



LSS
of Northern California

Ending Homelessness. For Good.

MISSION

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- 50 Years Ago
- Wildfire Disaster Relief Continues
- A Big Thanks
- Money Management Program Celebrates 20 Years
- A Legacy of Generosity
- Volunteer Opportunities

MAKE THE HOLIDAYS A LITTLE BRIGHTER FOR A FORMERLY HOMELESS PERSON

You can put a smile of joy on a child's face and provide a deep feeling of gratitude to an adult when you sponsor our Angel Tree Holiday Gift Drive in Sacramento, Stockton and Concord. Contact **Rachel Flores** to learn of our clients' wishes and needs.

Phone: 925.825.1060 x20
Email: rflores@lssnorcal.org



RESILIENCE

In social services, we often refer to the children, men and women with whom we work as 'resilient.' So what does that really mean?

Psychology Today describes resilience as that ineffable quality that allows some people to be knocked down by life and come back stronger than ever.

Fairy embodies this description. She works as a college intern for the Peer Mentoring program housed at our Saybrook supportive housing program in Sacramento.

She offers straightforward, compassionate guidance borne out her own life challenges and experiences. When she shares with clients that she lived at Saybrook for several years, they can't believe that this confident and self-sufficient woman was once in their situation.

"I persevere," says Fairy. "Yes, I messed up when I was younger, but I don't let 'stuff' stop me from pursuing my vision."

And pursue she has. Fairy earned a mortgage broker's license and will graduate with an associate's degree in human services at the end of this year.

The light of Fairy's life is her 10-year-old son, whom she views as her second chance in life. She hopes to buy a home in the near future. "I bat 1000 when it comes to him."

Fairy grew up in a large Sacramento family in which the mother and father and two generations of grandparents were present. Her parents earned college degrees and had good jobs. But they also battled heroin addiction.

"My childhood was rough," she states simply. "My siblings and I suffered verbal, mental and physical abuse from our parents."

Fairy's grandmother and great grandmother took care of the children, especially after Fairy ended up in the Children's Receiving Home when she suffered a beating, and then after the mother left the family when Fairy was in high school. Her great grandmother made a huge difference with her sympathetic ear and unconditional love.

After high school, Fairy found herself repeating the unhealthy behaviors that plagued her parents. She began using drugs and found herself pregnant. For the next decade she struggled with drug abuse and had another child. Then she ended up in jail, and during her two years there, her two sons were taken from her and adopted. Losing her sons brought back years of repressed anger, hurt and resentment.

Resilience *continued from page 1*

Her self-worth gone, Fairy resolved to turn her life around. That was 19 years ago, and she has remained determined ever since. She rebuilt relationships with her siblings, and her brother, a pastor, offers her spiritual guidance.

Fairy encountered bumps along the road, but that didn't drain her resolve. She entered a recovery program, worked and volunteered for non-profits but became homeless for a while. That's when she first crossed paths with an LSS case worker who stayed in contact with her. Eventually she found the Saybrook supportive housing program.

Donations to LSS supported Fairy's journey by giving her a place to call home when she needed it most. Her case worker offered compassionate guidance as Fairy drew upon her resilience to overcome failures, disappointments and missteps.

"Had it not been for LSS, I could never have attended college to study Human Services, participate in this peer mentoring internship or had the confidence to earn my mortgage broker's license."



To learn more about our Sacramento and inland programs, or to make a donation, visit Issnorcal.org.

A Legacy of Giving

Philip Gerald "Jerry" Haag believed in giving back. The Mountain View resident was dedicated to community and church, actively serving and supporting a number of organizations, including Immanuel Lutheran Church in Los Altos.

He supported LSS for 20 years before his death in 2016 and left a generous bequest of \$297,000 to support our work in ending homelessness.

The Missouri native graduated from Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and served three years active duty in Viet Nam before entering the United States Naval Reserves, retiring as a Captain in 1989. His civilian career started in insurance and brought him to San Jose in the early 1970s, and then he served as a fire protection engineer in the public and private sectors.

In retirement, Jerry found a second calling benefiting his community as the Emergency Coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service in Mountain View and on the volunteer support team for front line fire fighters with Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley, of which he was a past president.



50 Years Ago: A Message from the CEO



We trace our founding to 1883 in San Francisco, but it was 50 years ago that the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and California Nevada Hawaii District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod joined forces to create the nonprofit that is today LSS of Northern California.

What an incredible five decades it has been! Thanks to your support, it has been filled with accomplishments that changed lives each and every day. As a private nonprofit organization whose calling revolves around social justice, LSS has responded to community needs with compassionate and effective programs—from refugee resettlement programs in the 1970s to AIDS crisis response to transitional and supportive housing programs.

Today, LSS focuses on assisting 3,600 formerly homeless individuals every day in rebuilding their lives to achieve self-sufficiency. We do it with a staff of 75 and a budget of \$10 million. We manage 22 supportive housing programs in San Francisco, Contra Costa, San Joaquin and Sacramento counties. LSS serves a region that encompasses San Luis Obispo County to the Oregon border, western Nevada and Hawaii.

Throughout our existence, LSS has remained committed to social justice and compassionate guidance. We treat every individual with dignity and respect and as unique person with unique needs. Then as now, we respond to the words of Martin Luther, who reminded us that *as love and support have been given to us, we must in turn render love and support to those who suffer.*

Carol Roberts, Ph.D. and Chief Executive Officer



CEO Carol Roberts (left) and Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Mark Holmerud (right) visited communities devastated by the 2017 North Bay wildfires. Donate at Issnorcal.org to support ongoing long-term relief.

Disaster Relief Update: Ongoing Support Continues

Your gifts of more than \$46,000 have assisted thousands of individuals and their communities affected by the devastating North Bay wildfires. This summer a portion of your gifts will send children to Camp Noah to build resiliency skills through participation in creative activities and play designed to help them process their disaster and trauma experiences from the wild fires. Immediately following the fires, \$18,000 in VISA gift cards (\$100 each with no fees attached, thanks to Wells Fargo Bank) were distributed by local churches and nonprofits to individuals directly affected.

LSS managed a \$50,000 grant from the Russell & Josephine Kott Memorial Charitable Trust, made possible by the Lutheran Disaster Response Network (LDRN), to support unmet needs of older adults in the affected communities. Another grant of \$170,000 from LDRN will support unmet needs in Mendocino and Lakes counties, including a full-funded Camp Noah for children in those communities.

Chrislyn Carson, LSS' board chair, chairs the Emotional, Spiritual and Physical Care subcommittee of Rebuilding our Community (ROC) of Sonoma County, which addresses the considerable needs of those affected by the fires. ROC created a network within and on behalf of faith-based, non-profit, governmental, business and other organizations and agencies to provide for a coordinated recovery effort in Sonoma County.

If you are interested in volunteering for these efforts, please contact Chris at windsorcarson@gmail.com.

One Door Closes, Another Opens

This year marks the 20th anniversary of our San Francisco Direct Access to Housing Money Management service, which now manages \$1.5MM every month for 1,800 formerly homeless individuals living with disabilities in San Francisco. The rent and other essential bills are paid for each person and our case workers help them develop a budget and manage what remains. It's an effective way to keep individuals housed and remaining as independent as possible.

Tom Cantrell served as program manager from its inception, guiding the program's growth and building strong relationships with dozens of community organizations and the City and County of San Francisco. All good things must pass, and in May, Tom retired and relocated to Portland, OR with his long-time partner.

The good news is that Tom trained his successor, **Mike Brezinski**, who returned to LSS after a five year hiatus that took him around the globe.



Reflections Art Showcase on May 3, Big Day of Giving 2018.

A Big Thanks

These generous corporate supporters and individuals donated nearly \$11,000 on May 3's the Big Day of Giving (**Big DOG**) campaign to support our youth programs. The day included Reflections talent showcase of visual and performing arts at Mutual Housing at The Highlands and a visit from *Good Morning Sacramento* to preview the artwork. These Donors Matched the First \$2,500:

Chris Carson
J. Thayer Company
MJD Capital Partners
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Faith Lutheran's Women of Faith, Pleasant Hill
Crystle Wong
John Yeh

For a complete list of donors, visit Issnorcal.org/get-involved/bdog.html.



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

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MAIN OFFICE

1465 Civic Court
 Building D, Suite 810
 Concord, CA 94520
 Tel 925.825.1060
 Fax 925.825.1061

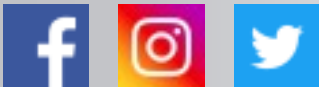
SERVICE OFFICES

191 Golden Gate Ave.
 San Francisco, CA 94102
 Tel 415.581.0891
 Fax 415.581.0899

4390 47th Ave.
 Sacramento, CA 95824
 Tel 916.453.2900
 Fax 916.453.2904

8161 Palisades Dr. #233
 Stockton, CA 95210
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 Fax 209.954.1715

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Carol Roberts, Ph.D.

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



Members of St. Mark's Lutheran, San Francisco, volunteered at LSS' San Francisco office on "God's work. Our hands" Sunday, September 2017.

Volunteer Opportunities in San Francisco and Sacramento

There are weekly opportunities in San Francisco to assist our staff in preparing for deliveries of food and fresh produce from the food bank. Our Sacramento programs have special opportunities, too. Contact **Rachel Flores** to learn more.

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