

Ventures

November 2009

“An Evening with Garrison Keillor,” previously scheduled for September 22nd, 2009 at the Sacramento Auditorium was cancelled after Keillor suffered a minor stroke and was hospitalized for a week in Minneapolis.

Lutheran Social Services of Northern California was ready! The excitement was building as Garrison Keillor was to arrive in Sacramento in a week for the LSS 125th Anniversary celebration. And then the news arrived...we could not believe what we heard. Two years of planning had gone into what was to be the largest fundraising event in LSS history.

LSS staff quickly responded to make sure all important details had been taken care of and that all event attendees were contacted, which was a challenge considering we only had a week to get the message out! LSS would like to thank all of those who participated in this effort. We are in contact with Keillor's agent and may reschedule at a later date with a smaller venue.

Thankfully, LSS was insured for the event and will be able to recover most of the event costs; however, unfortunately the loss of expected donations from the event will impact our budget for this year. All event attendees have been contacted and we are in the process of issuing refunds or converting your sponsorship to a donation. Thank you for your kind consideration of this gift, without your support we would not be able to help those in need of our services.

We would like to give a special thanks to Susan Hill, LSS Development Director; Al Shaffer, Event Chair; the Event Committee and LSS Staff for all of your hard work and dedication to this fundraising event.

To help support our programs, for a limited time you can purchase Keillor's latest book, “Life Amongst the Lutherans” for a \$25 contribution of which \$11.96 is tax deductible. If you would like to place an order, please contact our office at 925-825-1060 x14 or email dkelley@lssnorcal.org. We accept cash, check, or credit cards and can ship the order directly to you.

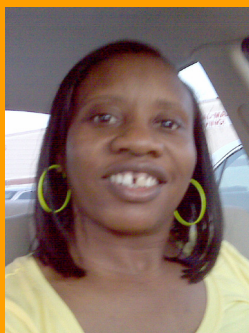
WE ARE TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT!!!



Garrison Keillor's *Life Among the Lutherans*

Will help support Lutheran Social Services ministry! Your generous donation can make a difference to the individuals we serve. Show your support and place your order now. Books are available for a limited time only.

Donetta Jefferson, LSS Board Member knows about compassion and caring...



I am a 41 year old mother of 3 children and Veteran of the US Army. When released from active duty, I was not able to navigate in civilian life. I was not offered services to connect my family back into society.

With the help of Lutheran Social Services and their permanent supportive housing project, I was able to access immediate care on site for the needs of my family and the needs were great at the time.

They provided assistance with case management, anger management, parenting and family counseling, Alcohol and Drug treatment, budgeting and employment training. All the tools needed to become self-sufficient and whole as a family.

As a result of these intensive and necessary services, now I am employed as an Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor providing case management for Child Protective Services in Sacramento County. I currently have two of three children that have entered college and one graduating this year from high school who is also planning to enter college at Grambling State University.

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Main Office

988 Oak Grove Road
Concord, CA 94518
925.825.1060
Fax 925.825.1061

Service Offices

290 8th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.581.0891
Fax 415.581.0899

3734 Broadway Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95817
916.453.2900
Fax 916.453.2904

8161 Palisades Drive #287
Stockton, CA 95203
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www.lssnorcal.org



Dear Friends...

This has been hectic fall! September 8th, I was guest speaker with the Trinity County Sheriff and Fire Chief at an all county disaster planning meeting in Weaverville, CA. It was a wonderful community meeting, hosted by the local Lutheran church Holy Trinity and the local Thrivent chapter.

As I was leaving to return to the Bay area, I got the message that Garrison Keillor had a minor stroke, calling into question whether our 9/22/09 event would proceed.

At the end of that week, there was a major fire in Weaverville, which destroyed most of the Mill, the town's major employer, resulting in the laying off of over 100 people. The same group, except for me, regathered to discuss how to support the families who lost income relating to the mill closure.

Our lives change in the blink of an eye. In this economy, our vulnerableness looms even larger.

In regards to the Keillor event, I of course regret that he was unable to appear, but my real grief is the loss of the opportunity for the gathering of the 2,200 plus Lutheran community gathering to celebrate our long history of social ministry in Northern California.

But just as the September 8th Weaverville community created an intentional community, the planning, ticket sales, communications, and partnerships that purchased tickets, rented buses, and created a new fellowship remains.

November 29th, is the last event of the 125 year celebration with an amazing concert performed by a world class musician, whose faith and spirit will lift our spirits as we move into another holiday season in a world of hurt, loss and vulnerability. The Lutheran community of faith, hope and love is alive and continues to light our world.

Continue to be a part of our Lutheran efforts to provide that light to the most vulnerable.

Board of Directors

LSS WELCOMES BRAD JOHNSON TO THE LSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

Brad grew up in Waverly, Iowa and graduated from the University of Northern Iowa. He and his wife Julie have been happily married for 31 blessed years and they have one adult son, Ross.

In 1981 Brad began his career of working with Lutherans in the corporate offices of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (back then it was Lutheran Brotherhood) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has served in a variety of key roles over the past 28 years in corporate and in the field for Thrivent.

Today, he continues his work with Thrivent Financial in Sacramento with two business partners serving the investment and financial planning needs of their clients. He especially enjoys working with clients in the area of charitable giving.

Brad is a member of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. In his free time he enjoys golfing with friends. He looks forward to serving on the LSS board.

Thank you to our Donors!

July 1st - September 30th, 2009

Service Level - (\$10,000.00+)

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton WI

Independence Level - (\$5,000.00 +)

California - Nevada - Hawaii District, LCMS
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Support Level - (\$2,500.00 +)

Estate of Herbert and Muriel Schmidt
Jon Shaffer
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Give thanks to our good and gracious God.

GOD'S LOVE IS EVERLASTING

Come, let us praise God joyfully

LET US COME IN THANKSGIVING

For the good world;

For things great and small;

Beautiful and awesome;

For seen and unseen splendor

THANK YOU, GOD

For human life;

For talking and moving and thinking together,

For common hopes and hardships shared from birth, until our dying

THANK YOU, GOD

For your Holy Spirit, who guides our steps and brings us gifts of love and faith,
who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship

THANK YOU GOD

TRIBUTE FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Egon & Mattie Andersen
Robert Groten
Daniel Hyde
Michael Qualters
The parents of Orville Iverson
Jo Evelyn Truitt

DONOR:

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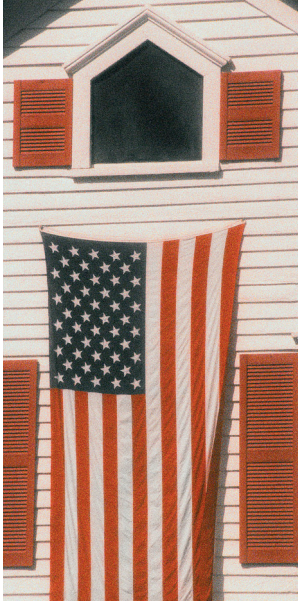
IN HONOR OF:

John & JoAnn Jacobsen
The Iverson Family
Allison Wong

DONOR:

Lois Peacock
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Housing for Veterans and their Families



LSS is currently in conversations with local, and federal representatives of the Veteran's Administration about using our experience and history with vulnerable individuals and families to develop new site based innovative programs for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). These families are even more vulnerable arriving home due to this economic recession.

Our plan is to develop two church sites that will house recent Veterans and their families. Referrals will come from the entire Bay Area. Each site will have 40 units of housing, one proposed site is in Concord, CA and the other site is in Richmond, CA.



The spirit sends us forth
to serve;
We go in Jesus' name
To bring glad tidings to
the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.

We go to comfort those
who mourn
And set the burdened
free;

Where hope is dim, to share a dream
And help the blind to see.

We go to be the hands of Christ,
To scatter joy like seed
And, all our days, to cherish life,
To do the loving deed.

Then let us go to serve in peace;
The Gospel to proclaim,
God's spirit has empowered us;
We go in Jesus' name.

LSS Awarded Federal Stimulus Funds in Sacramento County

LSS was one of only three agencies awarded a \$1.2 million Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) annual contract in Sacramento County for the next two years.

The program places a priority on "housing stability" as the center piece of homeless assistance. Whether a household is on the brink of losing a home, or a family or individual has been in a shelter for a significant period of time, this program provides resources to help resettle people into housing. LSS also recognizes that some people will need more than housing assistance to stabilize their lives. Some people will have treatment service needs or require assistance in finding job training or assistance in finding employment. Receipt of such assistance will be necessary for some have contributed to their housing problems. LSS will provide rent and utility assistance, housing placement, case management, benefits assistance, and referral to employment resources. LSS has a long history of providing services to vulnerable populations and will utilize its expertise for this new approach to homelessness exacerbated in the current economic recession.

LSS implemented this program beginning on October 1st, 2009 and estimates serving 50 households a year or 1,000 households over a two year period. LSS will partner with non-profit legal services, for legal housing issues.

WHO we are and WHAT we do...makes a difference to those we serve!

Contra Costa County (Concord, CA)

Transitional Housing for Homeless Former Foster Care Youth:

Mi Casa -

Provides supportive services and housing for ten formerly homeless foster care youth that offers them a place to call "home". Emancipated foster care youth may stay in housing for up to 24 months. This unique program allows for establishment of a client savings account and provision of a monthly youth stipend. Youth are encouraged to save money to help assist them in becoming self-sufficient.

Sacramento County (Sacramento, CA)

YOUTH HOUSING

Transitional Housing Programs:

Connections & Transitional Supportive Housing Program for Youth -

Offers homeless youth unique living opportunities in subsidized, sit-based apartments. The program focuses on assisting youth complete their high school diploma or GED, attain livable wage employment, and acquire the life skills needed to become self-sufficient. The program provides 24 months of specialized case management, educational support, and individualized employment opportunities.

Transitional Housing Plus Programs:

Focus (Facilitating Ongoing Change Utilizing Strengths) and Youth Moving On -

Offers a wide variety of housing opportunities including scatter-site, site-based, and shared living options for former foster youth. Emancipated foster care youth may stay in housing for up to 24 months. Youth are encouraged to become self-sufficient with educational and employment counseling.



You can help make a difference...

Permanent Supportive Housing Programs:

Adolfo and Project Hope Permanent Supportive Housing Programs -

Offers youth ages 18 to 25, who are homeless and have a disability, an opportunity to have a place to call home. In addition to housing, youth receive intensive case management which helps assist and direct them towards self-sufficiency with resources and referral to build their future. Case managers will facilitate trainings on employment, conflict resolution, problem solving, and building communication skills both written and verbal. Case managers offer educational assistance and support to complete their GED or high school diploma, as well as continuing onto college.

FAMILY HOUSING

Saybrook Permanent Housing -

Provides a comprehensive system of care to 56 homeless families, in which one adult has a disability. The overall goal of the program is to move from poverty to self-sufficiency. On-site intensive case management services address specific family issues including domestic violence, persistent and severe mental illness, alcohol and drug dependencies, job readiness and life skills. Residents establish their won case plan goals in conjunction with case managers. Resident driven community activities include; Senior Gleaners Food Bank, Resident Council, Apartment Watch, and several Empowerment Programs.

Transitional Housing Programs for Families -

Provides a drug and alcohol-free environment that creates a safe place for homeless families to address the issues that led to being homeless. Families focus on reuniting with their children and increasing their parenting and advocacy skills. Case plans are created to help them address their needs at every level, from mental health and alcohol and drug use to parenting and family unity to income and budgeting. Families may remain in the program for up to two years.

Building Bridges -

Serves individuals and families leaving homelessness that are overcoming multiple barriers, and have minimal support. The program provides supportive services to individuals and families who left temporary housing and moved to their own homes. Case managers work with participants to address barriers such as mental health diagnosis and AOD addictions, which affect most program participants.

PERMANENT HOUSING FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH

Project Hope Permanent Supportive Housing Programs -

Offers youth ages 18 to 25, who are homeless and have a disability, an opportunity to have a place to call home. In addition to housing, youth receive intensive case management which helps assist and direct them towards self-sufficiency with resources and referral to build their future. Case managers will facilitate trainings on employment, conflict resolution, problem solving and building communications skills written as well as verbal. Case managers offer educational assistance and support to complete their GED or high school diploma as well as continuing onto college.

San Francisco County (San Francisco, CA)

HOUSING SERVICES

Bernal Gateway Apartments -

This is a 55 unit multi-family housing project owned by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. LSS provides case management and activities coordination. Residents establish their own case plan goals in conjunction with case managers. Issues confronting families include lease issues, such as payment of rent or housekeeping difficulties, services necessary for their daily well-being, such as obtaining a properly fitting prosthesis or home delivered meals, support and referral services for immigration issues, domestic violence, employment and education counseling, access to health care and other community services.

Folsom Dore Apartments -

This is an 88 unit permanent supportive housing complex. Residents are formerly chronically homeless adults, a few with minor children who struggle with AOD and mental health issues, as well as the effects of long-term poverty. Services provided are tailored to the needs of the community which includes support and referral to community resources for AOD counseling, mental health counseling, employment and education resources, and life skills education including budgeting and financial management. We also offer a strong structured program of community activities including on-site workshops, holiday parties and social events, as well as access to the Food Bank and other community support services.

Polk Street Apartments -

This is an 110 unit apartment building that provides housing for 54 formerly homeless and 56 very low income seniors. LSS provides case management and support services for the residents. These activities include community social gatherings, support getting to medical appointments, a weekly Food Bank which provides fresh produce and other food items, referrals to health care providers for care, support for medication management services which are provided by an on-site Public Health Department RN.



MONEY MANAGEMENT

LSS provides money management services and economic skill building to prevent chronic homelessness among low-income San Francisco residents with mental and physical disabilities, those with disabling AIDS/HIV and other severe challenges. We also provide representative payee services for clients who are receiving Social Security and need help managing their benefits.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

LSS offers supportive services for vulnerable communities where needs are identified. By building effective partnerships with community organizations, the people of LSS work as a team to identify needs, focus on solutions and offer guidance.

DISASTER RESPONSE AND RELIEF

LSS assists those whose lives have been disrupted by disasters.



WE NEED YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

- **Financial Donations for emergency client assistance such as Dental work, Healthcare, etc.**
- **Bus Passes**
- **Gift Certificates for food & clothing**
- **New Housewares including - Towels, Bedding (twin & full), Glassware, Dishes, Pots & Pans, Kitchen Utensils, Microwaves, Hangers, Clocks, Vacuums and Lamps**
- **Recreational Equipment (basketballs, footballs, frisbees, etc.)**
- **Arts & Crafts Supplies**
- **Personal items such as Shampoo & Conditioner, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Lotion, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Hand Soap, etc.**

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- **Hold fundraising events with proceeds benefiting LSS**
- **Sponsor an activity**
- **Encourage the use of the LSS Tribute Fund to recognize loved ones**
- **Initiate a household items drive (new) or small item furniture drive (new or gently used)**

VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME

- **Fundraising Events**
- **Community Clean-up**
- **Program Support**
- **Administrative Support**



**Lutheran
Social Services**
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CALIFORNIA

compassionate caring, faithful service

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Lutheran Social Services of Northern California, responding to the biblical mandates of compassion and justice, affirms the inherent worth of all people and strives to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

EVENT CALENDAR

November 15th, 2009 - Scandinavia Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner (4-7pm)
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, 399 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek



Adults - \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

Children (6-12) - \$5 in advance or \$6 at the door, children 5 and under are free.

Tickets can be purchased from your congregation's Thrivent coordinator, by email at gdickinson@lssnorcal.org or by calling Gary Dickinson at 415-581-0891 x108.

November 29th, 2009 - Ricardo Scales Full Concert Performance (7pm)
Saint John's Lutheran Church, 1701 L Street, Sacramento

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased on our secure website at www.lssnorcal.org, by email at dkelley@lssnorcal.org or by calling Deborah Kelley at 925.825.1060 x14.

ORDER TICKETS NOW to help show your support! All proceeds to benefit LSS, for further information on our events, please visit our website at www.lssnorcal.org.

Through a charitable bequest in your will or living trust, you can ensure that Lutheran Social Services will keep its doors open for another one hundred and twenty-five years. This thoughtful act, which has little or no current financial impact on you, may result in the largest and most lasting one-time gift you ever make to enhance our world. You can also transfer cash, stock or real estate to a charitable trust which distributes annual payments to you for life. This trust will never pay capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated assets and will provide you with an immediate charitable income tax deduction and ensure a future gift to Lutheran Social Services of Northern California.

Our Legacy Circle of Love provides lifetime recognition to donors who have included Lutheran Social Services in their estate plan. All you need to do is tell LSS that your plan is in place and you are in the Legacy Circle. For more information, contact Barbara Dröher Kline 925.825.1060 x11 or visit www.lssnorcal.org and click on "Giving and Support" then "Planned Giving."