. There was no food in the pantry and they were not able to pay the electric bill. After getting the young mother in a better frame of mind, LSS then gave her food and paid the electric bill for three months.

Areana said about that assistance: "That may not sound impressive to you, but it felt like a miracle to me. With electricity the milk could stay cold, the food fresh, and there were enough groceries to keep our stomachs full."

About that time, Areana left her husband because of his drinking and abuse. Then, six months later, he was deported, leaving her as a single mother with two young children. She received some money each month from her ex-father-in-law, and she rented her living room to a single woman who needed a place to stay, but Areana was the one ultimately responsible for everything.

Through all these challenges, Areana encountered a level of concern and empathy she had never known. She was at such peace with our staff that she confessed to an LSS female social worker, for the first time ever, that a family member had molested her when she was only nine years old. Areana came to our Community Care Center for food, and help with the electric bill, but over time, she received so much more.

Areana plans to secure a GED and find employment to support her children. It is not clear what the future holds for her family, but without the love, patience and concern from LSS, a future would not have been possible.

Areana said it best, "Lutheran Social Services feels like a family to me, and also to the children. They bring flowers to their LSS 'Grandmother,' and feel as if they are all part of the same loving family."

I am so touched by Areana's story, and proud of the many ways LSS reaches out and serves those in greatest need. But we cannot do it alone. Situations like this occur on a regular basis, and without your financial support today, some of God's children will be overlooked.

Will you contribute today, so that people who fear their lives are almost over, will find the help they crave, and the hope they need?

Areana's story shows the impact you are having in the lives of people you will never meet. Thank you for the way you care.

In Christ's Service,



Ron Drews, President/CEO



P.S. Attached is your LSS reply slip. Please check the box for the amount of your gift. No gift is too small, but we hope you will be as generous as possible. Return the reply slip in the enclosed envelope. Thank you, and God bless you.



I want to provide a gift by:

- Check** made payable to LSSSC: \$ _____
- Credit Card** in the amount of: \$ _____
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Name as it appears on card

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Exp. Date

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Planned gifts to help ensure that LSS's mission continues for many years to come. Please send me information on;

- How to make a gift through my will
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Visit us at: www.LSSCommunityCare.org for more on how we help people in need.

Thank you for your gift!
Yes! I want to inspire hope in the lives of others. Enclosed is my gift of:

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