

Giving Tuesday is Coming!

Giving Tuesday is coming! Every year, LCFS celebrates #GivingTuesday by choosing one program to highlight and raising funds for that program with a days long digital campaign. This year we'd like to highlight the great work that Pando Aspen Grove of Community Heights (Pando) is doing.

Here are some facts about the program:

- Pando opened in 2021
- The goal of the program is to provide permanent supportive housing to youth that have aged out of the foster care system and experienced homelessness
- Pando serves ages 18-24
- The program currently houses 24 people
- Our team at Pando have worked hard to get our time from referral to move in from 101 days to 30 days



To help us reach our goal, stay tuned to our digital newsletters and social media! To find us on social media or to subscribe to our emails please visit please follow the information listed on the back of this edition of 'The Voice'.

Empowering Futures: How Trinity House Supports Youth Transitioning from Foster Care to Independence

Trinity House serves males ages 14-21 who are aging out of the foster care system, specifically focusing on independent living, education, accessing community resources, self-care, recreation, job training, and community involvement.

The program currently has 8 residents all of whom are enrolled in school. The residents volunteer at The Sharing Place Food Pantry and help the neighborhood association neighbor of Community Heights in landscaping activities such as raking their leaves and shoveling their driveway in the winter.



One of the residents is currently enrolled in welding school at Ivy Tech, and one resident is a participant in Kodie's Kids, a program that is helping them get more involved in the community and connect him with resources for his interest in being a fireman.



Lutheran Child and Family Services
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The Voice is published four times a year to share information about our ministries and programs with all our friends and supporters.

Questions or comments?
Email develop@lutheranfamily.org,
or call (317) 359-5467

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Helping Seniors Overcome Food Insecurity

In 2022, 124,700 seniors faced food insecurity in Indiana. This is often hard to overcome due to transportation issues.

In 2020, a group of our volunteers saw this need and sought out a way to help. With the assistance of church partners, they were able to start SilverBox, a program that aims to help those seniors who might need access to The Sharing Place but can't find transportation to get there. King of Glory, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Christ the Savior Lutheran Church, and New Joy Lutheran Church all came together to deliver these boxes.



SilverBox Home Delivery

This year, LCFS officially brought the program on as an extension of The Sharing Place. With the help of our church partners and volunteers, we hope to continue growing the program and serve more seniors in need.

To help these seniors, please consider volunteering or donating to SilverBox. The program needs volunteers monthly on the third Friday and Saturday to help package and deliver boxes. You can learn more about how to get involved by contacting our SilverBox Liaison, Lori Benges, at silverboxliaison@lutheranfamily.org.



Did you know that we send monthly e-mail newsletters? Stay up-to-date on all things LCFS! To sign up for this, please visit scan the QR code or e-mail us at pr@lutheranfamily.org.

Stay tuned for upcoming fundraising events for LCFS programs!

There's Still Time to Make a Difference!

There are only a few months left in 2024, but there's still time to make an impact!

So far in 2024 some of our programs have done things like

- Serve children through the Inspiring Indianapolis Youth afterschool program
- Hosted engagement events for our INSPIRE families providing them with resources
- Reduced the time from referral to move in from 101 days to 35 at Pando
- Provided 56,159 people with food at The Sharing Place
- All youth at Trinity House enrolled in school



You can donate to help our programs continue to make an impact by scanning this QR code or using the remittance envelope in this newsletter.

If you donate, be sure to take advantage of the \$1,932,657.00 left with the Foster Care Tax Credit! Contact us at develop@lutheranfamily.org to learn more.

Thank you, Volunteers!

Thank you to all of the volunteers that attended our 2024 Volunteer Luncheon!



Are you interested in learning more about volunteering?

To learn more about how you can help our programs please contact our volunteer coordinator, Morgan Jones, at volunteers@lutheranfamily.org

From the Inside Out

Is it Autumn already?!? Where does the time fly?

These are familiar reactions to the calendar turning the page. Of course, when we are "busy" and "engaged" we often lose track of time.

However, when we have "nothing to do" or are waiting for something that seems out of reach, the days can drag and even seem to move backwards at times.

Currently, I fall into the first category. Most of our residents fall into the latter. This adds to the challenge of ministry here on the inside. It is difficult to keep everyone on the same page.

This is one of the reasons I am so thankful to our volunteer crew here at LCFS! We have a collection of about 30 people willing to come from the outside to experience life here on the inside, and more than that, to bring the experiences from the outside in. These interactions help our residents remember they are not alone, and also help prepare them for the day they will be back on the outside.

We have a few teams coming regularly to spend time with these kids. They teach them sports, create crafts or art projects, bring them the Word of God through Bible study or chapel services, or simply share a snack and conversation. (If you are interested in joining us in these opportunities, please let me know!)

These volunteers coming inside also allow me to head outside when needed. My liaison visits have increased in recent months. It is such a joy to meet with others who share a love for those in need and the capacity to help. In October I will meet with area pastors at their annual conference, connect with the local chapter of Catholic Charities, participate in a panel of presenters at a conference in Evansville, and, at their invitation, share about LCFS at a few congregations. (I am always happy to add your group to my visitation list!)

While I am tremendously thankful for these opportunities and the volunteers who are willing to help, I am extremely cognizant that the needs on the inside would not be able to be addressed without your help from the outside.

Thank you for your support in so many ways! Your prayers for the ministry and those who serve, uplift and sustain us! Your financial contributions provide the necessities for our work to continue! Your willingness to share our story widens our reach and broadens our support for years to come.

May God continue to bless us all!

In His Peace,
Kathy Witto
Spiritual Life Leader, LCFS

In Memory of Martha Schmidt

On June 25th, 2024, beloved LCFS supporter and board member Martha Schmidt passed away at 85 years old.

Martha had a strong passion for helping those most in need and showed that passion during the many years that she served on the board of directors for Lutheran Child and Family Services and The Foundation for Lutheran Child and Family Services.

Following her passing, donations to LCFS were made in her memory. We cannot thank Martha and Paul Schmidt enough for their continued support of the work we do.



Sven Celebrates 29 Years at LCFS

Our Executive Director, Sven Schumacher, hit a milestone this month. On August 21st he celebrated 29 years at LCFS!

Under his leadership, our organization has grown tremendously. We've built an apartment complex for youth who have experienced homelessness aging out of the foster care system, established a strong partnership with Community Health Network, started working with families in the Indianapolis area on creating a better future for themselves and their children through INSPIRE, and so much more!

Congratulations Sven!

