

CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

LSS Lutheran Social Services
of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.



Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan is grateful to ELCA congregations for supporting its work, which changes lives by creating new strength and resilience for individuals, families and communities. The following are a few examples of this work.

Hope and healing for sex trafficking victims

In response to the growing epidemic of sex trafficking, LSS has opened Transitions, a new residential treatment center for girls age 10-18 who have been victimized by this form of modern day slavery. Trafficking causes severe, complex trauma: girls who are rescued are lucky, but recovery is not quick or easy. The girls we treat have been in unimaginable situations. Many are dealing with sexual abuse, anxiety, depression, and drug and alcohol addiction. They require trauma therapy to overcome their past, manage their emotions, and build their self-esteem and trust in others.

Resettling refugees

Since 1974, we have successfully resettled more than 10,000

refugees from 15 countries. Our work begins by welcoming thoroughly vetted refugees at the airport. When they arrive, we must have housing ready for them, equipped with beds and essential household items. We provide English classes and cultural orientation, get their children enrolled in school and their family connected with doctors and other community resources. Most importantly, we help them find employment so they can become self-sufficient and productive members of society.

Treating severely traumatized youth

On a 200-acre campus of woods, hills, streams and ponds in Wittenberg, WI, is Homme Youth and Family Programs, an LSS residential treatment program for

boys ages 10 to 17, and young men ages 18-21 who are on court orders. All come to us with severe trauma; they are troubled, emotionally scarred and in danger of developing even more issues. We welcome them with care, compassion and a promise to help them change their lives.

Creating forever families through adoption

For more than 100 years, LSS has been helping parents who long for a child and children who need a family find each other. Whether it's a domestic, international or special needs adoption, the LSS Adoption team understands the emotions involved and provides compassionate, nonjudgmental assistance and advice. At the end, a forever family is formed – and that's worth any amount of effort.



LSS programs and services in the Greater Milwaukee Synod

For children and families

- Services for families with children who have autism
- Domestic, international and special needs adoption
- Foster care
- Family preservation programs
- Birth to Three early intervention program for children with developmental delays or disabilities
- School-based child abuse and neglect education program for children
- Teen runaway program



For people with a disability

- Consulting, assistance and support for people who participate in Wisconsin's IRIS (Include, Respect, I-Self Direct) program

For people who have mental health or addiction issues

- Mental health counseling
- Daytime community resource center for people with a mental illness who want to socialize or learn new skills
- Transitional treatment for men with an addiction



For the community

- Disaster preparedness and recovery
- Services for victims of sexual assault and abuse
- Refugee resettlement
- Clothing distribution for homeless children

“But you shall love your neighbor as yourself”

Leviticus 19b



For people who need housing

- Housing and support for individuals in crisis
- Subsidized housing and case management services for older adults and those with a developmental disability or mental illness

Special thanks to

The following LSS Board, LSS Foundation Board and Advisory Members from the Greater Milwaukee Synod:

Bishop Paul Erickson	A. Bela Maroti	John Schaller
David C. Boerke	Renee Patterson	Janet Schulz
Daryl L. Diesing	Margaret M. Pauer	John Silseth
John Howman	William C. Pickering	Eric Thomas
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Julie Ishe	George Roth	

During 2016, 59 congregations and church organizations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod gave a total of \$140,580; we are grateful for these gifts, which make the LSS ministry possible. Thank you.

Pastor David Larson, *LSS President and CEO*

Cynthia Halverson, *LSS Foundation President*

Pastor James Holmberg, *LSS Director of Church Relations*

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