



LSS
of Northern California

Ending Homelessness. For Good.

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

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Big DOG 2018: Give Where Your Heart Is

The Big Day of Giving (Big DOG) returns May 3rd. Help us raise \$25,000 for our youth supportive housing programs, which assist former foster youth in learning to live independently and pursue fulfilling lives.

Visit www.lssnorcal.org for more information!



A Place Called Hope



Julianna learned to cook in an LSS supportive housing program. Now she leads classes for other youth.

This year we will assist 120-plus youth, mostly former foster youth, in learning to live independently and be self-sufficient so they can break the cycle of homelessness. One such youth is **Julianna**, who lived in our Project HOPE supportive housing program as she worked to rebuild her young life.

Like many former foster youth and homeless individuals, Julianna experienced a disruptive and chaotic childhood: domestic violence, instability, neglect and frequent moves. Not surprisingly, she disliked school and struggled in class. She ran away from home to live in a youth shelter. Then she tried living with extended family on the East Coast.

Eventually Julianna came back to California, entered a job training program and fell in love. Life was good, for a while. When she became pregnant, the relationship fell apart and Julianna found a temporary housing program for homeless and pregnant mothers that taught her parenting skills and offered counseling and mentoring.

She knew she needed more permanent housing, which led her to the LSS Project HOPE. Here she has a small apartment furnished with basic household essentials made possible by cash and in-kind donations from individuals and congregations.

“Having a safe place to live makes it easier to work on the rest of my life.” - Julianna

With her housing needs met, she worked with her case manager to create attainable goals. Then she learned problem-solving strategies and conflict resolution to improve her coping skills. Relationships with family and the child’s father have improved.

Her case manager also offers compassionate guidance and referrals to relevant services, such as child care, as the young mother creates a life for herself and her child.

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Stability. Guidance. Hope. LSS offers this and more to formerly homeless youth we serve in our supportive housing programs.

California’s homeless population increased 14% in 2017. This included 15,472 youth, primarily former foster youth aged 16 - 24. These youth are 55% more likely to be living on the street than all people experiencing homelessness. Others live in shelters or “couch surf,” moving from one friend’s home to another.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



I borrow from the immortal British writer Charles Dickens when I state that that we are living in the best of times and the worst of times, at least from perspective of an organization that serves the homeless.

We are fortunate to have hundreds of donors, businesses and congregations whose generosity and compassion make it possible for LSS to pursue its vision of ending homelessness and assisting victims of disasters. We are blessed to be benefitting from a robust economy and a regional commitment to supporting to our neediest and most vulnerable neighbors.

On the other hand, while homelessness increased by 1% nationally in 2017 – the first time in seven years – California experienced a 14% increase, due to soaring housing costs and stagnant wages. In Sacramento, homelessness increased 30% over two years, with the majority sleeping outdoors. San Joaquin County saw homelessness decrease nine percent, but officials know that homeless youth often ‘couch surf,’ making it difficult to obtain an accurate count. San Francisco experienced a 1% decrease, primarily due to fewer unsheltered youth and families. Our service region extends from San Luis Obispo to Oregon and from Reno, NV to Hawaii and includes many rural counties, where homelessness exploded.

LSS receives funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to operate its programs, in addition to private support. HUD has been the primary funding source for low-income and homeless housing programs since 1965 and suffered budget cuts during the era of congressional sequestration. As I write this, the proposed federal budget offers a slight increase in funding for homeless programs, which will allow us to maintain current programs but not keep pace with rising rents, a primary cause of homelessness everywhere. We will advocate with elected officials to consider increased funding. Also, as Congress grapples with how to balance future budgets, funding for homeless programs, which are considered discretionary, may be reduced.

When congregations and nonprofits join together to fulfill a community need, this work is known as a social ministry. LSS of Northern California is *your* social ministry. When businesses, community organizations and individuals who are not Lutheran join together, that’s partnership. Together we are all committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness so we can end it – for good. We are grateful for your support, which is so important in these paradoxical times.

Blessings for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2018,

Carol Roberts, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Hope from page 1

Today she works for a local Subaru dealership, has a car of her own and plans to move into an apartment as a self-supporting single parent.

“I feel a sense of stability and purpose for the first time,” says Julianna. “I never knew a life like this was possible.”

You can help more youth like Julianna in their journey to becoming a productive member of society and pursuing a fulfilling life. A monthly gift can support a youth for one year, ensuring they have transportation, suitable clothing, nutritious food, and other essentials. To become a Partner for Good, visit lssnorcal-org.presencehost.net/get-involved/give/

LSS Welcomes New Faces

Ridwana Bentley, J.D., Mary Wolkenhauer, and Michael Pavloff recently joined the LSS Board of Directors.

Leah Wilson joined MiCasa as its new Program Coordinator in November.

Megan Kuneli, the new Development and Administrative Assistant, has a B.A. and a M.A in mathematics from Fresno State, is a LEVN alumni and is active in her Lutheran church.

Stephanie Casenza, APR, CFRE, became Development Director in September and brings a broad base of experience in fundraising, public relations and management to her role.

Angel Tree Holiday Gift Drive



These congregations made Christmas a little brighter for children and adults in our supportive housing programs in Contra Costa, Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. Staff helped to wrap the hundreds of gifts.

Faith Lutheran, Fair Oaks
Holy Cross Lutheran, Concord
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Granite Bay
Trinity Lutheran, Pleasanton
Trinity Lutheran, Sacramento

LSS Support for Seniors

In December, we welcomed a new program, LSS Support for Seniors, to our San Francisco office. LSS Support for Seniors currently offers 150 adults aged 65 and older limited emergency financial assistance for housing needs and rental subsidies. The program is located at 191 Golden Gate Ave. in the Tenderloin District and coordinated by Tina Haner, 415.441.7777.

Formerly called Lutheran Care for the Aging, the program was founded in 1960 after the death of Ella Rohlfs, whose estate at 1120 Lombard Street in San Francisco was sold to create a foundation that would provide care, shelter and lodging for low-income seniors living in Northern California. It evolved from a social service agency under the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that offered financial aid and counseling into assisted and independent living eldercare facilities located in Napa. After many years, the foundation believed it could serve more seniors in a more effective way. It sold its various properties in 2009 and created the Lutheran Care for the Aging endowment, which funds the financial assistance program now managed by LSS.

We are delighted to bring this new service to the LSS family of programs.

You Did It: We Really Are In The City For Good!

Yes, thanks to you, we achieved our fundraising goal of \$780,000 for this capital campaign, launched in 2014 when we lost our office lease. You made it possible to renovate the space at 191 Golden Gate Ave. and remain in San Francisco, where LSS has had a presence since 1883. Tea in the Tenderloin takes place Sunday, March 11 from 2-5 pm to celebrate the completion of the campaign.

We are forever grateful to the generosity, compassion and commitment of the 190 individuals, congregations, corporations and foundations that supported this campaign. Below are donors who made gifts of \$15,000 to \$100,000. Visit www.lssnorcal.org/were-in-the-city-for-good.html for a complete list.

SF Nonprofit Displacement Mitigation Fund
The William G. Irwin Foundation
SF Human Services Agency
St. Paulus Lutheran Church - San Francisco
Mary Gundelach
Frank A. Campini Foundation
Gloria and Ross Edwards
Bethany Lutheran Church - Menlo Park

Sacramento Kings "Season of Doing Good"



The pro basketball team adopted residents of Mutual Housing at the Highlands and sent 65 volunteers to bring and set up 23 personalized Christmas trees for the mostly single adults in this supportive housing program.

Learn about the Seven Ways to Help LSS End Homelessness - For Good:
<http://www.lssnorcal.org/get-involved/>



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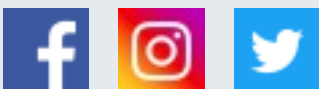
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Carol Roberts, Ph.D.

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.

Pease Family Makes a Generous Donation



It's still hard to believe that long-time LSS board member Jack Pease passed away suddenly in 2015. His leadership and vision truly made a difference. In Fall 2017, his children, Krista and Greg, donated \$100,000 in their father's memory. These gifts will support LSS's work to break the cycle of homelessness throughout Northern California.