

CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER IN THE GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD

Last year, Lutheran Social Services touched more than **130,000 lives** all around Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. With the support of congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, we're blessed to be able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of your communities with an array of programs and services.

Here's a look at the diversity of programs we offer within the Greater Milwaukee Synod. We're proud to report a **97% client satisfaction rate** with our services.

For Children and Families

Services for families with children who have autism



Domestic, international and special needs adoption services



Foster care services, including foster homes for children who have special emotional, behavioral or medical needs

Family preservation programs for families at risk of having their children placed in foster care

Early intervention program for young parents and their babies



Birth to Three early intervention program for young children with developmental delays or disabilities

Stop Child Abuse and Neglect school-based program to educate children about abuse



Runaway and Youth Services (RAYS) program, including crisis intervention, referral services, 24-hour help line, emergency shelter, counseling and mediation

Residential treatment for adolescents



For People Who Need Housing and Housing with Services

Housing for adults who have developmental disabilities or chronic mental illness

Housing and support for individuals in crisis

Transitional living program for youth who are homeless



Subsidized housing, including housing with coordination of services or case management services for residents



For People Who Live with Disabilities

Consulting, assistance and support services for people who have disabilities and participate in Wisconsin's IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct) program for self-directed, long-term care

Personalized services for people who live with disabilities, helping them to live in their own homes and be active in their communities

For People Who Have Mental Health Issues

Outpatient counseling for mental health and substance abuse issues

Friendships Unlimited program to provide support and socialization to people who have mental illness

For People Who are Aging

Programs to help people cope with memory loss

Day programs for older adults and people with disabilities that provide nutritious meals, assistance with personal care, medical monitoring and social time

For the Community

Disaster preparedness and recovery, in ministry with Lutheran Disaster Recovery and Wisconsin Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster



Services and advocacy for victims of sexual assault and abuse



Transitional housing for men recovering from addictions, including specialized housing for high-risk offenders



Refugee resettlement, health services and intensive case management



Urban Threads clothing distribution center for homeless children and adults in need



Community resource centers for people with disabilities who want to socialize or to learn new skills



LSS IN ACTION

Meet Jonalyn

When Jonalyn was nine, her father left her at the House of Refuge orphanage in the Philippines. He told her he would return for her. She waited for him for five years, then asked to become part of our Philippines Ambassadors adoption program. Through this special LSS program, volunteer “ambassadors” travel to the Philippines to get to know a group of older, adoptable children; then, the return to Wisconsin to act as their adoption advocates.

The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* ran an article about the Ambassadors and the children in the Philippines. The article, and Jonalyn in particular, caught the attention of Joel and Sharon Tomski, who had already adopted four boys from the Philippines. “What do you think?” Joel asked his wife. “I think she’s our daughter,” said Sharon. They provided Jonalyn with a forever family, and she has enriched their lives.

Special Thanks

Our thanks to LSS Board and Advisory Members from the Greater Milwaukee Synod:

Bishop Jeff Barrow
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A. Bela Maroti

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During 2015, 59 congregations and church organizations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod gave a total of \$128,564; we are grateful for these gifts, which make the LSS ministry possible. Thank you.



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