

Letter From the President & CEO

My first year at Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS) was one of evolution. As with many organizations in our industry, we are facing changes in policy, funding, and need. In the midst of these changes, LSS sought to chart the course to maximize our impact and secure our financial future positioning our organization for growth well into the future.

During this pivotal year, we looked at who we are as an organization, not just how we see ourselves, but how our partners and clients see us, too. Since 1882, LSS has empowered communities to better their health and well-being. Building upon this foundation and in collaboration with our employees, partners, clients and donors, we defined a new mission, vision and set of values for the organization.



We envision healthy communities filled with people using their God-given gifts to serve. We will achieve this vision by living out our mission to act compassionately, serve humbly and lead courageously.

In 2017, we served over 37,000 individuals with **compassion**. We worked with government partners, congregations and other non-profit organizations to **co-create** programs and services impacting more than 400 communities. With **courage**, we are piloting new programs based on services we have offered for years, such as school-centered mental health. We shared expertise and insight on topics such as foster care and youth justice reform to spark real **change**.

One in five Americans relies on a human service organization like LSS. We provide critical assistance, support and empowerment to those who need it most. As one of the oldest and most experienced health and human services in the Midwest, we do not take this role lightly. Together we believe we can strengthen and broaden our impact for the next 100 years.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Héctor Colón
President & CEO