

Voices OF Hope  
FEBRUARY 2018



Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for your faithful support of Lutheran Social Services. You share with us financially, and that enables us to respond to those who struggle in so many ways, just to make it through the day.

For over 70 years LSS has provided emergency services to people in need throughout Southern California. We recently asked Griselda Garcia, a former LSS employee, now volunteer, to describe a typical client. She worked seven years as our food pantry manager at Central Lutheran Church in Van Nuys. Her response was, well, atypical. All clients are not alike. When it comes to poverty, there are many different faces.

- Mothers with young children come to our center. Their food stamps don't enable the family to buy enough groceries to last the month. That's when LSS steps in and makes up the difference. Sometimes our pantry is their last option.
- One single mom with five children works on a food truck. She leaves home every day at 3:30 AM, and sets the alarm on her cell phone so she can call her children, and make sure they get to school on time. Our pantry is closed when she gets off work, but a volunteer waits until she arrives for the groceries she and her children need. For LSS, the "emergency" in emergency services is sometimes as simple as keeping the door open until our client arrives.
- A retired teacher lost both her husband to death, and her home due to meager finances. She lives in a single room, and a neighbor told her about LSS. One day she took a can of dog food from the pantry. The next month our LSS volunteer said, "I saved you a can of food for your dog." The woman replied: "I don't have a dog. This is for me. It's cheaper."

It must be difficult to remember you are a human, when you eat food produced for animals. Our LSS staff and volunteers interact with all visitors respectfully, personally and compassionately. That's what Jesus calls all of us to do.

- Another teacher received a pink slip from the school district, and for two years, he and his family lived in a motor home. They came to LSS for groceries and clothes, and enjoyed a hot meal at our Care Center once each week.
- A young female graduate student, who interned with LSS as a case manager, surprised the staff when she shared that her initial experience with Lutheran Social Services was not at the professional level. She first came to our pantry because there was no food in her cabinet, and no money in her wallet.
- More college students at our pantry and clothes closet. Students from area universities, especially Pierce College and CSU Northridge, attend classes like everybody else on campus. But these young women and men are homeless. They live in their cars, shower in the school gymnasium, and then come to LSS for something to eat. They want an education, but they can't get it without help obtaining food on a regular basis. This is a new trend that continues to expand.

There are many faces to poverty. Every client has a story. Regardless of why they come to us, Lutheran Social Services is ready to embrace them in their need, to equip them in every possible way, and to support them as they learn how to empower their lives, and fulfill their dreams.

We have served throughout the San Fernando Valley for many years: from Van Nuys to Canoga Park, and now North Hollywood. Regardless of our location, though, our presence has never diminished. You have consistently enabled us to respond to any crisis in a productive and redemptive way.

***Will you make a contribution today, so that men, women and children who fear there is nowhere they can turn, will receive the assistance they request, and the support they deserve?***

Ron Drews, President/CEO  
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, and God bless you.***

*Thank you for your gift!*

*Yes!* I would like to donate to help others discover greater possibilities for living.

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

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Designate my gift to:

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Name (as it appears on credit card)  
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AMEX  VISA  MASTERCARD

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_



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



S O U T H E R N C A L I F O R N I A

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California  
215 N Lemon Unit A  
Fullerton, CA 92832

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY**  
Volunteer, Donate to our Food Pantry,  
Provide an In-Kind or Financial Donation.

LSSSC San Fernando Valley  
7400 Tujunga Ave  
North Hollywood, CA 91605  
818.901.9480

[www.lsssc.org](http://www.lsssc.org) / 714.685.1800



Our long-range plan is to expand services, while moving closer to those we serve.



**BUT WE CAN NOT DO IT ALONE.** With your financial support, more of God's children will be served.