

Grace AT WORK



Lutheran
Social Services
of
Northern California

www.lssnorcal.org

Main Office:

1465 Civic Court
Building D, Suite 810
Concord, CA 94520

Our Mission

To offer dignity and stability to our communities by providing supportive housing services that lead to self-sufficiency.

Our Vision

LSS envisions that our communities have hope, stability, and a path to self-sufficiency.

March 2016

Sacramento Gift Exchange program brings holiday joy

Each year LSS reaches out to families and individuals to determine their needs and wishes for holiday gifts. The Christmas season can be a painful reminder to our clients of how little they have. Our families have often been homeless or displaced for years, and have very little extra income to spend on gifts. This year, hundreds of families and children across our Sacramento housing program sites experienced a Merry Christmas when their holiday wishlists were realized.



Generous congregations and individual donors fulfilled the Christmas wishes of LSS families. Days before Christmas, LSS staff and volunteers organized hundreds of gifts for those in need. Families made lists of their desired Christmas gifts ahead of time, which were distributed to local congregations.

The annual gift drive allows families to experience the joy of the holidays. It is also an opportunity for our clients to request essential items like bath towels, pots and pans, and other household items they really need.

We would like to thank all who donated to making the holidays a little brighter for those in need. Special thanks to Sacramento Bee Book of Dreams for providing additional funds to purchase gifts. Your generosity is felt throughout the year!

LSS welcomes new Sacramento Deputy Director, Kate Hutchinson

LSS is thrilled to welcome Kate Hutchinson, our new Deputy Director in Sacramento. Kate brings 25 years of experience working in community based

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Kate Hutchinson continued...

mental health programs, and in developing supportive housing programs for people with mental illnesses. She most recently worked at Meals on Wheels in Yolo county CA, where she was the Deputy Director. She is excited to be working with LSS in Sacramento!

A Tribute to Jack Pease

We are saddened by the passing of longtime board member, Jack Pease. Jack died on December 11, 2015 at the Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco of surgical complications.

Jack was a dear friend to many and will be missed by everyone whose life he touched, including the members of the LSS Board of Directors. He was a dedicated member of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda, including serving terms as president and treasurer. He also served on the board from District A of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. In addition to his many accomplishments, Jack had another passion, a passion for trains. He loved model trains, real trains, and train museums, especially the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento.

Jack is survived by his daughter Krista Pease Mendelsohn,

son-in-law Mark, and grandchildren Garrick and



Dannika of Ventura, CA; son Gregory Pease of Pleasanton, CA; brother Robert Pease of Sequim, WA; sister Carol Pease and brother-in-law Bruce Rummel of Seattle, WA; 3 nieces and nephews, their spouses, and several great nieces and nephews; as well as former spouse Ruth Pease of Moraga. The board and staff will miss Jack dearly.



Dear Supporters -

We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We would like to thank all of you who made a donation to support our year-end appeal. Your donations go towards creating hope and a path to self-sufficiency for our clients. Your gift offers stability to our clients by contributing to supportive housing services and ending chronic homelessness.

The stories in this newsletter will offer you a snapshot into the lives of LSS clients and supporters. Our annual holiday gift drive shows how much of an impact your generosity makes during the holiday season for our clients. We are thrilled to announce our upcoming luncheon with *New York Times* best-selling author,

Vanessa Diffenbaugh, author of "The Language of Flowers." The book tells the story of a young girl exiting foster care.

This event provides an opportunity to support former foster youth, while hearing one of our favorite authors speak to her experience being a foster parent. And our donor profile highlights the joy two women in San Francisco feel at being able to give generously from the heart.

We invite you to join us in community while we make a difference, one life at a time!

Carol Roberts, Ph.D.
President and CEO

A message from the CEO...

Monthly Donor Profile: Judy Moriarty

Without the loyal support of our monthly donors, Lutheran Social Services wouldn't be able to help our clients transition from homelessness or the brink of homelessness, to living independently.

Judy Moriarty, 86, has been a monthly LSS donor for over ten years, and she is a member of Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Citrus Heights, CA.

Despite having her income cut in half two years ago, Judy continues to support LSS. Judy emanates joy, laughs often, speaks lovingly of her children and how close they are, and says,

"Don't tell anyone I'm 86, I look 19."

Judy is inspired by the work of Lutheran Social Services, and wishes she could donate even more.

"I feel like my little bit helps, and the thank you letters I get make me feel like a little bit is okay. I try to talk to other people about LSS, and our church is very aware of LSS."

In response to being thanked for being a monthly donor, Judy responded that she wants to thank the staff at LSS most of all.

"I'm so grateful for people at LSS who do this work - without you this couldn't be done. And I know the money is short all the time, never enough for your work. I thank God for you guys."

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to Judy, and all of our other monthly donors, who make our work here at LSS possible. When you sign up to be a monthly donor, you are signing up to change lives.

To find out more about how to become a monthly donor at LSS, please visit our website at: <https://lssnorcal.org>.



Judy's Church, Lutheran Church of the Ascension

Upcoming Event: Luncheon with Vanessa Diffenbaugh

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

*Cordially invites you to
Support
Former Foster Youth*

with New York Times Bestseller

VANESSA DIFFENBAUGH

**Author of:
The Language of Flowers
and We Never Asked For Wings**

APRIL 7, 2016

11:30-1:00PM

CONCORD HILTON HOTEL

1970 DIAMOND BLVD.,
CONCORD, CALIFORNIA

FOR MORE INFO: 925-825-1060 X20

Tickets: \$45 each (\$55 after March 15th)

To purchase tickets, please visit lssnorcal.org



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PRESIDENT/CEO

Carol Roberts, Ph.D.

Support Lutheran Social Services of Northern California when you become a monthly Donor!

Monthly donors are a huge part of our fundraising success at Lutheran Social Services of Northern California.

When you sign up to be a monthly donor, your donation creates safety and stability for our families who need it most.

For more information on how to become a monthly donor, please visit www.lssnorcal.org, or call Cheryl Nickerson at 925.825.1060, ext. 15

