

Voices OF Hope

MARCH 2018



Dear Friend,

Lawrence and Edna McDonald have been married 44 years. They met in San Diego when he was a sailor, and are proud parents of a daughter, Myisha. Lawrence served our country for 20 years, including two tours in Vietnam, and retired with the rank of E7. He was a good sailor and the Navy knew it. That's why they employed him after his retirement. He and his wife had a great life together as a couple, and also as parents. He was very active, and he and Edna enjoyed dancing and involving themselves in social activities. They had a marriage made in heaven—or so it seemed.

One day, Myisha saw Lawrence drive past their home several times. She went outside, waved him down and asked her father why he didn't stop at their residence. He confessed, *"I couldn't remember where I lived."* Edna consulted a physician, and learned that Lawrence had Alzheimer's disease. She was devastated. The man she loved was gone, and the person in their home couldn't engage his wife, or daughter, like he had for many years. Over time, Lawrence concluded that Edna was his co-worker, but not his wife. Edna encountered the pain of losing a shared memory with her husband. She was determined to keep Lawrence at home, and she called many agencies seeking assistance.

Our **Senior Companion Program (SCP)** operated by Lutheran Social Services in San Diego, was the only agency to reply. We provide respite care: non-medical support in homes, so caregivers can take a break. At no cost to the family, a participating senior comes into the home, giving the primary responsible person an opportunity to relax, renew and revitalize on an emotional, physical and often spiritual level.

Geraldine McCue, the LSS companion who walked into that situation, related to Lawrence heart-to-heart. Before she began providing assistance to LSS, Geraldine traveled to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and cared for people displaced by that natural disaster. *"Geri shares love from her heart, with those who are in greatest need,"* Edna said of this special person in her family's life. *"When she came into our family, God sent me an Angel!"* Geri engages Lawrence at a level he can embrace and accept, and at the same time gives Edna a chance, three times a week to have a few hours of solace. On one of those mornings, Edna goes to dialysis, something she had not been able to do until Geri joined her family. She was denying her own health needs because of her compassion for her husband.

Your financial support of LSS helps us to assist many people like Edna and Lawrence. The small stipends paid to our volunteers enable them to care and share with many people who struggle with all kinds of obstacles, just to make it through a normal day.

That's not all LSS provides the senior community in San Diego. Our **Caring Neighbors Program (CNP)** is available to low-income or disabled homeowners in Santee. Volunteers perform minor home repairs, like leaky faucets, lighting, security rails, installation of smoke/CO detectors and repairing wheelchair ramps. Yard work and housekeeping tasks are also performed. Caring Neighbors creates both security and dignity for seniors, thus enhancing the chance they can become more independent and remain in their home.

Our newly established **Senior Center** in Clairemont Mesa provides nutrition, health, education and socialization services to seniors over age 55. All the programs provide a context for social interaction, learning, and staying connected to community resources. These are essential elements in maintaining good health, independence and an improved quality of life.

Your donations allow us to embrace, equip and empower seniors at all levels of their existence. Are you willing to give today so other families can experience the assistance Edna and Lawrence received?

*Will you make a contribution today, so those senior citizens, who are not as strong or mobile as they once were, can experience the joy and kindness of volunteers who care and share with them?
Thank you for your generosity.*

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. Once again, 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.

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

Designate my gift to:

Where Needed Most LSS San Diego County
 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.



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

The Cathy Hopper Clairemont Senior Center is now open. Stop by or give us a call at 858-483-4007 for a calendar of activities today!

**LSSSC San Diego County
4425 Bannock Ave
San Diego, CA 92117**

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.