

■ LSS Launches New College Program in Modesto

Late in the summer, LSS of Northern California (LSS) launched a new college partnership with Modesto Junior College in Stanislaus County, which brings our service area to eight counties (Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Shasta, Solano, Stanislaus and Yolo). The partnership with Modesto Junior College is similar to our partnerships with Consumnes River College and Sacramento State University in Sacramento and the University of California, Davis. In fact, it is a direct result of LSS's success in the prior three colleges that led us to Modesto.

According to a report issued in 2020, there are approximately 269,269 college students experiencing homelessness in California. These comprise about 5% of the entire student population statewide.

The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated this situation through the necessity of distance learning. Students already experiencing challenges with housing, as well as access to meals and technology, became even less able to continue with their education.

Recognizing the challenges, the State of California created the Basic Needs Initiative to fund pilot housing programs. The State then awarded grants to seven campuses for rapid rehousing programs for students experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in collaboration with nonprofit housing providers. Modesto Junior College was awarded one of the grants and is using the funding to house 20 students. The college contacted John Burton Advocates for Youth, an LSS partner, who then connected LSS to this initiative.

Through this initiative, the college identifies students experiencing homelessness and refers them to LSS. We secure housing for them and then provide the necessary supports the students need to remain successfully

housed and engaged in their college curriculum. We also develop a housing plan with them to keep their housing. Depending on the need, the initiative pays the rent for one semester up to the entire school year, whatever period the student needs to become self-sufficient.

This fall, LSS provided housing for the first students, a set of brothers who lived in a van with their mother. While living in this situation, during the COVID-19 pandemic, they were doing their best to attend online classes, using their mobile phones as hotspots while washing and brushing their teeth in a park water fountain. One of the college professors saw them and posted about them on a college social media page. This drew the attention of the college president who referred the family to LSS.

Sammy, Chris and their mother Sofia lost their housing over a year ago and moved in with relatives, which was not



■ In This Issue

- New College Program in Modesto
- Spotlight on Tina Haner and LSS Support for Seniors
- CEO Corner: *Gratitude and More Gratitude*
- A Clean Start launch
- Holiday Gift Drive



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

Keeping Seniors Housed:

Tina Haner and LSS Support for Seniors

Every day, LSS Program Coordinator Tina Haner shines a light of hope and relief to nearly 200 housing insecure seniors in several Bay Area counties. “Most of the people we serve live in San Francisco, but we also have seniors in Oakland, Fremont, the North Bay and the South Bay,” she says.

Tina coordinates **LSS Support for Seniors**, which provides critical financial assistance to seniors aged 65 and older whose expenses outweigh their income. Through long-term and short-term financial awards, the program enables these seniors to stay in their homes and remain independent.

Seniors in the Bay Area—and throughout the country—are acutely impacted by the increasing cost of living and failure of income to keep up. According to the United Health Foundation, more than 10% of all adults ages 65+ live below the poverty line. As the cost of housing has gone up in the Bay Area, the number of unhoused seniors and adults over 50 has skyrocketed to 50% of all adults experiencing homelessness.

LSS Support for Seniors addresses this frightening reality by providing emergency grants and ongoing financial assistance to enable the seniors we serve to age with dignity in their own homes. The program is sponsored by Lutheran Care for the Aging (LCA), which was founded in the 1960s.

Tina assumed the role of Program Coordinator in 2003 when the program was hosted by St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in San Francisco. In 2018, the program moved under the auspices of LSS, and Tina now works at the 191 Golden Gate site.

LSS Support for Seniors serves 178 individuals who receive monthly grants as long as they remain in their homes. The seniors range in age from 67 to 99. The program also serves 19 clients in emergency need situations with one-to-five months of assistance. These participants may be as young as 55.



LSS Launches...(continued)

sustainable due to family dynamics, and they ended up living in their van. While all of them previously held jobs, they lost them when they lost their housing. This is not unusual for individuals in this situation: They have no address, and sometimes they cannot get from where they are staying to their jobs on time. The boys still endeavored to continue their schooling.

Once LSS housed the family, we began guiding them and supporting them to stability. Sammy and Chris are now both happily in class, and Sofia has plans to return to work. With the housing stability that this new initiative provides, they can now envision a stable and sustainable future. ♦

Moving? Hate Cleaning?
Want a super clean?
 Need a regular cleaning service?
 Leave the cleaning to us!
CLEAN START
 Professional Cleaning Service
 Residential - Commercial

LSS
 of Northern California
 Ending Homelessness. For Good.

A Clean Start Has Arrived!

LSS now provides office and apartment cleaning through **A Clean Start**. This is our Stockton-area employment training program and social enterprise for transitional age youth. The youth are professionally trained and ready to clean and sanitize your office or apartment. Please contact Siresa Davis at 209.739.0009 for more information.

This program is already garnering attention. Thank you to Anthem Blue Cross for sponsoring the expansion of A Clean Start and our Youth Employment and Education Initiative in Sacramento!



The seniors are referred by about 25 different partner organizations, including Bridge Housing, Canon Kip Senior Center, Centro Latino, Curry Senior Center, Midpen Housing and On Lok.

The funding the program provides assists these vulnerable seniors with rent, but also with food and utilities. "Whatever they need to stay housed," says Tina.

Individuals that LSS Support for Seniors serves include Lucia who is 95 years old. The program has been supporting her for more than 25 years. Her monthly income is \$1198, and her rent is \$1137, leaving her only \$61 per month to pay for everything else. Her monthly grant is \$200. Our oldest client is 99 years old and has been receiving support since 2012. Marco's income \$974, and his rent is \$970. The program provides \$275 each month. This little bit of assistance each month makes all the difference in the lives of these seniors.

Emergency assistance is part of the short-term program. Sarah and her room-mate's combined income was \$1800, and their rent was \$1500, but during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sarah's roommate died. To stay in the apartment, Sarah needed to pay the entire rent, which was impossible for her. LSS Support for Seniors awarded her \$1000 per month for five months until she found a new roommate, which she did.

"One of the more startling incidents," said Tina, "was Alfredo, who at age 61 suffered from face cancer. The surgery left him with damaged teeth that made it extremely difficult for him to eat. A dentist devised a procedure that would enable Alfredo to have usable teeth. We provided a grant of \$4000 to pay for the dental work."

While Tina does not meet any of these individuals in person—she leaves that to their social workers and case managers—she does feel a great connection to them. "It touches my heart that I can help people," she explains. "When I hear the stories of how people are suffering, I think, 'Here but by the grace of God go I.' And I like knowing that I serve my community. I have developed a heart for these people." ♦

CEO Corner: Changes, Growth, the Future



This is the time of year when we all spend at least a few moments to count our blessings, and there are many things I am thankful for.

I am thankful for the LSS Board of Directors. Led by Chair Sandra Hamilton Slane, our 18-member board

is comprised of incredible partners who help me grow and strengthen LSS.

I am thankful for the LSS executive team and all the amazing staff of LSS who every day impress me with their creativity, generosity, tenacity and flexibility. In November, we have a special staff appreciation event to welcome our new colleagues, honor our long-time staff members (several have been at LSS for more than 20 years!) and celebrate those who through their care, skill, perseverance and love, guide the people we serve to transform their lives. With the addition of new programming in Sacramento, San Francisco, Stockton and Modesto over the past year, our staff has grown to nearly 110 people!

I have a special thank you to Carole Cartwright, Program Manager of our Mutual Housing at the

Highlands supportive housing site in Sacramento, and Kimberly Rudy, San Francisco Supportive Housing Program Manager. Carole is retiring, and after 14 years of incredible service to the people of San Francisco, Kimberly is pursuing new endeavors. All of us at LSS wish them well!

I am thankful for the opportunities that LSS has to serve more people in our community.

I am thankful for our government partners who recognize our work by not only continuing to provide funding for our current programming, but also to fund expanded and new programs, as well as recommend LSS as a valuable partner addressing homelessness in California.

I am thankful for our community partners, who work with us to serve the community we all hold dear, frequently inviting and recommending LSS for new programs and new partnerships to serve more individuals and families.

I am thankful for our foundation and corporate partners who provide essential funding so that LSS programming can go beyond what our government partners provide, to increase our impact and ensure the long-term stability of the people we serve.

continued on page 4



Ending Homelessness. For Good.

1465 Civic Court, Suite 810
Concord, CA 94520

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CONCORD, CA
PERMIT NO. 476



MAIN OFFICE

1465 Civic Court
Suite 810
Concord, CA 94520
Tel: 925.825.1060

SERVICE OFFICES

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

4390 47th Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95824
Tel: 916.453.2900

4550 N. Pershing Ave., Ste 120
Stockton, CA 95207
Tel: 209.323.5131

2400 Washington Ave., Ste. 120
Redding, CA 96001
916-453-2900 x220

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sandra Hamilton Slane,
Chair
 - Regina Banks
 - Brion Beetz
 - Laura Benson
 - Ridwana Bentley
 - Kent Campbell
 - Chrislyn Carson
 - V-Anne Chernock
 - Elizabeth Donnelly
 - Scott Etzel
 - Patricia Foley
 - Yolanda Gan
 - Jayde Garcia
 - Iryna Oreshkova
 - Mary Lynn Perry
 - Susan Taylor
 - Mary Wolkenhauer
 - Crystle Wong Vitari
- PRESIDENT/CEO**
Carol Roberts, Ph.D.

CEO Corner...(continued)

I am grateful to the many individuals, families, churches and businesses that support our goal to end homelessness. Thank you for the dollars you invest in our community through LSS, the time and expertise you invest by volunteering.

As we move into the holiday season and the last weeks of 2021, I ask you to consider the work of LSS in your giving—whether making a cash donation or engaging your faith or philanthropic group to adopt one of our programs for our Holiday Gift Drive.

You are the backbone of all that LSS does for your vulnerable neighbors. Your actions make a difference in the lives of children and their parents, grandparents, teenagers, college students, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and pet owners who have been overwhelmed by life challenges but are endeavoring to build stable lives.

I cannot thank you enough! ♦

STAY CONNECTED



visit us online at www.lssnorcal.org