



Lutheran Services in America

ANNUAL REPORT 2006



Lutheran Services in America
Together we can

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Lutheran Services in America (LSA), a not-for-profit organization, is an alliance of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), and their nearly 300 independent health and human service organizations.



*I*n the early days of LSA when people said “LSA” they often meant the specific individuals who worked for the new national organization. Now, people say LSA and mean Lutheran health and human service organizations and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) joined together for service and justice. This year, more than ever before, there is no way to separate the telling of these stories.

To tell all of the stories of people touched through Lutheran social ministry could make a very long annual report, indeed! Each year, the health and human service organizations that are members of Lutheran Services in America work directly with one in 50 Americans. If we added to that the many communities of care that comprise the congregations of the ELCA and the LCMS, that number would climb significantly.

Instead, this report samples just a very few of the rich stories lived out each day across the country as Lutheran social ministry organizations, parts of the body of Christ, work to bring about wholeness and health. And, as Ephesians reminds us, those parts are joined and knit together by ligaments that help the parts to work together properly—and that is LSA’s story.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Gibson Wise".

Suzanne Gibson Wise, *Board Chair*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill A. Schumann".

Jill Schumann, *President & CEO*



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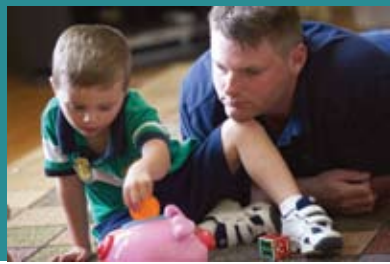
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“ For this adorable, round-faced charmer, the world around him looks, feels and even tastes different. ”

Breaking barriers in the bewildering world of autism

Four-and-one-half year old Nicolas Young is bothered by certain objects and food textures. He flaps his hands. He also gets three baths a day because he likes how the water feels on his body. Except for a couple of words, Nicolas communicates by sign language or sounds.

But after over two years of occupational and speech therapy through Good Shepherd's Pediatric Center, he's started connecting with those around him. "The first two years of his life, he didn't smile or laugh much," recalls his mother, Anna. "Now, he loves to be tickled and played with. He's much better at interacting with the family and he's starting to say a few words."

Until coming to Good Shepherd, Anna Young had never heard about autism. "It was like learning a foreign language," she says. "I don't know what we would have done without Good Shepherd."

Adapted from the story, "One family's journey into the bewildering world of autism and how Good Shepherd is helping them break through barriers to reach their son," in Sweet Charity, the newsletter of The Good Shepherd Homes. Randy Monceaux Photography.



The Church of Christ in every

LSA's public policy office advocates on service and justice issues and facilitates grassroots advocacy among members. It also arranges for others to give testimony on national issues, as it did this year when it identified persons to testify about issues faced by persons with disabilities.



In 193 communities in 34 states LSA member organizations support people with disabilities through case management, services for the blind or visually impaired, clinical and therapeutic services, day programming, early intervention services, employment and vocational services, community based residential services, self-contained or campus based residential services, respite services, and supportive services for medically fragile persons.



Every age Beset by change but Spirit-led



“ The visitors promise another group of volunteers will come again in two more weeks, and the men count on it. ”

When I was in prison, you visited me

The first young man arrives early. He leans against one of the brick buildings that define his environment of walls, razor wire and fences at Dixon Correctional Center. Soon, a dozen other inmates and a few volunteers converge.

For the next 90 minutes, four volunteers help the men complete a craft project and share their faith through Bible verses and devotions, inspiration and example. One of the prisoners describes the volunteers as “an awesome family.”

“Thursday Ministry is an excellent program ... I get a lot of spiritual inspiration and love, especially when we do projects,” says another participant.

A prison recreation specialist says, “People like Betty Stralow [program coordinator] get the word out that these inmates are people ... our brothers and sisters.”

Adapted from Eye on LSSI, “When I Was in Prison, You Visited Me—Thursday Ministry Reaches Out to Men On The Inside.” Lutheran Social Services Illinois (LSSI) is the statewide social service agency of the Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thursday Ministry is a program of LSSI’s Prisoner and Family Ministry.



LSA gathers and shares system-wide information and knowledge. The Growing Connections database provides web-based access to information about services of member organizations and where they are offered.

Nine Lutheran social ministry organizations provide care and services to prisoners in 15 communities. Prison ministries take many forms. Some organizations offer re-entry programs to aid those just released from incarceration. Others provide outreach services to family members of inmates, including assistance with transportation to visit loved ones. Still others deliver housing, clothing, and crisis assistance to prisoners and their families. Nearly all include a pastoral care dimension.



Across the world, across the street



“*Nelson Gables is a different kind of senior care facility. Daily coffee, weekly fine dining, parties and outings keep residents as active as they wish to be.*”

Giddy up at the Gables

This summer several tenants at Nelson Gables were able to experience the joy of horseback riding when the Miracles Horse Riders came to Nelson Gables for an afternoon of riding and reminiscing. Six residents, all over 80, decided to saddle up.

“The Miracle Horse Riders are very experienced with horses and really know how to provide a safe and enjoyable ride for our tenants,” said Linda Namur, Residential Director at Nelson Gables and organizer of the event.

Those who did not wish to ride were cheering the rest on and enjoying a beautiful sunny day.

Adapted from Connections, the newsletter of the Knute Nelson Home, Alexandria, Minnesota.



The victims of injustice cry

LSA mobilizes the collective capacity of Lutheran social ministry. In 2006, the first steps were taken in a project to collectively address issues of aging and multigenerational strategies.

Lutheran social ministry organizations have long been recognized as significant providers of services to aging persons. In fact, nearly two-thirds of LSA's members provide direct services to the aging, and many more deal with issues related to aging. The stunning array of services includes adult day care, adult protective services, affordable housing, Alzheimer's and dementia care, assisted living, case management, companion/visitor programs, congregate care, elder foster care, guardianship, independent living units, information and referral services, skilled nursing, rehabilitation services, respite care, and a variety of home and community-based services.



For shelter and for bread to eat



“ Faye’s progress and her father’s support allowed them to build a healthy relationship. ”

Success comes after hard work

At seven, if Faye didn’t want to go to school, she would hit, kick, bite, and scream. She would take any toy she wanted. If someone was in her way, she pushed.

Faye attended groups that focused on respect and empathy. After 10 months, she moved to a therapeutic foster home. One afternoon, after lashing out at her foster mother, she ran away. Faye’s dangerous behavior determined she needed a locked facility.

After some time with her mother, Faye returned to her caring and sensitive father when she was 14. She received individual and group therapy to help her make the transition. Faye may need mental health support throughout her life, but she is no longer isolated, violent, or at risk for criminal behavior.

Alaska Children’s Services provides quality care and treatment for children and families who need special assistance to develop self-esteem and the ability to live in harmony with others.



LSA provides a wide array of consulting and facilitation services to its member organizations, including staff consulting and peer assessments.

There are 48 residential treatment programs for children and youth offered by 20 LSA organizations in 14 states, giving Lutherans a strong presence in this important work. And, Lutheran organizations support at-risk children and youth in other ways. Thirty-three organizations offer specialized foster care services. Another 23 LSA members offer in-home services, while 26 care for children in group home settings, and 10 offer emergency shelter services.



Then let the servant Church arise



“ LSS is not only providing meals to those who need it most, but also a restored sense of dignity. ”

Serving up dignity

Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio's (LSS) food pantries have been providing food to the hungry in the central Ohio area for over 50 years. But lately, they've been busy serving up something else; dignity. With the conversion of their pantries to a choice food pantry model, LSS is not only providing meals to those who need it most, but also a restored sense of dignity.

Under the choice food pantry model, the pantry is organized similarly to a supermarket, allowing clients to select their own food. In addition, education and training are provided to help clients in choosing and preparing well-balanced, nutritious foods.



A caring Church that longs

LSA offers training opportunities to develop present and future leaders. The LSA CEO Academy and the Faith-Based Leadership Institute are two examples.



Since biblical times feeding the hungry has been a fundamental mandate for Christians. It is not surprising, then, that 82 food programs are a core component of 22 of our health and human service organizations. Within LSA, food programs in 18 states and in 45 communities enable people to benefit from adequate nutrition as they struggle with other life issues. In addition to these programs, there are dozens more LSA organizations that offer meals-on-wheels to people in their own homes.



to be ... clothed in Christ's humanity



“ While she understood some math, Janice was almost a whole grade level behind her classmates. ”

Spotlight on youth development and advocacy

Janice, 12, lives with her parents and brothers Michael and Darnell in Trinity Arms, a transitional housing program. Janice likes to play basketball and enjoys school, but is almost a grade level behind in math. Thanks to a tutoring and summer day camp called MARCH (Math and Reading Curriculum Help), she managed to catch up to her classmates and keep pace in her grade.

Her first tutor, Chris Park, says Janice is a likable, hard working girl. “It was fun to work with her and I was so glad to see her succeed.” Chris helped Janice with multiplication and division. She continues to work on fractions with her new tutor, Heidi.

Janice is just one of the many success stories at Community Family Life Services.

Reprinted with permission from Community Call, Winter 2006, published by Community Family Life Services, 305 E. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

We have no mission but to



LSA creates resource materials to help member organizations strengthen their church connection and understand their faith-based identity. This year a tool for planning installation services for key leaders was distributed.

Safe, accessible housing is often a key to helping people thrive. More than two-thirds of LSA organizations in 46 states and 533 communities offer housing services, including affordable housing, assisted living and independent apartments for older adults, residential services for people with disabilities, and homeless shelters.



serve in full obedience to our Lord



“As lives come to a close, priorities can change, and what might not seem so important earlier in life can become more so at the end.”

Diakon Hospice Saint John: The Kindest Care

Judy Koller and Joan Miller turned to Diakon Hospice Saint John when their father was in the final stages of congestive heart failure. They didn't expect Floyd Fenstermacher to warm to the staff so quickly. “There was an instant connection,” Miller says. “He'd wait at the front door for them with a smile. It was just amazing.”

During his last days, the Berks County farmer and welder reminisced about his Navy service during World War II. “We had never realized how important that was to him,” Koller says.

Koller and Miller, both educators, believe their father's passing turned them into “students,” enabling them to learn more about living – and about dying. “I know it was a real special time for my father, real peaceful,” says Miller.

Used with permission of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries, Allentown, Pennsylvania.



LSA sponsors 17 affinity networks to link individuals and organizations doing similar work or serving in the same geographic region.

Just as it is important to care for our neighbors throughout their lives, our presence with them in the last weeks of life can hold untold blessings for them and for us. Hospice programs deliver supportive health care to terminally ill persons. They also utilize staff members and volunteers to sit with a dying loved one, allowing family members needed rest or a few hours of respite. Twenty-four LSA member organizations offer hospice programs in 47 communities in 14 states and many, many more LSA organizations that offer aging support make sure that hospice services are offered to the people they serve.



To care for all without reserve



“ *Mokhtar Maki Mogtaba is one of the Lost Boys of Sudan ... but he says he’s one of the lucky ones because so many others are still suffering.* ”

The face of freedom

Mokhtar Maki Mogtaba was studying at the University of Khartoum when the government of Sudan was overthrown. One night soldiers came and took Mogtaba’s father away. Mogtaba escaped alone in the middle of the night. He hid during the day to avoid soldiers and traveled at night on foot.

Two years later, on February 1, 2001, Mogtaba arrived in the United States. Lutheran Services Florida Refugee Resettlement Specialists enrolled him in English classes and helped him find a job. He also started to search for his family. In March 2005, Mogtaba’s father and three sisters stepped off the plane.

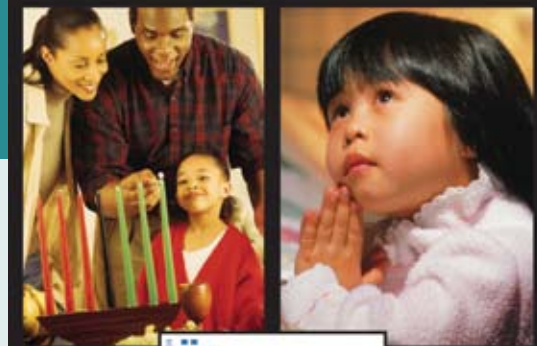
Mogtaba works full time while studying at the University of South Florida. And he eagerly awaits the day when his mother and other siblings arrive.

Adapted from Soaring, the newsletter of Lutheran Services Florida, based in Tampa



GRACED?

LSA promotes national awareness of Lutheran health and human service work. This year the first Trading Graces online auction generated more than 25 million media impressions.



Mindful of the responsibility to welcome the stranger at the gate, 25 LSA organizations offer immigration and refugee services in 24 states and Washington, DC. Services range from refugee resettlement to employment services, from language and translation services to legal services, and from housing support to case management.



PASS IT ALONG!

Use your eBay to help someone in your community. Support Lutheran health and human services organizations.

February 25 – March 22

www.ebay.com/tradinggraces

Buy toys, antiques and collectibles, coins, toys, sports memorabilia, musical instruments and more.

Your purchase will provide healing, hope and justice. Lutheran Services in America is a network of nearly 300 independent Lutheran health and human services organizations across the country and in the Caribbean, sponsors Trading Graces.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans helped fund this event.

And spread his liberating word.

LSA financial report

Balance Sheet/Financial Position	June 30, 2006	June 30, 2005	Statement of Activities	July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006	July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005
ASSETS			REVENUE		
Current assets	46,252	745,648	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	694,055	613,833
Investments	1,291,929	500,000	The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	280,000	200,000
Donor restricted assets	436,702	458,398	Membership Dues	497,757	439,167
Deposits held for Managed Networks (as fiscal agent)	245,277	292,040	Contributions from Individuals and Organizations	42,181	36,687
Property and equipment	89,770	19,257	Temporarily Restricted Grants	268,350	406,095
Total Assets	2,109,930	2,015,343	Annual Conference and Other Events	192,455	176,199
LIABILITIES			Service Fees and Other Earned Income	189,000	130,290
Accrued expenses	23,873	25,150	Investment Income	60,415	29,704
Deferred membership dues	148,065	165,660	Total Revenue	2,224,213	2,031,975
Deposits held for Managed Networks (as fiscal agent)	245,277	292,040	EXPENSES		
Total Liabilities	417,215	482,850	Human Resources and Related Expenses	1,476,193	1,137,410
NET ASSETS			Annual Conference and Other Events	188,238	194,859
Unrestricted	1,256,013	1,074,095	Other Specific Programs and Projects	160,479	97,183
Temporarily restricted	436,702	458,398	Office Operations & Support, Financial, and Other	239,081	216,981
Total Net Assets	1,692,715	1,532,493	Total Expenses **	2,063,991	1,646,433
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	2,109,930	2,015,343	Change in Net Assets	160,222	385,542
			** Included in Total Expenses: Management and General	250,367	207,310

Clifton Gunderson audited LSA's financial records for the fiscal year July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 and issued an unqualified opinion. A copy of the full audit report is available by contacting Lutheran Services in America, 700 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230.

The Church of Christ in Every Age

*The church of Christ in every age,
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.*

*Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.*

*Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.*

*For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.*

*We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.*

*Words: Fred Pratt Green, © 1971 by Hope
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For donations or more information, contact:

Lutheran Services in America

700 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230-3850

Phone: 800-664-3848

Website: www.lutheranservices.org