

■ The Journey

Before he entered LSS' youth supportive housing program in Sacramento, Chris lived day-to-day. He never knew where he would sleep or where his next meal would come from, let alone how he would help provide for his fiancé and two young children.

"I didn't have time to think about my future," said Chris.

Today Chris is a member of an electrician's union and is considering other options in the building trades or warehouse operations. He wants to create a stable life for his young family after years of instability in his young life.

Chris' birth parents battled many demons, and, as a result, they neglected their two sons. Child Protective Services placed him and his brother in foster care. They were adopted by a single man who worked as a peace officer, and, for several years, life seemed great. Sadly, the adoptive father abused Chris, who eventually got himself removed from the home and ended up back in foster care when he was 16.

Thanks to the implementation of California's Assembly Bill 12 in 2012, Chris could remain in foster care until he was 21. This gave him access to special housing (group homes and transitional programs) while he continued his education and worked occasional odd jobs.

He met Erica, his fiancé, while still in high school and they were close friends for several years before their relationship deepened. They have been together for five years, have two children and plan to get married.

However, their early years together were challenging. Their lack of education and marketable job skills made it hard to find living-wage jobs, and they eventually lost their housing. Erica ended up living in a shelter and Chris was living in a room and board facility.

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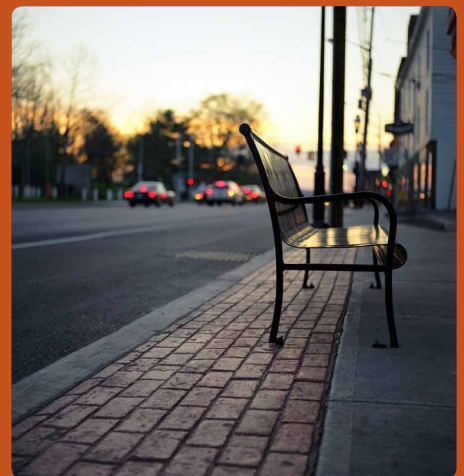


Chris with his children

THE GRATITUDE ISSUE

■ In This Issue

- CEO Corner
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- Gratitude: It's About You



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

■ The Journey (continued)

Chris and Erica both received services from Capital Stars, a mental health organization that works exclusively with young adults. It was through Capital Stars that they connected with LSS in April of 2019 and our case worker found an apartment where they could all be together again.

With his LSS employment specialist, Chris developed goals for his future. He participated in A Novel Idea, LSS's social enterprise created to provide young adults like Chris with hands-on experience in obtaining and maintaining a permanent job: maintaining a schedule, teamwork, time management, interpersonal communication, customer service and problem-solving. He learned how to search for jobs, complete online job applications and how to interview.

The meaningful work experience and job readiness training helped Chris find consistent work through a temporary agency that his employment specialist arranged.

"I watched Chris's self-confidence grow through working together,"

Erika Rodriguez, LSS Employment Specialist

Construction interested Chris, so his employment specialist shared information about construction fundamentals program at Sierra College, which was nearly an hour away. A partnership with the North State Building Industry Foundation, this seven-week program teaches fundamentals of skilled-trades, so students are ready to enter the construction field at the course completion.

With his fiancé's help – she drove him to and from the campus for each session -- Chris made the commitment and completed the course.

"It was a team effort," Chris says with a shy smile.

In many ways Chris' journey is just beginning, but he has a vision for himself and has a sense of confidence and direction that he didn't have a year ago.

"LSS absolutely made a difference in our lives."

■ CEO Corner: Transitions and Gratitude



Carol Roberts, CEO

One of LSS' most recognizable employees, **Nancy Nielsen**, will retire at the end of the year. Or, as she describes it: transitioning to the next adventure waiting out there on the horizon. She celebrated her 76th birthday in June.

Nancy joined LSS as Deputy Director in 2005 with responsibility for San Francisco programs. During her tenure, LSS became a trusted social services partner with the City of San Francisco and nonprofit developers building affordable housing. LSS now serves 2,800 individuals every day through our San

Francisco programs. Nancy also served as interim co-executive director of LSS for the 18 months prior to my joining the organization in 2012. She is well known in the faith community and her contributions have helped to make LSS the quality agency that it is today. I speak for all of us at LSS in saying she will be missed!

In January, John Paul Soto will assume the role of Deputy Director, overseeing our San Francisco programs. JP brings more than 25 years of experience in health and human services to his new role. He joined LSS in 2000



CEO Corner: continued

and worked his way through the ranks to Senior Program Manager, maintaining oversight and responsibility of programs specifically working with low income and formerly homeless San Francisco residents living with HIV in Money Management and Supportive Housing services. John Paul actively participates in community health planning bodies for the State of California, the City of San Francisco, and portions of the Bay Area.

"I can say with great confidence that there has always been a new adventure waiting for me, even if I could not quite see it when I took that first step in a new direction. Trust in life is a part of getting older."

*~Nancy Nielson, Deputy Director,
LSS of Northern California*

Make a gift in Nancy's honor at
www.lssnorcal.org/give



College Initiative

Last year a survey* of California community college students revealed that 19% of students had experienced homelessness in the past year, while 60% had experienced recent housing insecurity and 50% had struggled with food insecurity. Researchers found the highest incidence of basic needs challenges occurred among student in Northern California, including the Sacramento area. Black and LGBTQ students had the highest housing and food insecurities.

University students struggle with homelessness, too. In 2018, CalMatters reported that 11% of California State University students and five percent of University of California students were considered homeless.

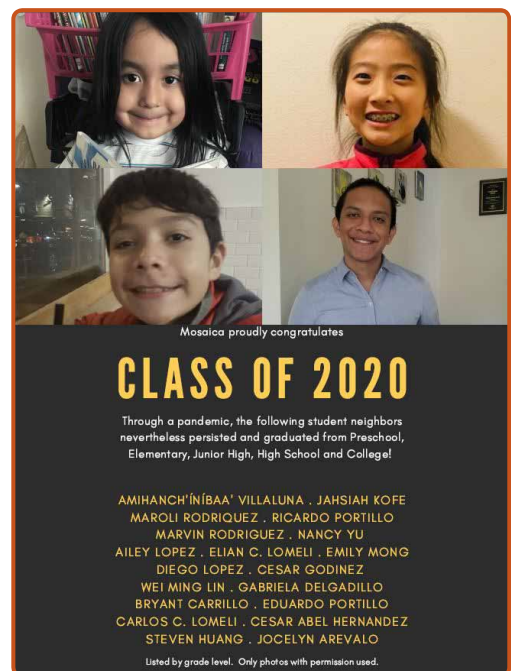
These startling facts prompted advocacy in California. Resulting legislation allocated state dollars in support of these motivated young people, so they can continue to pursue their educational goals and career aspirations. LSS now partners with John Burton Advocates for Youth and four college campuses, with more possibilities on the horizon.

San Joaquin Delta College
Consumnes River College
Sacramento State University
University of California, Davis

Each program is slightly differently but involves housing placement and assistance in accessing essential relevant services, such as food and transportation and include case management based on student needs.

To learn more about college students and homelessness, visit the LSS news archive on our website, <https://www.lssnorcal.org/news-events>.

* Released Thursday, March 7, 2019 by Temple University's College of Education in Philadelphia



Children and youth in our Mosaica Family Apartments, San Francisco, who celebrated school graduations this summer

Welcome Home!

This fall, LSS will welcome 40 families with children and 15 seniors to new supportive housing programs opening in San Francisco. **La Fénix** at 1950 Mission Street in the Mission neighborhood will be a vibrant new community of families, artists and small businesses. **88 Broadway/735 Davis**, at the edge of Broadway and North Beach at the Embarcadero, will bring new permanently affordable homes for families, seniors, and formerly homeless seniors.



These formerly homeless families and seniors are rebuilding their lives and have none of the household basics one needs to create a place to call home. Your donation to our Welcome Home Fund will support their needs: <https://cocobundle.co/lss-norcal>.

Gratitude: It's About You

We could not advance our mission to prevent and alleviate homelessness without the support of businesses, foundations and community partners such as these. Along with individuals and congregations, you are part of the solution to ending homelessness in Northern California, for good. For a complete list of donors, please go to our website www.lssnorcal.org and visit Because of You.



Anthem is helping youth overcome barriers to education and employment



Provides household essentials to LSS program participants



A grant for Little Free Libraries



Supports our families and children in San Francisco



Supports our seniors



Frank A. Campini Foundation
Supports our San Francisco programs

Grant from St. Mark's Lutheran for seniors in San Francisco



Such as this one at our V Street youth program



Gave a generous grant to our Youth Education and Employment Initiative



Partners with LSS



Clothing gift cards for children and youth



*Supports our
San Francisco programs*



*Supports community-building
and nutrition in San Francisco*



COVID-19 assistance



*Supports our Youth Education &
Employment Initiative*



*Paper Goods for
San Francisco programs*

Hundreds of masks were handmade for LSS staff and clients by:



Margie Back

Rachel Boles

Shovana of Sew Masks 4 SF

Barbara and Trinity Lutheran, Sacramento

Barbara and Lutheran Church of the Resurrection , Granite Bay

Legacy Gifts

St. John's Lutheran Church, Sunnyvale liquidated its property and merged with St. Luke Church, also in Sunnyvale. St. John's shared its proceeds from the sale with several ELCA Lutheran ministries, including LSS of Northern California. This generous gift allowed LSS to improve its reserves, to purchase some needed equipment and pay for sanitation and protective gear related to COVID-19. We are grateful to the church council and Pastor Peggy White for remembering LSS as the congregation made this difficult decision.

F. Mervin Baker of Grass Valley made a bequest to LSS.

Exceptional In-Kind

AAA of Northern California

Susan Granzella

SAFE Credit Union

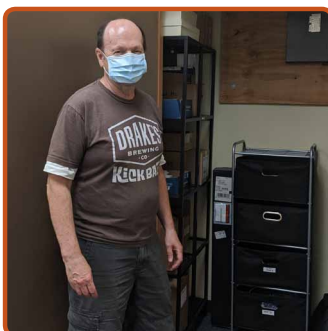
Salesforce

Seven Stills Brewery & Distillery

Elaine and Bill Smith

Idalene and Scott Stadler

Trinity Lutheran Church Fresno



Scott Etzel, a long-time donor, volunteered his time and the materials to make repairs at the MiCasa youth program and to organize the storage area in LSS' new development office.



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



How to Donate to LSS? Let Us Count the Ways!

Cash or credit card are the easiest way to support LSS's mission to prevent and eliminate homelessness in our region. However, you have other options.

• **Employee giving programs and employer matching** options exist at companies of all sizes. Check with your human resources professional at the office to learn more.

• **United Way** (#28202) may be an option through your employer.

• **Combined Federal Campaign** (#73023) is for federal government employees.

• **Stocks** - Contact us for a form.

• **Donor Advised Funds**

• Leave a **bequest** to LSS in your will or trust. Visit <http://lssnorcalgift.org/> to learn more.

Please contact our Development 925.825.1060 or development@lssnorcal.org if you have questions about these options.

visit us on line at www.lssnorcal.org