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
- Family preservation programs for families at risk of having their children placed in foster care
- Stop Child Abuse and Neglect school-based program to educate children about abuse
- Early intervention program for young parents and their babies
- Runaway and Youth Services (RAYS) program, including crisis intervention, referral services, 24-hour help line, emergency shelter, counseling and mediation
- Foster care services, including foster homes for children who have special emotional, behavioral or medical needs
- Birth to Three early intervention program for young children with developmental delays or disabilities

### 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 Have Mental Health Issues
- 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
- Outpatient counseling for mental health and substance abuse issues
- Friendships Unlimited program to provide support and socialization to people who have mental illness
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  David C. Boerke  Daryl L. Diesing  John Howman  A. William Huelsman  A. Bela Maroti

Renee Patterson  Margaret M. Pauer  William C. Pickering  George Roth  John Schaller  Janet Schulz

John Silseth  Eric Thomas  Patricia Wesner

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.