

Sharing Life's Journeys

May 2012

No one walks alone; the journey makes us one.



Jennifer Richard
Director, Planned/Major Gifts
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Two directions for gifts

Did you know that your gifts can be directed to either Lutheran Social Services of Michigan as an organization or to the LSSM Foundation? Gifts to the organization are used for current operational needs while gifts to the Foundation are endowed to benefit Lutheran Social Services for years to come.

Each year, Lutheran Social Services is at the mercy of the State of Michigan as members of the legislature consider cuts in Medicaid and foster care funding. Each year, we face reimbursements at levels that are below the cost of providing needed care. Your gifts to Lutheran Social Services are critical in the balancing act to keep us whole as we care for those in need.

Gifts to the Foundation prepare us for the future. The establishment of an endowment is a simple yet exquisite idea: holding a financial gift in perpetuity, investing the principal and using only the income from that investment for a designated purpose. An endowment creates a living legacy that spans generations.

However you choose to support our ministry, know that we are grateful to you. Your gifts, for today or for tomorrow, make it possible for us to serve the most vulnerable among us.

Donor profile:

Planned gifts: a final demonstration of support



Kathy Lieder and her husband, Lloyd Fell, recently made a significant commitment to Lutheran Social Services of Michigan as part of their estate plan. And they're surprised that anyone would wonder why. As longtime supporters of the organization they see it as an opportunity to make a final gift.

Kathy and Lloyd feel good to know that their passing from

this life to the next will trigger a last gift to Lutheran Social Services. "What better time to face God than immediately after having provided food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, parents for the orphaned, and homes for the refugee?" said Lloyd. "Scriptures tell us that when we do these things, we are really doing them for Christ himself."

Kathy has been involved with Lutheran Social Services of Michigan since 1990, when she joined the board of Grebe Village, an apartment community for low-income seniors in Cheboygan. She and Lloyd had moved to Cheboygan, Lloyd's home town, in 1985 to open a branch of Bodman, LLC, the Detroit-based law firm where they met.

A few years later, Kathy joined the Lutheran Social Services board. She served for nine years, including three as chair. After a few years off, she rejoined the board in 2009 and is now vice-chair.

Kathy and Lloyd support Lutheran Social Services because "the programs are so effective, the management is so efficient and they provide excellent service," said Kathy. They are also impressed that Lutheran Social Services keeps its administrative overhead to less than 8 percent of revenue.

"Lutheran Social Services is a shining star among social service organizations," said Kathy. "I'm a Lutheran, and that makes me very proud."

Lloyd says it's important to note that Lutheran Social Services helps people in need regardless of religion. "It's not a benevolent organization for Lutherans. It's an organization of benevolent Lutherans!" he said.



HOPE • COMPASSION • SOLUTIONS

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
8131 E. Jefferson
Detroit, Michigan 48214-2691
(313) 823-7700

Have you visited us at www.lssm.org?

Program profile:

Pleasant visits help reunite families

Most children in foster care have court-ordered visits with their birth parents that take place in Lutheran Social Services' foster care offices. These visits help parents learn better communication skills and work towards reunion with their children.

Each of our 10 foster care offices has at least one family visitation room. Most are furnished with older office furniture so they have a cold and institutional feel. We want to renovate all of these rooms to make them more homelike and inviting.



Thanks to a generous donor, we were able to renovate the family visitation room at our Ann Arbor office. We brought in comfortable chairs and a table where parents and children can do crafts and other activities. We repainted the walls and added attractive floor coverings and window treatments.

Most importantly, we installed a video camera and microphone to enable the caseworkers to monitor the visit without being in the room.

"With the new monitoring equipment, we can observe the visit from our personal laptops or the front desk so we're not so intrusive," said caseworker Amy Mansfield.

"Before, the caseworker had to be in the room which made it kind of awkward," said Anastasia, whose

daughter Mia, 3, has been in foster care for several months. "Now it's more comfortable, and it gives me and my daughter more one-on-one time."

The lobby was also renovated with comfortable, homelike furniture and curtains.

"Many birth parents are nervous the first time they come for a visit," said Amy. "With the renovations, it's a more welcoming environment that puts them at ease."

We hope donors will help us to renovate the family visitation rooms in Detroit, Lansing, Jackson, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Benton Harbor, Flint, Saginaw and Port Huron. Donors can help by sponsoring all or part of a room. The complete cost for remodeling a room is approximately \$10,000. The largest part of that – \$6,000 – is for the video monitoring system.

For more information on how you, a group of friends, or a church can sponsor the renovation of a family visitation room, please contact one of our major gift officers.



Produced by the
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8131 E. Jefferson Ave.
Detroit, MI 48214

For information call
(313) 823-7700 or visit our
website at www.lssm.org

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