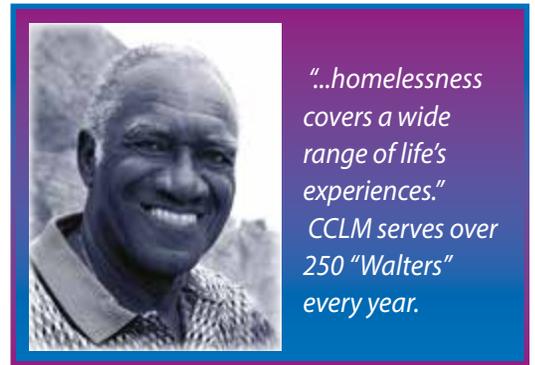


Voices OF Hope

JUNE 2017



Dear Friend,

Walter grew up in a Lutheran family in St Louis, MO. The entire family was active in the congregation, his dad taught Sunday School, and the children were motivated to get a good education at the Lutheran school.

Walter lost interest in school. He spent most of his time "shooting pool and taking old people's money," moving him in the wrong direction. He went to live with his older brother, and after a period of time got his life back in focus. He eventually received a BA degree in Economics and after graduation he earned good money across the years.

Eventually, Walter moved to California where he invested in a couple of start-ups, both of which were unsuccessful. By age 59, Walter had lost his automobile and most of his money, had no health insurance and developed serious medical issues. He was terrified at the thought of being a homeless bum.

That was when, in his own words, Walter did "a pre-emptive strike." He looked online for shelters. There were shelters for veterans, people with HIV/AIDS, ex-offenders, addicts, men with mental health issues, but nothing for him. He had broken no laws, earned a college degree, and established a successful career, but he couldn't find shelter. In a last-ditch effort, Walter searched for "Lutheran programs" and found Central City Lutheran Mission (CCLM.)

During intake, he learned the shelter arrangements: sleep on the floor, shower and breakfast, then out the door every day at 7:30 AM. Many homeless individuals have struggled in poverty for years, but not Walter. Things changed so much that Walter lost confidence in himself.

CCLM is not a destination where individuals move in for the rest of their lives. It's a stop along the journey as people try to find a foundation on which to build the rest of their lives. As Walter said, "The face of homelessness covers a wide range of life's experiences." CCLM serves over 250 "Walters" every year.

For decades, CCLM church building has sheltered the vulnerable in San Bernardino. It does not meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and must be brought up to code before winter.

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) plans to construct a new shelter on the open lot next to the mission. There will still be 70 beds, along with showers and bathrooms. This is the first phase of a long-range plan to provide supportive housing.

We will continue to provide community services like the classes we offer, our thrift store, and our after-school homework assistance program for children, thus enhancing this worshipping community.

As an answer to our prayers, we are partnering with HomeAid, a nonprofit that builds shelters. For the new shelter, LSS only needs to raise \$150,000. We consider their involvement as God's will, because we could never afford this on our own.

Through your support of LSS, you have been a vital part of CCLM's past, and now we need your continued support to ensure its future. Please consider a gift of \$500 or more, or pledge \$10 a week for as long as you can.

My mother once told me, during a very difficult time in my life, "How could I pray for you if I didn't know your troubles?" We are family and I am letting you know about our urgent need. When a member of the family needs help, the whole family responds. That is what I am asking you to do. Thank you.

Epilogue June 2017: Walter is leaving CCLM to reconnect with family and friends, and also to determine what God has in store. Walter's journey, despite all the pain he endured, is now on a path to a new life, begun through the ministry of the Lutheran community in Southern California.

Your support of our ministry offers people like Walter the chance, not just to begin, but to begin again. That is the essence of our Christian faith.

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 help someone to begin again.

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.

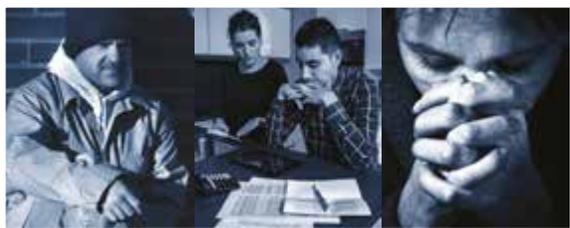


Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

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