

Dear Friend,

In January, people make resolutions they hope to achieve in the New Year. But January is also a time to look back on the previous year. Consider below these three examples of the many successes that were made possible through your gifts and support.

In December, we shared five examples of people facing all types of Emergency Services, and how their lives were impacted through contact with LSS. We concentrated on two of the three "Es" that describe the focus of every service we offer. We EMBRACE all clients at the point of their need, and then EQUIP them to confront their struggles and stand up to their challenges.



Our January 2019 Voices of Hope highlights the third E: EMPOWER. Below you will meet three people whose lives were empowered through their relationship with, and support from, Lutheran Social Services.

Laquanjawan (pictured left) came to our South Bay/Long Beach Center for emergency supplies, such as food, clothing and hygiene items. Most of our clients first come to LSS for these kinds of basic survival needs. But Laquanjawan received so much more.

He entered our intensive case management service, which serves homeless people who also suffer from complex physical and behavioral health conditions. The goal is to help clients find permanent supportive housing, and to assist them in a "whatever it takes" approach to keep them housed. Our staff deals with a wide range of persons struggling with mental and emotional health issues.

Laquanjawan suffered from anxiety, depression and panic attacks. He was employed, but lost his job six years ago due to his extreme anxiety and emotional distress. That's when he became homeless.

Our case manager worked with him on a weekly basis, actively listening and gaining his trust. After tireless efforts from LSS staff, and active responsible participation from our client, Laquanjawan obtained a voucher for housing in Los Angeles County, and moved into his own, permanent supportive housing unit on November 28, 2018!

CASE MANAGEMENT \$50 FOR 2 HOURS

Sonia came to our LSS office in Garden Grove, seeking emergency services. She suffered from domestic violence and lived in her car, parked next to the Police Department for her safety. Our case manager provided a one-night motel stay, gas card and basic personal hygiene items.

She asked for help, seeking a safe place to live. We connected her with a transitional living program for single women. Our case manager submitted Sonia's application to reside there, and LSS paid the entry fee of \$75.00. During the day, she came to our Garden Grove office to take showers and receive food.

Sonia now has a home, and works as a Lyft driver, while looking for permanent employment. LSS referred her to Chrysalis, an employment specialist agency. She is safe, employed and moving forward with her life.

MOTEL VOUCHERS \$150 FOR 2 NIGHTS

Shirley, a woman in her 80s, lived alone, and asked LSS for someone to help remove numerous boxes from her small mobile home, filled with stuff that had accumulated over the years.

Nathalee, a professional woman, newly retired, was looking for something meaningful to do for others. She signed on to volunteer with LSS, and was assigned to help Shirley get all the clutter under control.

Our Caring Neighbors program in Santee (San Diego County) connects volunteers with seniors who need minor household repairs. This service helps older adults to continue living independently in their residences.

Over time, Shirley and Nathalee's volunteer/client relationship developed into a friendship. Nathalee began helping two hours, once a week; then two hours, twice a week. They talked often, and what emerged became more than just one person helping another. After several years, Nathalee is doing more than her assignment requires.

Shirley says she feels so blessed because she's always had to work hard raising a family, and had no time for making friends. Now that she's older, she has discovered, through Nathalee, what it means to have a friend.

Nathalee checks in by phone, makes visits, and drives Edith on errands, and to doctor's appointments. What started, as a project to remove clutter has become a friendship that means so much to both women.

CONNECTING SENIORS WITH VOLUNTEERS \$25 FOR 5 HOURS OF SERVICE

Your support of our ministry to men, women and children in society has brought successful conclusions to what appeared to be nothing but defeat. Some clients need a little hope, others a few rays of light. Still others are seniors trying to stay in their home.

Every dollar you donate to LSS helps us Embrace, Equip and Empower every sister or brother in Christ who turns to us, because they have nowhere else to go. Will you share with us so we can care for them?

Thank you so much for all you do, which allows us to do even more for those in need.

In Christ's Service,
Ron Drews, President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Drews".

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!

Yes! I will send my gift so we can care for them.

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

GIFT AMOUNT:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 Other \$ _____

PLEASE DESIGNATE MY GIFT TO: Case Management Senior Support Motel Vouchers Central City Lutheran Mission
 Food As Needed Other _____

PRINT NAME (as it appears on credit card):

AMEX VISA MASTERCARD CHECK/Check No _____

CC# _____ Exp. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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

LSS is the HUB for each area: the entry point for those in need.
We provide cost-effective, quality care where holes exist: the right assistance, at the right place, and at the time, they need it.
We embrace, equip and empower those we are called to help.

Looking for new ways to support Lutheran Social Services of Southern California? There are many channels through which you can contribute: Cash, Stock, IRA Rollovers, and much more.



Contact
Development@LSSSC.org
or call Greg Shepherd at
(909) 910-6823

Lutheran Social Service is still helping...

Following the November fires in Southern California, LSS offered gift cards to any individual or family that suffered losses. This was made possible through a \$20,000 grant from Lutheran Disaster Response national.

The long process of recovery and rebuilding has begun, and LSS is still present and committed to help. Pastors in the affected areas can contact our LSS Care Center in Thousand Oaks **(805) 497-6207**, or our Housing Counseling Office (Housing@LSSSC.org) or call Lourdes or Priscilla at **(805) 497-9874**.



OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE ONE ANGEL IN EVERY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are also looking for an Angel in every congregation. In Scripture, Angels were announcers, messengers and news-tellers. LSS needs Angels to help us connect with individuals and families who lost so much in the fires. Pastors know the parish, but LSS Angels are familiar with the larger neighborhood surrounding the congregation.

If you are interested in being one of our Angels, contact Jennifer at Info@LSSSC.org or **(714) 244-4276**.