

# Voices OF Hope

APRIL 2017

Dear Friend,



*Judith did not know anyone and really needed help. She had to learn English because her oldest daughter was failing in school.*

Come alongside somebody in crisis.

That's what your financial support for Lutheran Social Services allows us to do for so many people who are struggling just to handle the crisis they confront on a given day. Even when it seems all options are gone, your generosity provides a gift of grace that allows something significant to happen.

Judith and Carlos Hernandez have been married 18 years. They have lived as legal residents in Southern California since 1999, and are the proud parents of two daughters. Carlos works in construction, and Judith cares for her daughters at home. They love their daughters very much.

One day, after talking to a friend about her difficulty understanding English, Judith walked onto the campus of our LSS Community Care Center in Long Beach. She didn't know anyone, but she really needed help. She had to learn English because her oldest daughter was struggling in school.

Hillary had failed second grade. The school psychologist diagnosed her as having a learning disability. To correct the problem, Hillary was referred to the Special Education Department, and her situation at school improved.

However, Judith could not understand what the school officials told her about Hillary's condition, or how she and Carlos could nurture their daughter when they were at home together.

Judith enrolled in an LSS-sponsored English as a Second Language (ESL) training class, and worked tirelessly to learn as much as possible. Over time, she took many other LSS courses. As a result, Judith and her family have been active in our LSS programs for nearly a decade.

Over these last nine years I have learned much about the English language, Judith said. I am currently enrolled in Long Beach City College to get advanced training in my communication skills. My family and I participate in the LSS Saturday Outreach Program through First Lutheran Church in Long Beach, and my daughters help me prepare the community meal on that day.

Everybody who walks through LSS' doors is accepted, respected, encouraged and loved. And, like Judith, many of these individuals are motivated to move beyond the immediate obstacle in their path, to discover other ways they can improve the quality of their lives. Judith communicates with the entire neighborhood about LSS and what we have done for her. She is an urban missionary witnessing to the love of Christ and the compassion of LSS.

Most people refer to Lutheran Social Services as an agency. But Judith says, LSS feels like a family to Carlos, Hillary, Daisy and me.

You will probably never meet Judith or any other person, or family, assisted by LSS. But through your support, they will be embraced in the love and compassion of Christ, regardless of the emergency they face.

***Will you come alongside LSS by making a financial gift today, so we can come alongside someone else in need?  
Your donation will make a real difference in the life of a woman, a man or a child.***

I thank God for your continuing participation with LSS in our ministry to the poor and dispossessed.

In His Service,

Ron Drews  
LSS 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 please be as generous as possible. Return the reply slip in the enclosed envelope. Thank you very much!**

**LSS** Southern California  
Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

**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:**

\$5    \$10    \$15    \$20    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.



Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

2101 E. 4th St Ste 240A  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

[www.LSSCommunityCare.org](http://www.LSSCommunityCare.org) / Toll-Free 1.877.577.7267



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