

# Voices OF Hope

JULY 2017

*"LSS always helps people, and LSS never says no. All the volunteers treat us great, and embrace us through the love in their hearts. Without LSS, I would be digging through dumpsters to get my daily food. Even though I am homeless, I feel blessed because of what Lutheran Social Services offers to me."*



Dear Friend,

That's what your support of Lutheran Social Services allows our staff to do on a daily basis for many struggling people. Your partnership with us helps us tailor our response to meet the needs of our clients.

For over 70 years, LSS has worked tirelessly in the San Fernando Valley. After many years at Central Lutheran Church in Van Nuys, we re-located to our current location in Canoga Park. But circumstances there have changed, and we have chosen not to renew our lease when it comes due in October. This move enables increased services throughout the greater San Fernando Valley.

This fall, we will join with several SFV congregations that have agreed to provide physical space, in which LSS case managers can work closely with clients facing crises. Soon, we will train volunteers to assist staff from each partner parish on how to assist in referring individuals and families to other agencies that can provide services LSS does not offer.

This will be a win-win-win situation for all concerned. Our case managers will be deployed across a larger geographic area, closer to many in need; volunteers will perform daily tasks, freeing up more case management time; the local church will be actively participating in new ways, extending its work in Christ's ministry to the poor.

The experience of one of our SFV case managers prompted us to think about our mission "outside the box." On a regular basis, she leaves our LSS office and goes out into the larger community to offer services to those in need.

One week she traveled to a nondenominational church in the SFV that provides hot meals and showers on Fridays. That was where she met Tim. He was a huge man, with a problem even bigger than he was.

He lived with his parents until they died, and thereafter with his brother in a condo, which they lost during the Great Recession. From 2010 – 2015, Tim lived in group homes, and at times in transitional housing. But nothing seemed to work.

Tim suffers from anxiety, and cannot handle being around large numbers of people. Eventually, in 2015, he chose to become homeless; not because he did not want a place to live, but because he was not emotionally able to interact with others.

He collects recyclables for cash, which helps cover his essentials. He sleeps in parks, hallways or wherever he can. The homeless population often looks the same to casual observers, but their stories and struggles are very different.

Once our case manager built a trusting relationship with him, Tim felt comfortable in opening up and sharing some of the issues that have plagued him for many years. Through Active Listening Case Management, staff has been able to bring to his attention, options Tim has that will create a more fulfilling life in the future than he has experienced in the past.

LSS has learned that homeless is never a noun; it's always an adjective. That's why one option does not fit everyone's situation. Our programs must be customized in order to provide the highest level of support to those we serve.

Along with the churches' contributions, your critical gift of \$63 provides three hours of case management a week. Your donation provides the opportunity for active listening, creating more abundant lives for the hundreds of 'Tims' in the San Fernando Valley.

We are pleased that several congregations in the SFV have entered into a partnership with LSS; we are looking for additional churches to do the same. The impact we can make as an alliance is much more profound than any individual parish can accomplish on its own.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and working alongside LSS in reaching out to those who need our help the most.

In Christ's Service,

Ron Drews  
President/CEO

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

*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. Thanks so much.*

*Thank you for your gift!*

*Yes!* I want to support more opportunity for active listening

Make checks payable to **LSS**. Gifts are deductible from taxable income to the full extent allowable by law.

Direct my gift of:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Designate my gift to:

As needed  CCLM Shelter  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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