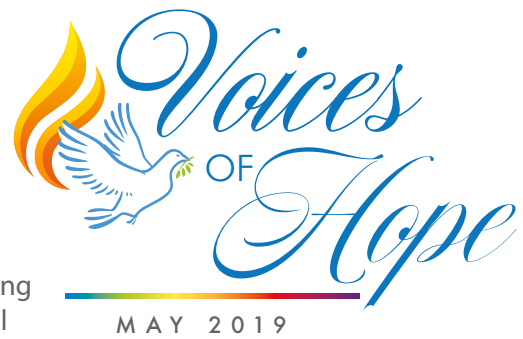


May is the month of the year when mothers are honored in America. For many, Mothers Day is a time to remember wonderful years spent with our moms, and giving thanks for their unconditional love and support.

Many other people, though, have painful memories of their mothers, and that makes this month a difficult time for them. LSS encounters mothers and families who face many types of problems, and below are the stories of three whom we have helped recently.



CHRISTINE dropped out of high school at age 15 and started using crystal meth. Her mother and stepdad did drugs, so it seemed natural for Christine to do the same.

During those years of addiction, she had three children: a daughter who was taken by Child Protective Services (CPS) at age eight, another girl removed at age three, and a son who was carried away at fewer than 30 days old. Christine was in a downward spiral that could easily have led to her death. She had nowhere to turn and nobody to help. But then something happened.

She went with a friend to Lutheran Social Services in Riverside to get lunch, and before long offered to serve as a volunteer in the donated clothing department at that location. Our caseworker took an interest in her, which prompted Christine to consider what she wanted her life to be. There was a culture of hope and acceptance at LSS, and that's exactly what she needed.

LSS helped Christine obtain a California ID Card, and also assisted in finding a room for her to rent. She currently works three jobs weekly, and is enrolled at Riverside Community College, studying for an Associate's Degree in Social Work and Human Services. After graduation, she wants to do for others what LSS did for her.

Christine was recently baptized, attends worship regularly, and for the first time in her life is focused on her future, instead of simply repeating her past.

\$25 PURCHASES \$75 WORTH OF FOOD



JANE came to LSS because the father of her nine-month-old child had attacked her, and she feared for her life. She fled the situation, contacted law enforcement in Long Beach, and the abuser was arrested.

She and her baby were homeless, and there was no family support available. Jane needed food, clothing, and a case manager to help her work on some immediate goals: permanent housing, mental health support, education and employment. She joined our Victims Intervention Program (VIP) for those who have been physically and emotionally abused.

LSS provided transitional housing resources for Jane and her son, and they entered the House of Hope in July 2018. Jane also began counseling with LSS during that same time. She has a Bachelor's Degree in art, and is working toward becoming a substitute teacher.

Jane is committed to breaking out of the cycle of domestic violence that has controlled her, and to move on from being a victim to a survivor. She feels safe when at LSS, because we have walked alongside her in her struggles and will never abandon her.

\$50 FOR 1 HOUR OF CASE MANAGEMENT TO HELP VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



CHARLENE began acting out in destructive and divisive ways when she was 15 years old. She had two siblings, ages 11 and nine. A couple that was not able to conceive had adopted all three children. Over time, it was learned Charlene had been a victim of sexual abuse from more than one member of her birth family. It was a generational malaise that was never addressed or treated.

Charlene entered the LSS *Our Children Project*, a very unique program in Apple Valley for children who have suffered the trauma of being sexually abused. She was placed in a group of girls, each of who had encountered the same situation in one way or another.

That was the turning point in her life. Charlene was embraced by that group of girls, and mentored by her therapist. Over a period of three years, she found a new way of living in the present, without being tormented by the past.

Meanwhile, Charlene's mother, Catherine, met with all types of parents: biological, adoptive, foster, and grandparents regarding rearing the younger generation. Catherine was enlightened on many levels, and thus prepared for the long journey back to normalcy for her daughter and their entire family.

Charlene was active in all types of activities in high school: sports, organizations that promote leadership, and a peer counseling program in which she learned how to help her classmates face critical issues in their lives. Now in college, Charlene is studying to be a social worker where she can pass along to others the loving support she received from Lutheran Social Services.

\$100 FOR A SESSION OF CHILD AND FAMILY GROUP THERAPY

We see mothers of all ages and in various situations. 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 for themselves and their families.

Your faithful support of our programs helps us respond quickly and effectively, regardless of the problems these women face. Please give prayerful consideration as you make your decision to donate.

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

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!



*Names have been changed to protect our client's privacy

Yes! I will continue my partnership with LSS.

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: Food Case Management Child & Family Therapy Community Services

As Needed Other _____

Email _____

PRINT NAME (as it appears on credit card):

AMEX VISA MASTERCARD

CC# _____ EXP. _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ Signature _____



Please fill out and enclose this form with your Gift and Email 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
247 E Ameriage Ave
Fullerton, CA 92832

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. 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.

Join us for some *Summer* fun!

BLUE EARTH BAND REUNION TOUR



The Blue Earth Band plays a unique combination of folk, blues, and acoustic country music, with shimmering harmonies and driving guitars, banjo, and harmonica.

This June, Tim Gustafson (M.A. Luther Seminary, Ph.D.

University of Iowa), and Pastors Tim Larson (M.Div. LSTC) and Jay Egenes (M.Div. PLTS) will reunite for a short reunion tour to benefit Lutheran Social Services of Southern California.

- Friday, June 7 Trinity, Riverside / Concert at 7pm
- Saturday, June 8 Hope, Palm Desert / 5:30pm Worship / Concert at 7pm
- Sunday, June 9 Calvary, Solana Beach / Concert at 6pm
- Monday, June 10 LSS Senior Center, Clairemont, San Diego / Concert at 7pm



Use discount code **HEISRISEN** for a 10% savings on your ticket order

The Pacific Southwest District of the LCMS and the Southwest CA Synod & Pacifica Synod of the ELCA present Lutheran Night at Dodger Stadium.

This year we will join thousands of faith based organizations for Dodgers Christian Faith Day including pre-game, on-field recognition and post-game player event.

NEW! Select your own seats through our dedicated link. ALL TICKETS MUST BE ORDERED THROUGH LINK BY SATURDAY, JUNE 1st
<https://groupmatics.events/event/DodgersLutheranNight>

ALL RESERVED SEATS \$40 PER TICKET

For additional questions or info please contact:
Daniella Baltaza at
323.224.1594
dbaltazar@ladodgers.com



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\$40
TICKET
Saturday,
JUNE
1st*

