



Lutheran Social Services

Strengthening Individuals, Families and Communities

2007 Annual Report to Congregations

On behalf of the thousands of people to whom Lutheran Social Services brings hope and healing, we thank you. It is impossible to adequately express our gratitude to all who have volunteered your precious time, kept us in your hearts and prayers, and blessed us with your generous gifts.

The ministry of LSS touched the lives of nearly 41,000 people in 2007. We would not be able to reach out to those in need without your support. For example, 5,390 people came to LSS for counseling services but 57% of them had incomes below \$30,000 and could not afford to pay for services without the help of the sliding fee scale.

LSS is committed to providing high quality services and to being good stewards of human and financial resources. We want to know that our services are not just touching lives, but making a difference in those lives. Here are highlights of just two of our service areas:

Family-Based Services

Families are referred to the LSS Family-Based Program when a child is at risk of being removed from the home due to involvement with the judicial system. Family-Based counselors work with the unique needs of each family to keep the family together. As a result of this program,

- 80% of youth did not commit a delinquency offense in the six months after treatment;
- 75% of youth demonstrated academic improvement; and
- 86% of youth demonstrated a decrease in school disciplinary actions.

Refugee and Immigration Services

The LSS Refugee & Immigration Center resettled 243 people this past year. Learning a new language is one of the most important skills for newly arrived refugees. Also of high importance is finding a good-paying job as cash assistance is only available for up to eight months.

- 64% of English language students earned a competency level during their first year.
- 73% of newly arrived refugees were employed in a full-time position within five months of arrival and earned an average of \$9.00 per hour.

Through our partnership in ministry, we are not just touching lives – we are making a difference in the lives of those we touch. You are making a difference!

With gratitude,

Betty Oldenkamp
President

STATE CENTER

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