



BEING THERE

THE SHAPE OF A CENTURY

In October, 1920, church leaders met, resulting in a decision to organize The Lutheran Children's Home Finding Society of South Dakota to care for young girls facing unplanned pregnancies. Through this first caring act, so many decades ago, the mission of Lutheran Social Services took shape.

Today, on the occasion of our centennial, we take a moment to look back at the many shapes LSS has taken in our first century of service...but only a moment, because—as is our nature—we can't help but look ahead and wonder at the shapes our future and the futures of the people we serve may take.



BERTHA
BRAGSTAD
PRESIDENT

LUTHERAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
FINDING SOCIETY
1920-1948

"WHAT MAKES US GOOD

By the time the Lutheran Children's Home Finding Society became Lutheran Social Services, the organization's scope of services had grown to include not just young women, but any member of the family. From mental health counseling to prevention services, LSS responded to community needs wherever they could.

AT THESE JOBS, IS THAT IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS BETWEEN NINE TO FIVE AND MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. IT'S WHO WE ARE AS PEOPLE."

— Betty Oldenkamp,
President and CEO

CONTINUED...



1920 LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S HOME FINDING SOCIETY ORGANIZES IN SIOUX FALLS

1921 HOUSE OF MERCY MATERNITY HOME OPENS IN SIOUX FALLS

1939 FIRST PRIVATE AGENCY TO BE LICENSED FOR CHILD CARE IN SOUTH DAKOTA

NAME CHANGES TO LUTHERAN WELFARE SOCIETY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

1947 FOSTER CARE PROGRAM BEGINS

1948 REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM BEGINS FOLLOWING WWII, KNOWN TODAY AS CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS

1961 YOUTH RESIDENTIAL SERVICES BEGIN WHEN SUMMIT OAKS CENTER IS BUILT

“IT IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR US THAT OUR FAITH CALLS US TO SERVE OUR NEIGHBOR.”

— Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop, SD Synod ELCA

As the years passed, the definition of “neighbor” expanded as well. Following the second World War, LSS launched the Refugee Resettlement Program, the forebearer of today’s Center for New Americans, a program that helps acclimate refugees and immigrants to our state while enriching our culture.

There will always be change in our community, and that is a wonderful thing. Over the past century, we— with the help of donors, partner organizations, and dedicated staff—have been blessed to play a role in changing the lives of countless South Dakotans for the better.

“JUST BECAUSE WE’VE DONE SOMETHING THE SAME WAY FOR 50 YEARS OR 100 YEARS AS A COMMUNITY DOESN’T MEAN THAT THAT’S THE WAY IT NEEDS TO BE GOING FORWARD. THERE ARE ALWAYS OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TO GROW.”

— Nathan Beyer, Vice President, Finances & Support Services

Financial counseling. Child care. Foster care. Re-entry services. Adoption services. Mentoring. Disaster response. In 1920, our organization’s originators were not thinking about these things. Their mission was humble and simple; they just wanted to help the people they saw who needed help.

Resettlement Offers	Date Rec'd
Bentson, Pastor E.L. Baltic, S. D.	4-20-'49 (specific person)
5. Foster, Annelise Parkston, S. D.	3-10-'49 (specific person)
6. Foster, Annelise Parkston, S. D.	3-10-'49 (specific person)
7. Matzner, B. C. Stickney, S. D.	4-25-'49 (specific person)
8. Schilling, Martin Bowdle, S. D.	4-29-'49 (relative)
9. Johnson, Irving W. Beresford, S. D.	5-2-'49
10. Hohertz, Gustava Sisseton, S. D.	5-2-'49 (relative)
11. Luther Hospital Watertown, S.D.	5-4-'49 (specific person)
12. Geigle, Emanuel G. Quinn, So. D.	4-24-'49 (relative)
13. Hogle, Emil Strandburg, S. D.	1-12-'49



1962

COUNSELING OFFICE OPENS IN RAPID CITY ESTABLISHING STATEWIDE PRESENCE

1965

NAME CHANGES TO LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTH DAKOTA

1969

COUNSELING OFFICE OPENS IN ABERDEEN

1970

COUNSELING OFFICE OPENS IN SIOUX FALLS

1973

WOODFIELD CENTER (FORMERLY BETHESDA CHILDREN’S HOME) BECOMES PART OF LSS

1983

COUNSELING OFFICE OPENS IN WATERTOWN

1984

CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING SERVICE BECOMES PART OF LSS, KNOWN TODAY AS CENTER FOR FINANCIAL RESOURCES

1991

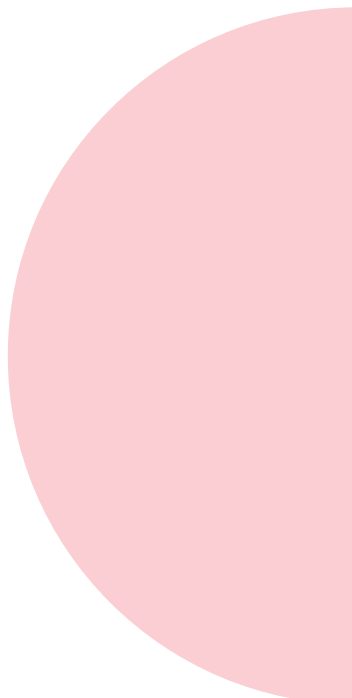
NEW BEGINNING CENTER, ABERDEEN, BECOMES PART OF LSS

1993

CANYON HILLS CENTER, SPEARFISH, BECOMES PART OF LSS

1997

The shape of a century.



"A MISSION IS GREAT ON PAPER. BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE PEOPLE THAT PUT THAT MISSION INTO PLAY, IT DOESN'T MEAN A WHOLE LOT. AT LSS, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT PUT THAT MISSION INTO PLAY EVERY DAY IN THEIR WORK."

— Amy Witt, Vice President, Children & Youth Services

Today, for all the complex and varied services we provide, our mission remains the same. Just as we have for the past one hundred years, LSS wants to help.

"WHEN SOMETHING IS DIFFICULT, WE'RE OFTEN THE ONES WHO ARE ASKED TO COME TO THE TABLE TO TRY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM."

— Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen,
Vice President, Community Services

The difference is that today, thanks to our dedicated team, donors, and partners, the scope of our vision is so much broader. And when we have the resources to see further and deeper, we have the ability to help even more.

The South Dakota community is an ever-changing, ever-expanding vessel. When we work together, we can fill that vessel, over and over again. It's not easy work, but it's fulfilling work, and so we are able to fill our own cups even as we fill the cups of our brothers and sisters across South Dakota.



<p>2000</p> <p>DISASTER RESPONSE SERVICES CREATED</p>	<p>2001</p> <p>SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING BECOMES PART OF LSS</p>	<p>2007</p> <p>FATHERHOOD & FAMILIES BEGINS, KNOWN TODAY AS RE-ENTRY SERVICES</p>	<p>2010</p> <p>COMMUNITY RESOURCE PROGRAM BECOMES PART OF LSS</p>	<p>2013</p> <p>ARISE YOUTH CENTER, RECEPTION CENTER & SHELTER CARE OPENS</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>HERE4YOUTH CHILD CARE BECOMES PART OF LSS</p>	<p>NEW ALTERNATIVES, INTENSIVE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES, OPENS IN RAPID CITY</p>	<p>TODAY'S CHILDCARE & EDUCATION SERVICES BEGAN WITH THE OPENING OF SOUTHERN HILLS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM IN SIOUX FALLS</p>
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WHEN COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE RALLY, THINGS GET DONE



Dixie Garrett

Through the years and today, LSS is grateful for prayerful and financial support from the Women of the ELCA, congregations, businesses, foundations, United Ways as well as many individuals and families who give. Truly one person, one congregation or business can make a difference.

Take Dixie Garrett, a cook at New Beginnings Center in Aberdeen for example. She is a passionate advocate for the children in our Residential Services for Children and Youth, and has made an impact on every child who has entered through the center's doors. She has also played a significant role in the Campaign for Hope, an ongoing statewide capital campaign. For New Beginnings it means a new kitchen, the heart of the home, among other needs. "The kitchen is more than a structure," says Liesl Hovel, LSS Northeast Region Development Director. "It is a place where relationships are built."

For New Beginnings, LSS has raised \$97,075 of its \$150,000 goal. "We are almost there," says Hovel.

Dixie estimates more than 400,000 meals have been shared in her 20 years at New Beginnings, and although it utilizes commercial grade appliances, Dixie treats NBC's new kitchen like her kitchen at home. "I teach the kids how to cook, and how to cook on a budget." Like most kitchens, it's where some important conversations happen. "Sometimes the kids just need to get away and talk. I listen."

WHEN THE ABERDEEN COMMUNITY COORDINATES RESOURCES, IT'S A SLAM DUNK FOR THE KIDS

Basketball courts were installed this fall at New Beginnings Center in Aberdeen. The construction of the new courts was a joint effort between a variety of local businesses that was initiated by ten-year volunteer Jason Welk. All of the kids at New Beginnings thank you, Jason!



WINTER 2020

NEWS FROM LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

COUNSELING SERVICES INCORPORATES TELEHEALTH TECHNOLOGY INTO SERVICE DELIVERY

2018

LSS CELEBRATES 24 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS ACCREDITATION THROUGH THE COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION, COA

2020

LSS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVING SOUTH DAKOTA

BETTER TOGETHER BEGINS

2019

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE SIOUX EMPIRE TRANSITIONS TO LSS MENTORING SERVICES

RESOURCE FAMILY SERVICES BECOMES PART OF LSS





GIFTS-IN-KIND TRANSFORM TO DIGNITY, RESPECT, SUPPORT

During Bertha Bragstad's 28 years of leadership at the House of Mercy, she created an environment where unwed women facing unplanned pregnancy felt welcome and accepted. Bragstad kept a box of plain rings donated by friends by the door for women to wear outside of the home, so they could walk in public without judgment.

Such non-monetary donations were needed back then and are still needed today. Although financial support is always needed and appreciated, non-monetary gifts provide budget relief, and let those we serve know others in the community support and respect them as individuals.

BELOW ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF NEEDED GIFTS. A FULL LIST IS AVAILABLE AT InKind.LssSD.org OR BY CALLING 800-568-2401.

- Art, craft and scrapbooking supplies
 - Books for all ages
 - Bikes & Trikes
 - Blankets – fleece-tied and quilts for all ages
 - Games puzzles and toys – board games, Legos, Xbox360, PS2 or Wii, card games, dolls and Barbies, outdoor games, matchbox cars, blocks, balls, jump ropes, hula hoops
 - Gift cards – Walmart, Target, food cards, gas cards, phone cards
 - Hygiene items – shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, lotion, tampons, razors, body wash, toothbrushes and toothpaste, nail clippers, shave gel, shower gel, toilet paper
 - School supplies – backpacks, notebooks, loose-leaf paper, pens, pencils
 - Suitcases or duffel bags
-

LSS RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Ensuring our clients and staff are in a safe and healthy environment during the COVID pandemic is a priority. We are in communication with state and local public health officials and follow recommendations relative to our operations. LSS has developed a pandemic plan that is being reviewed and revised daily to help address the rapidly changing situation. Below is the latest update for services.

Behavioral Health: Our behavioral health team is doing an excellent job of responding to the increased needs for our clients as a result of stress and anxiety created by the pandemic. Telehealth counseling services are a good alternative in today's pandemic climate.

LSS is able to provide services directly in your home or wherever you are most comfortable by simply using your smartphone, most tablets or laptop.

PATH Program: Because the mental health of students has been so significantly impacted by the pandemic, the 35 schools in the Sioux Falls area we partner with have deemed our PATH school-based mental health counseling as essential. This opens the door for our behavioral health team to continue delivering vital mental health services to students on-site at schools.

Center for Financial Resources: We know that people are being affected economically as a result of the pandemic. We are seeing increased need for basic needs like food and rental assistance for households that have had

disruptions in their income due to the pandemic. Our team of certified financial counselors is available to assist families in identifying resources to meet those immediate needs and are also available to help families navigate the long term financial impacts that may result from the pandemic, including increased reliance on credit cards.

Financial Help is Needed
LSS Behavioral Health Services is operating at a similar capacity as it was a year ago and we expect those numbers to increase. Although we utilize a variety of financial sources, LSS has depended on individual contributions to fill the gap for those who cannot afford to receive services. Operating during this pandemic, we are looking at a significant financial loss for behavioral health services and we need your financial support more than ever.



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTH DAKOTA
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DeMaris Nesheim

DeMaris has a new challenge for us!

For every \$1 donated from this newsletter, an extra \$1 will go into the SDCF fund, up to \$25,000, giving your gift twice the impact.

Are you up to DeMaris's challenge?

DOUBLE YOUR GIFT THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR

The DeMaris Nesheim Matching Gift Challenge

If you take a walk around Canyon Hills Center, you will see a beautiful outdoor space for clients to enjoy the fresh air. Or, you might hear the tinkering sounds of busy hands working from the tool shop and garage. And, if you are lucky, you may even get to enjoy some fresh produce from the new garden beds. None of these transformations would have been possible without DeMaris Nesheim. A faithful friend to LSS with an ambitious and giving spirit, DeMaris has provided hope and comfort to our clients for almost 20 years.

She was the driving force behind a new endowment created for LSS West River Programs at the South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF).

DeMaris challenged LSS by offering to match donations dollar for dollar up to \$40,000, with an additional \$20,000 granted by the SDCF, as long as the SDCF received the funds by September 30, 2020.

Because of you, we exceeded that goal. We now have over \$100,000 in the SDCF endowment that will allow us to continue investing in LSS programs for years to come.

We are so grateful to DeMaris, an angel that walks among us, and to you. Your compassion towards your neighbors and community has given them another chance to find healing and happiness.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

- ☐ Match my gift through DeMaris Nesheim Challenge. My gift is enclosed.
- ☐ I have questions and would like to visit with a development officer.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

MAIL TO: **LSS Development & Foundation**
705 E. 41st Street, Suite 200
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

DONATE AT: **Donate.LssSD.org**
800-568-2401