

OUR MISSION

To promote stability and honor the dignity of those we serve by providing supportive housing services that lead to self-sufficiency.

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SAVE THE DATE



KENDRA SCOTT

Gives Back Party

Thursday, November 15, 2018
5:00 - 8:00 pm

91 Broadway Lane
Walnut Creek, CA

Looking for a unique gift? Kendra Scott offers original jewelry and home décor for every budget. *Join us on November 15 and the store will donate 20% of all in-store sales to LSS!*

Can't attend? Place your order by phone at 925.357.9651

Visit www.kendrascott.com to get a taste of what awaits you.

Refreshments will be provided.



LSS
of Northern California

Ending Homelessness. For Good.

HOW YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE

By Gavin James

You may not realize it, but you made a difference in my life. Thank you.

Your gifts and good works in support of LSS of Northern California's mission to end homelessness launched me on my journey to self-sufficiency. Let me tell you how.

I had given up on myself. Over the course of 10 years, I had lost my bookkeeping job, my health and a place to live, along and my confidence and dignity. I am HIV+ and my health was poor at the time. My HIV count was high and my T-cells low.



In 2016, Gavin, who had not rode a bicycle since middle school, took up serious riding when he began training for the 545 mile Annual AIDS/LifeCycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles in June. He has gone the entire distance twice!

get my act together. Your support provided food and helped furnish my small room. The compassionate and nonjudgmental guidance offered by my caseworker connected me with medical and dental services that I desperately needed. He helped me enroll in a drug rehabilitation program. Then I spent two years in the LSS Money Management Program to make sure my essential bills

The event that led me to LSS seemed unfortunate at the time, but in retrospect proved to be divine intervention. I had just been released from jail for shoplifting food at a local supermarket, because I was hungry. I was referred to LSS' Forensic Housing Project at The Kinney Hotel in the Tenderloin neighborhood.

I grew up in a middle class family and never wanted for anything. I had been living on my own in San Francisco since I was 20. You never think that something could get you so depressed that your life would spiral out of control. That people would look at you with no respect if they even suspected you were homeless.

Those first eight months in the Forensic Housing Project were tough, but I needed time, a safe place to live and structure to regain my health and

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COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS: A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Gratitude plays an immense role in faith, spirituality, and overall well-being. Martin Luther described gratitude as *the* basic Christian attitude, although gratitude is central to all philosophies and religions.

This is the time of year to reflect on our good fortune. LSS of Northern California has many reasons to be grateful, starting with *you*. Your good works and gifts in support of our mission to end

homelessness makes a difference in the lives of some 3,600 formerly homeless individuals who have a place to call home as they strive to achieve independence and self-sufficiency.

Take a moment to learn about the ways in which you have made a difference.

Carol Roberts, Ph.D., CEO

WAYS TO GIVE

What Will Be Your Legacy of Caring?

Learn more about how you can create an enduring legacy that reflects your values by visiting lssnorcal.org/get-involved/give. There you will find a link to our complete planned giving page.

Make a Gift by Donating Stock

Avoid capital gains on appreciated stocks by donating them to LSS in lieu of cash. Simply have your broker call us at 925.825.1060 to obtain a copy of our routing slip to arrange for the transfer to our Fidelity account. We will liquidate the stocks immediately and send you an acknowledgement letter for your records.

Over age 70? Consider Making a Gift from Your IRA

You may be able to donate up to \$100,000 per year in IRA assets to a qualified charitable organization – like LSS of Northern California. *The IRA charitable rollover is tax-free, not included in your adjusted gross income, and allows you to take your required minimum deduction (RMD).* Contact your financial advisor for more information.

Shop AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is the same as Amazon except that AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the price of eligible items to a charity of your choice. Select LSS of Northern California as your charity at smile.amazon.com and start shopping AmazonSmile today.

Make a Gift Online

Looking for a quick, easy, and effective way to support those we serve at LSS? Visit www.lssnorcal.org/get-involved/give today to donate online.

2018 WILDFIRE RELIEF UPDATE

This year California's fire season started earlier than normal, and once again you heeded our call to help our neighbors in Northern California by sending more than \$20,000 to support the short- and long-term needs of residents affected by the fires in Shasta, Mendocino, and Lake counties. Church and community leaders worked together to provide fire victims with \$100 VISA gift cards from Wells Fargo Bank, who waived fees. The rest of the donated funds will support the long-term rebuilding needs of residents of affected counties.

Thanks in part to your support of the 2017 wildfires, 70 grade school children who lived through the October 2017 wildfires attended Camp Noah in Sonoma and Mendocino counties this summer. This specially-designed day camp, created by LSS of Minnesota, helps children who are victims of disaster learn resiliency and preparedness skills.



A group of campers raise a parachute together, a favorite activity at Camp Noah.

OUR GUARDIAN ANGELS

Here are just a few of the individuals that made a difference in the lives of the youth, adults, and families with children served by LSS every day through their fundraising and community service this past year. Check our winter 2019 newsletter to learn about the churches that make Christmas a bit merrier for those we serve.



THE BERKES FAMILY

Elizabeth, Andrew, Daniel, Sarita, and Sonali Berkes have donated gently used infant and children's clothing, toys and furniture since the kids were barely out of diapers. Dr. Berkes is the Vice Principal of Faculty Development and her husband, Andrew, serves as chair of Religious Studies at De La Salle High School.

SEAN CLOUTHIER

Sean Clouthier provided 6 months of volunteer administrative support to the LSS Development and Finance departments this year as part of a transitional work program while recovering from a work-place injury. His enthusiasm and great work ethic were greatly appreciated.



DEANNA VATTUONE

Over the years, Deanna has established relationships between LSS and each of the Lutheran congregations she has attended in Sacramento: Greenhaven, Trinity and St. John's. She has also organized book drives for Youth Simply Giving Back, which provides former foster youth with job readiness training.



THE WEBER FAMILY

Caroline, Jennifer and Ed Weber have raised thousands of dollars over the past five years for an annual back-to-school drive that provides backpacks stuffed with needed school supplies for the children in our San Francisco family supportive housing programs. Their sale-savvy shopping stretches every dollar earned. Nancy Nielsen, Deputy Director, recently recognized the family's generosity during a Sunday service at Zion Lutheran in San Francisco.



CITIZEN HOTEL

For the past three years, employees of Sacramento's Citizen Hotel have volunteered to improve the apartments and common areas used by our staff and the youth, adults and children we serve. This year the team painted a space and cleaned up a storage area.



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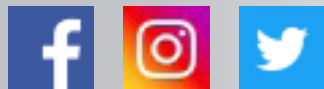
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PRESIDENT/CEO

Carol Roberts, Ph.D.

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

Our vision is that our communities have hope, stability, and a path to self-sufficiency.

HOW YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE cont.

were paid and to keep me focused on my future.

My journey to sobriety and back to the normal life I once led took time. However, I could not have done it without the basic food, shelter and support that LSS offered -- that your generosity helped make possible.

Today my health and outlook on life are excellent. My T-cells are at normal levels and my viral count is undetectable. As long as I continue with my effective antiviral treatments, I will live a long and healthy life.

I'm pleased to report that I work for LSS, having started as the receptionist for the Money Management Program, then moving to a case worker position, to my current job as Office Manager of LSS' San Francisco division.

I feel truly blessed to have been referred to LSS when I landed in jail and now to be part of their work to end homelessness.