

## ■ Being Part of the Solution

*Here are a few of the individuals for whom you have made a difference with your gift to LSS.*

### **Russell**

Our childhood experiences shape us and influence how we lead our lives as adults. Imagine what it was like for Russell, 51, who by age nine had lost three siblings and by his teens was on his own. His parents struggled with drugs and alcohol and had little interest in family life. Little Russell lacked structure or discipline as a child.

As a teenager, Russell couch-surfed, found odd jobs and ended up in a youth detention camp. He later married and had a family. Upbeat and entrepreneurial, he worked regularly in construction and other jobs. But he and his wife fell into the ways of their parents. Their children were placed in foster care, and then his wife died. Russell became depressed and homeless, and eventually he sought treatment. He was referred to LSS' money management program in San Francisco, where he regained his confidence and rebuilt his life.

Today, the Bay Area native always has a smile on his face. Has a responsible job as a Certified Nursing Assistant and plans to become a Licensed Vocational Nurse. He lives in his own apartment, thanks to a Section 8 voucher, and has a savings account. He sends money to his grown daughters and grandchildren when he can.

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*Russell says his LSS case worker, Carmen, " ... never tells me what to do. She makes suggestions, and that works like a charm."*

## THE GRATITUDE ISSUE

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

## ■ Being Part of the Solution (continued)

### *Jasmine*

Women in LSS' supportive housing programs have often experienced sexual abuse. The trauma caused by this abuse often results in unhealthy behaviors with long-term impact on one's actions and choices, including substance abuse; eating disorders; myriad mental health issues, and self-harm, such as cutting.

That's why Jasmine's story of survival and success is so remarkable. In her short life she has endured child sexual abuse from a relative and battled alcoholism and homelessness. Yet, her smile lights up a room, and she is warm, friendly and enthusiastic about her life. She is five years sober and lives in LSS's Saybrook Family Apartments with her young son.

Having a place to call home and the support from her case manager helped transform Jasmine's chaotic life and gave her hope for the future. She is attending college and enjoys math and language arts, especially writing. She plans to open a beauty salon and put her creative abilities to work.

### *Jayde*

Jayde had a normal childhood until she was nine and her estranged parents reunited. During the next few years, life as the little girl knew it began to unravel, going from chaotic to abusive.

The family moved frequently and lived in a homeless shelter for a while. Her mother and father battled addiction. Relationships with extended family fell apart. Eventually Jayde and her two younger siblings were placed in foster care. A reluctant aunt allowed 16-year-old Jayde to live with her, but it was a struggle for both. She moved out when she turned 18.

Jayde had nowhere to live, so she stayed with friends – couch surfing. Thanks to intervention from a former high school teacher and her Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Jayde entered an LSS youth supportive housing program where she could heal from the dysfunction of her youth and build a future for herself.

Today Jayde is completing her degree at Sacramento State, working full time as an IT specialist and lives with her fiancé. She remains close with her brother and sister.

Read more about Russell, Jasmine and Jayde at [www.lssnorcal.org](http://www.lssnorcal.org)

## ■ You Are Part of The Solution



Living in California is a jarring reminder of the need for services for the homeless. The state has the highest number of homeless people in the United States, and roughly one-third of all homeless youth are in California. We all want to do something to help alleviate the crisis of homelessness in our state and in our city, yet the problem seems overwhelming.

LSS is part of the solution. We provide services to over 3,700 people each day. Tonight, because of LSS and your support, there will be 3,400 youth, adults and families with children in Northern California who are not sleeping in doorways, on the

streets or in a shelter. Instead, these 3,700 youth, adults and families with children are safely housed and receiving the care and support that they need to move on with their lives.

By supporting LSS you have become part of the solution. Your support helps provide basic household items such as pillows and blankets. It also helps to provide bus passes so that those we serve can access mental health services or arrive on time to job interviews.

Most importantly, your support helps LSS to fulfill our mission: To promote stability and honor the dignity of those we serve by providing supportive housing services that lead to self-sufficiency.

We value our partnership with you. *Thank you* for helping to end homelessness, for good.

- Carol Roberts, Ph.D., CEO

## 2018 Wildfire Relief Update

*Your donations to wildfire relief last year have been put to good use in easing the loss of family, friends and homes that occurred in Redding and Paradise. LSS staff or board members are involved in each community's Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG), which identifies specific community needs and funding for those needs.*



*LSS donations are helping to fund **10 tiny homes** under construction in Oroville so that some families who were displaced after the Paradise fire will have a place to live. More properties are being cleared and certified for re-occupancy, so some property owners are able to return to the place they call home. For others it will be many years until most are able rebuild their houses.*

LSS has assisted the **Redding** LTRG in writing grants to Lutheran Disaster Response that resulted in funding a week-long train-the-trainer workshop to teach self-care techniques, such as stress management, to individuals coping with the aftermath of the wildfires.

*Thanks to your gifts, 50 children who survived the wildfires participated in Camp Noah, held in Chico and Redding this past summer. These day camps help children learn resiliency skills after experiencing a disaster or other traumatic experience.*



*Photo: Michael Chapman/Record Searchlight*



## Community and Corporate Partners Make a Difference



*Hillsong Church San Francisco embraced our family programs in San Francisco by hosting an ice cream social and providing Target gift cards to assist with back-to-school needs. East Bay congregation members served brunch for youth in our Concord-based MiCasa program and brought much needed personal hygiene and cleaning products.*



*Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Granite Bay organized an ice cream social that included Build-a-Bear kits for residents of our Saybrook family supportive housing site in Sacramento. They also donated backpacks for the children.*



*A team from the Marriott Rancho Cordova made improvements to Saybrook family supportive housing in Sacramento on the 13th Annual Sacramento Hotel Association's Community Service Day. They built two garden beds, installed a fence around the garden expansion including fence posts, installed new pickets on the dog park and painted the pickets.*



## Community and Corporate Partners Make a Difference (continued)



**Heart Rhythm Society<sup>SM</sup>**

*Donated \$12,000 of furniture it used for just four days during a conference. This provided furniture to LSS clients such as James, who had nothing but a bed in his tiny apartment.*



*Safeway Foundation and World Centric provided support for community building activities with residents of our San Francisco supportive housing sites.*



**WELLS  
FARGO**

*Wells Fargo made a grant to provide rental assistance for youth graduating from MiCasa.*

*Members of St. James and Trinity Lutheran congregations in Redding purchased 12 welcome baskets for youth in our Achieving Change Together – Shasta (ACTS) youth supportive housing program through our new partner, CoCo Bundle.*



*Donated gift cards for adult, youth and families in all LSS programs.*



Ending Homelessness. For Good.

1465 Civic Court Bldg. D, Suite 810  
Concord, CA 94520

## Become a **Partner for Good**

Monthly donations are an easy way to help us end homelessness for good. A gift of \$15 per month helps to purchase everyday essentials like hygiene products, food, cleaning supplies, etc.

Become a **Partner for Good** today and we'll send you an insulated mug or all-purpose bag as a thank you!



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### STAY CONNECTED



### Other Ways to Support LSS

**Combined Federal Campaign (CFC# 73023)**  
– Federal employees can contribute through payroll deduction.

**Gifts of Appreciated Stock** – Donate the stock directly to LSS, avoid capital gains and receive a tax deduction. Contact LSS at 925.825.1060 x15 to obtain a transmittal form.

**IRA Rollover** – You may be eligible to make charitable donations directly from your IRA if you're more than 70½ years old.

**Thrivent Choice** – Members may be eligible to recommend how Thrivent Financial distributes its charitable dollars.

visit us on line at [www.lssnorcal.org](http://www.lssnorcal.org)