



The Voice

Welcome to the Team!

Despite the challenges of providing services during the pandemic, we have continued to grow to meet community needs and have found ourselves welcoming lots of new staff members. Starting off with the Sharing Place, we are happy to introduce the new Sharing Place Manager, Kathy Dalla Costa.

Kathy worked for the United States Tennis Association/Midwest Section in a variety of roles (communications, development, volunteer management, grant management and event planning). Kathy is excited to work alongside a passionate group of volunteers who are the lifeblood of The Sharing Place.



Next, we have Shannon Wright, the new Client Engagement and Community Programs Manager. Shannon oversees the many collaborations for our INSPIRE program. Shannon shared her hope for INSPIRE by stating, "I want INSPIRE to be able to fill in the gaps with additional resources not currently available from our collaborative partners."



We also have two new additions that began their journey as interns. First, we have our Community Engagement & Event Coordinator, Judi Bustamante, who has worked on transitioning our events to meet the current social distancing and safety requirements and also assisted with translating for Spanish speaking families in our INSPIRE program. Second, we have our Communications and Public Relations Coordinator, Kristen Livingstone, who works on our weekly updates to keep everyone well-informed, and all our print communications, including this newsletter. These two new team members will be working together

on upcoming events - so stay tuned for more information!

Finally, LCFS welcomed three new interns in summer/fall of 2020: Melissa Serrano – Development; Gabby Soto – Sharing Place/Volunteer Coordination; and Marina Beshay – Data Analysis. All three interns have agreed to continue assisting us through the Spring semester as well.



In addition, we are planning to bring four more interns onboard in Spring semester. Payton Jackson and Kaneise Mitchell-Casey will be helping at the Sharing Place and Tyler Bartel and Amelia Shull will be serving in the INSPIRE program. We are very thankful for these additions and their contribution to our team as we continue to fulfil our mission.

Stay tuned for LCFS programming updates in the coming months!

Breaking Ground at Pando

On November 17, 2020 we were blessed to be able to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Pando Aspen Grove of Community Heights Permanent Supportive Housing Program. Due to local restrictions, we were unable to host a large number of visitors, so we took this opportunity to present our first Facebook live event.



We were very thankful to be able to welcome Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett to the ceremony where he gave a wonderful speech about supportive housing in Indianapolis and the struggles faced by the homeless population in our community. The ceremony is still open to the public for viewing, and if you're interested in watching please visit our YouTube by following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6t7NvMXrYGw&feature=youtu.be>



Stay tuned as we progress with this project. When open, we will be seeking long-term mentors to help those in the program. If you or someone you may know be interested in participating, please watch for more information on how to do so. Construction is ongoing throughout the winter thanks to our "modular" approach and we plan to begin serving clients in the summer of 2021!

For additional LCFS videos, please see our website video page at:

<https://www.lutheranfamily.org/news-events/lcfs-videos.html>

Another #GivingTuesday Success!

On December 1st, we held a virtual fundraiser to support our Pando Permanent Supportive Housing Program. The event took place across our social media platforms and via email. We would like to give special thanks to Ron Thieme, Jim and Carrie McKneight, and Aaron Miller for preparing video messages for our social media to promote this event! Ron is a Foundation for LCFS Board member and a former LCFS Board Member. Jim and Aaron are current LCFS Board members. Carrie is one of our dedicated Sharing Place volunteers. Thanks so much for helping us to make this event a great success!



Going into this event we held the goal of raising \$15,000. This goal was happily reached by the end of the day. With your help, and the help of our generous board for providing 1-1 matching funds for all donations up to \$7,500 in total, we were able to raise \$17,525.

This money will be able to help us implement the Pando program. Keep an eye out on our emails and social media so you don't miss our next event!

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Our Mission:

*Engaging and
Empowering Families
and Community with
Love, Compassion,
Faith and Support*

2020: A Year in Review

As we all know, this past year has brought many challenges to us all; it has been a year that has tested our adaptability, creativity, and resolve. While the virus and transmission of illness was erupting across the globe beginning in late 2019, we did not fully appreciate the impact until March of 2020, when COVID-19 made clear that it would be a global pandemic that would impact our community, our families, and the operations within LCFS.

The Sharing Place had to re-imagine service delivery models and operational processes; our staff developed a successful game plan to ensure that those in our community experiencing food insecurity, especially during these difficult times, would have access to the Sharing Place and the food they need. The implementation of a “curb-side pick-up” model allowed for safe and efficient distribution of goods. While we were faced with low food inventories due to grocery stores being depleted, decreased in-kind donations, and supply chains interruptions, our many stakeholders blessed us beyond our expectations. Due to the generous support of donors, grantors, and collaborative partners, we were able to find the necessary resources to replenish our shelves and ensure continuity of services to our clients.



We are especially grateful to the Opus Foundation, PNC Foundation, and United Way of Central Indiana, as well as numerous local businesses and individual donors that stepped up to provide the financial resources to ensure our Sharing Place operations could continue without interruption. We are thankful for our collaboration with Gleaners, Midwest Foodbank, our many church partners, and The Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township and numerous others who helped us through these uncertain times. Due to health risks associated with COVID-19, many of our regular Sharing

Place volunteers were unable to serve. We were so fortunate to find many new volunteers that came to help. However, our needs continue, and we are currently seeking additional volunteers.



If you or someone you know may be interested in helping at the Sharing Place, please follow this link: <https://lutheranfamily.galaxydigital.com/need/> to sign up or contact us at SharingPlace@lutheranfamily.org for additional information.

To maximize the maintenance of a safe environment for the youth residing at Lutherwood and the staff caring for them, access to our main campus was initially restricted to those working directly with the youth. Administrative staff began working from home and meeting virtually. This was a big change, but over time we have adapted to the situation and been able to successfully complete all “mission critical” work. In September 2020 we held our first virtual event - a YouTube live stream presentation where we provided an inside look at the Sharing Place and expressed our appreciation to our many LCFS volunteers.



Another key highlight of the past year was beginning the new construction project for the Pando Permanent Supportive Housing Program, which was celebrated at our Groundbreaking Ceremony in November. Through Pando, we will provide a place for youth in our community who have experienced homelessness to find stable housing and a wide array of voluntary supportive services to help them develop the skills needed to succeed. Pando will serve young adults ages 18-24, with priority given to those who have been involved in the foster care system.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone for your support through the year. We were able to have TWO successful #GivingTuesday fundraising events in 2020: one in May which focused on COVID-19 relief and one in December which focused on supporting the Pando program. Through these two campaigns, our LCFS and Foundation for LCFS Board of Directors contributed a total of \$12,500 in matching funds, and the combined totals of these fundraising activities was \$31,225. Your generosity on #GivingTuesday and in response to our annual Christmas appeal was a blessing and much appreciated! LCFS is very thankful for the many positive elements that 2020 has brought upon us and we look forward with optimism to see what 2021 has in store!



Lutheran Child and Family Services
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The Voice is published three 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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Lutherwood Society

The Lutherwood Society (LWS) is a giving club for those faithful donors who have committed to serve as a consistent, stabilizing force for the services and programs of LCFS through ongoing philanthropic support. This club serves the purpose of ensuring our ability to respond to the growing needs of our community with adequate services and facilities and providing a fiscally sound future for the organization with unrestricted resources.

For more information or to request a pledge form, please contact us at: events@lutheranfamily.org