

Voices OF *Hope*
JANUARY 2018



The Thomas Fire in Ventura County has left thousands of people and animals homeless.

Dear Friend,

The rampant fires in Southern California have produced a dark horrifying cloud, not just in the atmosphere, but also in the lives of men, women and children on the ground. Thousands of people have been displaced; homes damaged or destroyed, vehicles incinerated, and family heirlooms lost forever.

The Thomas Fire in Ventura County has created a devastating crisis for the entire area. 90% of current Red Cross shelters are filled with people who lived in the streets prior to the fire. LSS works with this population, the chronically homeless, on a daily basis but, they are not the only victims.

Many more people in the area are suddenly homeless. In addition to those whose homes were affected, there are also seniors who were evacuated from nursing homes, and placed in shelters with limited nursing care.

The damage from this fire is enormous, and the response needs to be huge as well. Currently, the Red Cross has received so many donations of emergency items, they cannot accept any more. The response from churches, groups and individuals has been incredible.

There is, however, another reality that all fire victims face, once the fires are extinguished and the first responders leave. After emergency relief, the process of long-term recovery begins. Lutheran Social Services is prepared to step in at this juncture. For over seven decades, we have stood by people recovering from all kinds of situations, making God's Word become Flesh through the way we embrace, equip and empower them in whatever way they need.

Through our extended Lutheran network all over Southern California, we work with the local community, providing case management on an individualized basis: helping move victims from the pain of what they lost, to the plan that can create a new life.

Your financial support this month will enable us to be present with the victims as the long-term recovery efforts move forward. For some, blankets and a new tent will be essentials, as they return to the streets that have become their home. For others, temporary shelter or transportation tokens will allow them to keep their jobs as they try to restore their lives. Still, more will need financial assistance to make up the difference between what their insurance or FEMA pays, and what the bottom line demands.

Sometimes we ask you to support a specific need, but this time is different. In addition to the generous support you regularly provide in the form of food, clothing and hygiene items, we also need As Needed Most funding that can be diverted, not just to Ventura County, but other areas also besieged by the massive wild fires. This call is even greater today because the numbers of those in crisis have increased.

LSS stands ready to respond to those needs in the ten Southern California counties, and we must be prepared to act quickly and completely, whatever and wherever the need might be.

You have been such a faithful supporter across the years, and we have turned your financial gifts into amazing grace for the people who are hurting the most.

Will you contribute today, so that people, who fear their life is out of control, will find the help they need, and the hope they seek?

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 the victims of the Southern California Wildfires and help those in need, rebuild their lives!

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

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

Designate my gift to:

So. Cal Fire Fund CCLM Shelter
 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**

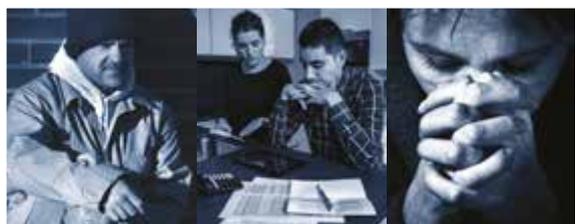
S O U T H E R N C A L I F O R N I A

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

Contribute today, and help those who fear their life is out of control, find the help they need, and the hope they seek!

www.lsssc.org / 714.685.1800

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Our long-range plan is to expand services, while moving closer to those we serve. But we cannot do it alone. Without your financial support, some of God's children will be overlooked.