

Voices OF Hope

MARCH 2017

Areana didn't know what the future held for her, and her life felt totally out of control.



Dear Friend,

Reaching out in **Love**.

That's what your support of Lutheran Social Services of Southern California does for men, women and children who feel trapped in a challenging situation, and who don't see a way to get out of what has happened to them.

We are so grateful for your loyal support, and we appreciate the genuine compassion you have for those sisters and brothers in Christ who are struggling in crisis. Your donations impact our clients in their most desperate moments, and remind them they are not alone in their need. That is exactly what happened to Juanita (not her real name).

She and her husband Carlos came together to the United States from Mexico, five years ago. They brought their four children with them: three boys, ages 10-15, and a little six-year-old girl. Juanita's husband worked very hard, and both parents tried to raise the children to be good people, who do what is right and help others any way they can.

Even though they would be considered poor by American standards, they lived a comfortable life, and were happy together as a family. Juanita took care of the children at home, and Carlos worked hard in the fields every day. He took on side jobs during the weekends because he wanted his family to have a better life.

Early one morning, while on his way to work, Carlos was pulled over for a traffic violation. He was taken into custody because of his "undocumented" status, and was eventually deported. For two full weeks Juanita had no idea where Carlos was, or what had happened to him. She was terrified, and didn't know what to do or where to turn.

A staff member at her son's school suggested Juanita contact LSS. She did, and that is when life, for the five of them began a journey from fear to hope, and from feeling abandoned to being loved.

Juanita found work at a local factory, earning minimum wage. She was able to pay for about 27 or 28 nights of each month, in the same motel. But the money always ended before each month did.

LSS could not afford to pay the motel fees for the last couple of days, but our staff found churches or individuals to help her cover those costs. Without these emergency services support, Juanita and her children would have been forced to live in their car.

LSS stayed close to this family, and assisted with their struggles in many ways: providing school supplies and backpacks for the children to start school, bringing food, and purchasing school shoes for each of the children. They were also "adopted" at Christmas and on other holidays.

"Every mother and father wants the best for their children, and that is what Carlos and I were trying to accomplish. But suddenly, our family broke apart. This has been the darkest time I have ever lived through, but LSS has been there every day for me. Even in the darkness, they keep pointing my children and me toward the light."

We welcome the opportunity to serve in Christ's name, embracing and equipping our clients, and in the process helping them discover ways they can empower themselves, regardless of what their struggles might be. But for us to continue offering to many others what we did for Juanita and her children, your financial support is essential.

Will you make a gift today and help us reach out in love to someone who feels that he or she is forgotten?

Juanita's story, like so many others, shows the difference your donated dollars make in the lives of people just struggling to make it through the day. I appreciate the support you have provided to LSS over the years, and hope you will continue to work alongside us. Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting our work.

Sincerely,

Ron Drews
President/CEO

LSS Southern
California
Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

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

Please take five minutes to make a difference today...

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

As a member of our community, you are an essential part of what we do. *Together we served over 40,000 clients in the last year.* Surveys like these help us improve our relationships and stay connected with you, our valued stakeholders. Your opinion matters, please take a moment to share your thoughts today!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LSSValues>

Thank you for your gift!

Yes! I want to inspire hope
in the lives of others.

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 Other _____

Name (as it appears on credit card)

AMEX VISA MASTERCARD

CC# _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____



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

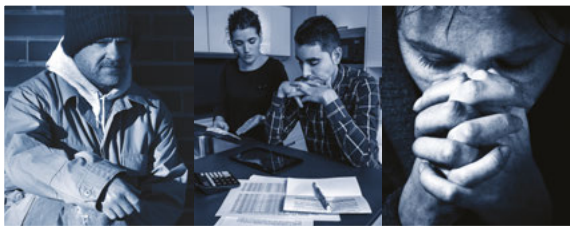
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