

■ Taking the Plunge

Tim tended to stay in the background. Quiet and tentative, change was difficult for him. But the 23-year-old also wanted to get on with his life.

“During my first year in the LSS program, I was so withdrawn that other residents didn’t know I was around,” recalls Tim.

Last summer, Tim took the plunge – literally and figuratively. He was accepted into a four-month transitional employment program at Yosemite National Park, thanks to support from his LSS case manager and employment specialist. That remarkable experience then led to a job at Mammoth Ski Resort.

*My experience at LSS gave me the courage
to go out into the world*

The opportunity in Yosemite was Tim’s first full-time job. He also eagerly participated in such new experiences as hiking, river rafting and skydiving. Now the youth who had been so afraid of change and preferred to stay in the shadows was the first one to take the plunge out of the plane – with his parachute, of course.



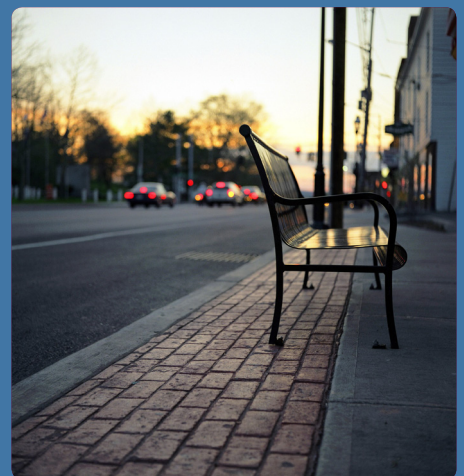
Tim’s journey began when he was 18 and entered LSS’s supportive housing program for homeless youth in Sacramento. He had endured physical and verbal abuse from his mother, who was angry at the break-up of her marriage. Once she beat him with an aluminum baseball bat. At one point, the teenager walked 13 miles to a mental health facility and admitted himself.

Tim’s case worker made sure he received counseling to cope with the traumatic experiences of his childhood. He also participated in group activities organized by the LSS staff, such as family-style dinners and arts classes, and learned basic living skills, such as cooking, budgeting and housekeeping.

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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.

■ A Report to the Community: Be a Part of the Solution



It is said that God uses difficult times to mold us. The biennial homeless census, known as the Point in Time (PIT) count, which took place earlier this year, revealed that California, including Northern California, experienced a dramatic increase in homelessness. This clearly presents challenges to

our work.

However, this sobering news also motivates me and the LSS team to double-down on our vision to end homelessness. The road to realize our vision has never been smooth or straight but **we believe that a difficult road leads to a beautiful destination:** communities that offer stability and a path to self-sufficiency.

Why has homelessness increased? The reasons are varied and often complex. Generational poverty and time in foster care are common experiences of those who have been or are homeless. Disability or a catastrophic illness, with or without insurance, may be the root cause. Extended unemployment, depression, domestic violence, and battles with alcohol or drugs also play a role.

The lack of affordable housing is a huge issue in California and nationwide. Gentrification of older and less desirable neighborhoods has occurred without replacement of affordable housing for those displaced. Natural disasters destroyed housing and livelihoods for our neighbors who were living on the margins, had no insurance or were under-insured.

Why don't we have more affordable housing, including supportive housing for the formerly homeless? This type of housing requires strong public-private partnerships, leadership and vision from our elected officials and our communities. Funding for affordable housing is a patchwork of tax credits, grants and government subsidies and takes years to secure. The location of affordable housing, which is typically multi-story, is often controversial.

Your support and prayers will be more important than ever as we continue down our road to end homelessness. In the coming months we will hold small gatherings throughout our large service area to share updates on our work, growth and disaster relief efforts, as well as to answer your questions. I look forward to seeing you!

—Carol Roberts, Ph.D., CEO

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He gained entry level job skills through LSS' Youth Simply Giving Back job readiness program and volunteered with the Sierra Service Project.

Although Tim still struggles to overcome the trauma of his childhood, he has developed a spirit of hope and a vision for his life. "My experience at LSS gave me the courage to go out into the world," said Tim.

As he thinks about the future, Tim plans to attend college and pursue a teaching career, perhaps focusing on history. He discovered an interest in writing and painting through art classes at LSS and also wants to write an autobiography.



■ Matching Gifts

Your employer, or if you are retired, your former employer, may match charitable gifts.

Visit www.lssnorcal.org/get-involved to find out!

■ Savvy Giving

The changes in tax law don't have to change your ability to make charitable gifts to LSS and other nonprofits that make a difference in your community. You can donate stocks directly to LSS or use stocks to create a donor advised fund. You may be able to make gifts directly from your IRA.

Visit www.lssnorcalgift.org and consult your financial advisor to explore your options.

Because of You

Last year your support made it possible for **3,300** individuals, including families with children, to stay housed. That means they were not living on the street, in a car or in a shelter. **You** are part of the solution with LSS to end homelessness in our communities. Thank you!

And thank you for giving generously to assist hundreds of individuals whose homes and livelihoods were affected by the wildfires in Butte and Shasta counties. Your gifts will also support emotional and spiritual care through Camp Noah, special day camps designed to build resiliency in children affected directly and indirectly by traumatic experiences.

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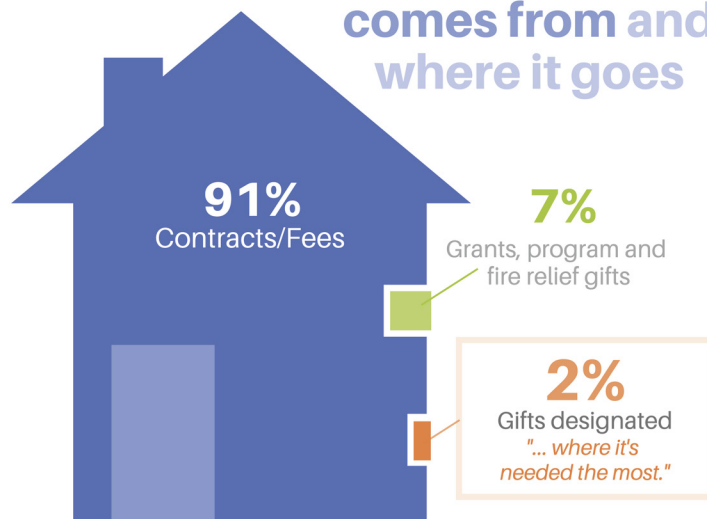
Continuing Her Legacy of Caring

Deborah Halladay's faith played a central role in her life. She devoted considerable time to her church, first St. Paulus and then St. Mark's Lutheran in San Francisco, where she was an active member of Women of ELCA. The Minneapolis native lived in San Francisco most of her adult life and worked as a paralegal, retiring from Morrison Forester Foundation. Deborah was a life-long student, which she combined with her love of travel to pursue an interest in religious studies and icons. She was planning a trip to Italy when she died unexpectedly in December 2017 but left clear instructions on how her legacy of caring would continue by leaving a percentage of her IRA to LSS of Northern California and other nonprofits.

Learn more about ways to plan your legacy by visiting www.lssnorcalgift.org



Where our support comes from and where it goes



Learn more: lssnorcal.org/get-involved/because-of-you/



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LSS is Growing

Demand for LSS's expertise in supportive housing is growing. We now manage 29 programs in six counties. A new partnership with John Burton Advocates for Youth will support homeless community college students in Stockton and Redding. Adult supportive housing programs are expanding in Sacramento and in San Francisco, where LSS will be the social services partner for six new affordable housing projects planned in the next five years. LSS recently assumed management of an adult program in Solano County.

Visit www.lssnorcal.org to learn more.

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Have our newsletter sent to your email and then we will not mail it to you. Thereafter you will only receive the occasional snail mail epistle from us. Let us know your preference by sending a note to Development@lssnorcal.org.

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