Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS) can trace its origin back to 1882, when Pastor E.J. Homme opened a home for orphaned children in Wittenberg, Wisconsin. Through the decades, LSS has grown and adapted to meet the ever-changing needs of people and communities throughout our service area. Our 1,100 employees and 1,800 volunteers provide an array of services that meet the needs of people all along the human lifespan and across a wide variety of life situations. With the support LSS receives from congregations, businesses and individuals, we work to change lives in positive ways, every day.

Here are examples from 2014:

**DEDICATED TO REPRESENTING GOD’S LOVE IN THE FORM OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT HELP PEOPLE IN NEED,**

- **Doug,** who relies on a wheelchair to get around, was able to move out of a small, dilapidated trailer to his own one-bedroom apartment in Chippewa Falls with the help of our Individualized Community Supports Program.

- **Rick,** addicted to drugs and alcohol, was able to get sober and turn his life around with our help. Now he’s determined to give back, searching for discarded clothing, electronics and other usable items to help people in need.

- **Samuel,** born with a rare and complex heart condition, was given only a 20% chance of reaching his first birthday. He’s outlived that prognosis with the help of physical therapy services through our Birth to 3 Program.
Ron and Heather recently traveled to Kyrgyzstan to take the next step in adopting a four-year-old boy with special needs. Our International Adoption staff was there to support them in a joyous first meeting with their son. In all, 448 forever families were formed through our programs for domestic, international and special needs adoption last year.

Our Homme Home in Wittenberg serves some of the most troubled teens. One of them, Jessica, asked to visit the grave of Pastor E.J. Homme to thank him. At the graveside, she said, “Pastor Homme, if you can hear me, I want to tell you thank you for starting Homme (Home). I don’t know what I would do without this place and the people who care about me.”

Scott, Kelly and their children left homelessness behind with help from our Welcome Home program. “Our family has gained so much. Sarah (case worker) helped us find and pay for a home suitable for our children. We are so grateful,” they said. 100% of clients in the Welcome Home program during 2014 said they now have a greater sense of self-determination and empowerment.

WE’RE PROUD OF THESE OUTCOMES, TOO:

- **99%** of youth in our programs for runaways returned home or to an agreeable safe alternative
- **95%** of participants in our Adult Day Programs said they have the opportunity to create or to preserve connections to their communities
- **81%** of clients in our outpatient mental health and substance abuse counseling services said their quality of life had improved
- **95%** of adults in our Residential Crisis Programs said they had the opportunity to learn new life skills (including social, coping and employment skills)
- **91%** of sexual assault victims in our counseling programs said the counseling helped them
- **80%** of youth who received our Wraparound Services had no further contact with law enforcement
- **100%** of clients who received in-home Wellness Services said the services help them live full lives
- **1,042** school-age children in foster care received new clothes and haircuts from our Urban Threads program
- **284** of clients who received in-home Wellness Services said the services help them live full lives
- **1,042** adults had a safe place to be during the day, thanks to our Outreach Services for adults

FOCUS FOR 2015

- Becoming an IRIS consultant agency through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The IRIS program gives Medicaid-eligible adults who have long-term care needs the ability to be self-directed and make their own decisions about where and how to live.
- Growing with a new President of the LSS Foundation, Inc., who will help the Foundation provide financial support to LSS to support the continuation of successful programs and the development of new programs to serve those in need.
- Implementing a strategic plan that focuses on seeking new business development opportunities, strengthening our workforce and improving client outcomes.

SPECIAL THANKS

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