



Community Impact Report 2023



Uniting Hearts for Thriving Communities



Uniting Hearts to *Strengthen Families*

AMANDA AND RYAN’S STORY*

Jack, Noah, Ethan, and Mason are four brothers who lived apart for many years in separate foster homes*. They maintained a relationship through occasional visits.

When Amanda and Ryan learned about the boys, they worked with LSS as well as state and county workers to determine if it was possible to reunite the boys through adoption and become a forever family.

The process was slow and deliberate for the pre-adoptive couple, meeting with each of the boys individually and all together over several months. The boys each had significant needs, so Amanda and Ryan also worked with four different schools and multiple service providers to ensure that each boy was getting his needs met. Once the new family was under one roof, Amanda and Ryan established intentional routines which helped each of the boys accomplish multiple goals.

In time, the brothers connected with each other and attached to Amanda and Ryan as mom and dad. On adoption day the courtroom was filled with family and friends.

KEN’S STORY*

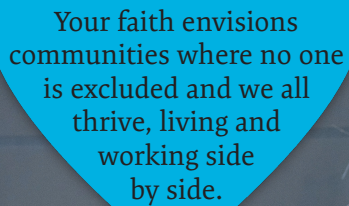
Ken was referred to LSS through the Department of Corrections. He had a history of drug use, homelessness, and unemployment. Ken was without family support and had no contact with his children. He desperately wanted to re-connect with his kids, but he knew it was important to “fix himself” first.



Ken received intensive therapy at one of our residential substance use disorder treatment facilities. He was an active participant in his personalized treatment plan and chose to complete an “after care” program with clinical support. He gained the tools and confidence needed to remain in recovery.

At his 3-month follow up appointment, Ken reported that he was working full-time, living in his own apartment, and attending Narcotics Anonymous meetings twice a week.

Ken says being awarded limited supervision with his children is a powerful incentive to stay clean and out of trouble.



Your faith envisions
communities where no one
is excluded and we all
thrive, living and
working side
by side.



Uniting Hearts to *Inspire Recovery*

BEVERLY'S STORY

For six months, 66-year-old Beverly had nowhere to call home. She was nearly hopeless when she reached out to LSS Gaining Ground for help.

LSS Gaining Ground, is a resource center for people experiencing mental health concerns and homelessness. Clients receive individualized help with various needs; whether it be obtaining a state ID, job training, or as in Beverly's case, finding permanent housing. Unfortunately, some subsidized housing waitlists were 12 to 18 months long. LSS Gaining Ground worked tirelessly with Beverly for 6 months until she found an apartment.

"I had never been homeless before. I had never been in the situation that I was in. I was living in my car. I had the back all made up into a bed. It was very difficult..."

My LSS caseworker... helped me with a lot. We had a long wait process and through that wait, there were just some days I didn't think I could do it anymore. I would've never been able to do it on my own."

-Beverly, former client of
LSS Gaining Ground





Your compassion equips LSS to accompany anyone walking the path of healing, wherever it leads, step by step.

ROCKY'S STORY

Recovery from a substance use disorder is rarely a linear journey, and Rocky's is no exception.

With the help of LSS Veteran's Services, Rocky Childress found sobriety, secured Veteran's Administration disability, saved a substantial amount of money, and found independent housing. Unfortunately, Rocky returned to drugs and alcohol, found himself with significant debt, and was staring at a five-day housing eviction notice, Rocky was in a dark place, but he

was not alone. He returned to the LSS Veteran's Services social workers that helped him the first time. Without judgement, our team provided Rocky with a safe and secure residence and reintroduced him to the tools and resources he needed to regain his sobriety.

With renewed hope and strength, Rocky "graduated" from LSS Veteran's Homeless Services. He is living independently and committed to maintaining his sobriety.

"I came to LSS Veteran's Services a very disturbed and lost soul. The staff was great in helping me get my bearings and played a huge role in the development of my very successful program. I am currently free of all outstanding debts, have accumulated a lucrative bank account, and I have a good credit score, which I have never had. All of this leads me to believe anything is possible. All my hard work helped build my confidence level. I know the real work starts when I am living on my own and not under the safety of the program. I have full confidence in myself. All I have learned through this program will continue to help me as I move forward in a positive direction."

-Rocky, former client of LSS Veteran's Services

Uniting Hearts to *Empower Independence and Belonging*

TONY'S STORY

Tony takes medication daily for his mental health condition. He had bouts with homelessness and incarceration and recently expressed feelings of hopelessness brought on by a dangerous and unhealthy living environment. Tony has the support of his older brother, but knew he needed more, so he courageously walked through the doors of LSS Spring City Corner Clubhouse. Accredited by Clubhouse International, LSS Clubhouse is organized to support people whose lives are severely disrupted because of mental illness.

Tony took advantage of the Transitional Employment meetings at the LSS Clubhouse which helped him secure a job.

Tony now embodies the LSS vision by using his God-given gifts to serve.



"I've been involved in [LSS] Clubhouse on and off for a year now. I have regained my confidence and have more of a structure to my daily routine. I began to come...on a regular basis to help in the kitchen, build my stamina, and reconnect socially."

- Tony, former client of LSS Clubhouse

Your generosity creates ripples of hope, from heart to heart.
From the bottom of
our hearts,
thank you.



ELENA'S STORY*

In the middle of Junior High School, Elena had to be removed from her family of origin and adopted by a relative. Although safe in her new home, the personal stressors related to the trauma elevated typical pre-teen nervousness and insecurity causing her to struggle with impulse control which led to physical fights and verbal aggression with others.

Elena worked with an LSS therapist through our School-Centered Mental Health program for nine months. She focused on building self-esteem and finding appropriate ways to manage stress and resolve conflicts. She participated in a social skills group and peace works program.

Elena graduated 8th grade with the award of "Most Caring Student."

**Name changed for privacy.*



Dear Friends,

We are most grateful for your unwavering support of LSS. The compassion and courage you show in service and generosity is a difference maker for nearly 30,000 children and families that have incredible odds stacked against them.

Because of your kindness, advocacy, and financial support in 2023, you opened doors for LSS to serve more neighbors in need as we expanded several program areas throughout our two-state reach. This is just a snapshot of our success.

Thank you for Strengthening Families. Family coaches with the LSS School-Centered Mental Health program, helped lift heavy stressors from nearly 400 students, parents, and extended family members as they found new ways to support mental wellness, navigate barriers, and secure resources.

Thank you for Inspiring Recovery. A year-long construction process throughout last year led to an April 2024 launch of LSS Deep River. The 24-bed residential treatment facility is our 7th intensive recovery program for substance use disorders.

Thank you for Empowering Independence and Belonging. LSS Superior Futures for Youth expanded from Wisconsin to Upper Michigan reaching runaway individuals who are experiencing homelessness. Our caseworkers address immediate needs, facilitate conflict-resolution for families, and offer crisis counseling and skill development training.



On a final note, we ask that you please help us thank José Olivieri -- trusted advisor, humble Servant-Leader, and good friend. José served as LSS' Operating Board Chair through the pandemic, closing out his tenure in 2023. His leadership through strategic decision-making over that time has, to a great degree, helped produce the results we celebrate today.


We are stronger together and cannot do this important mission work without you!

Please reach out if you have questions, want to get involved, or wish to discuss how we can co-create efforts that impact your community and the people you love!



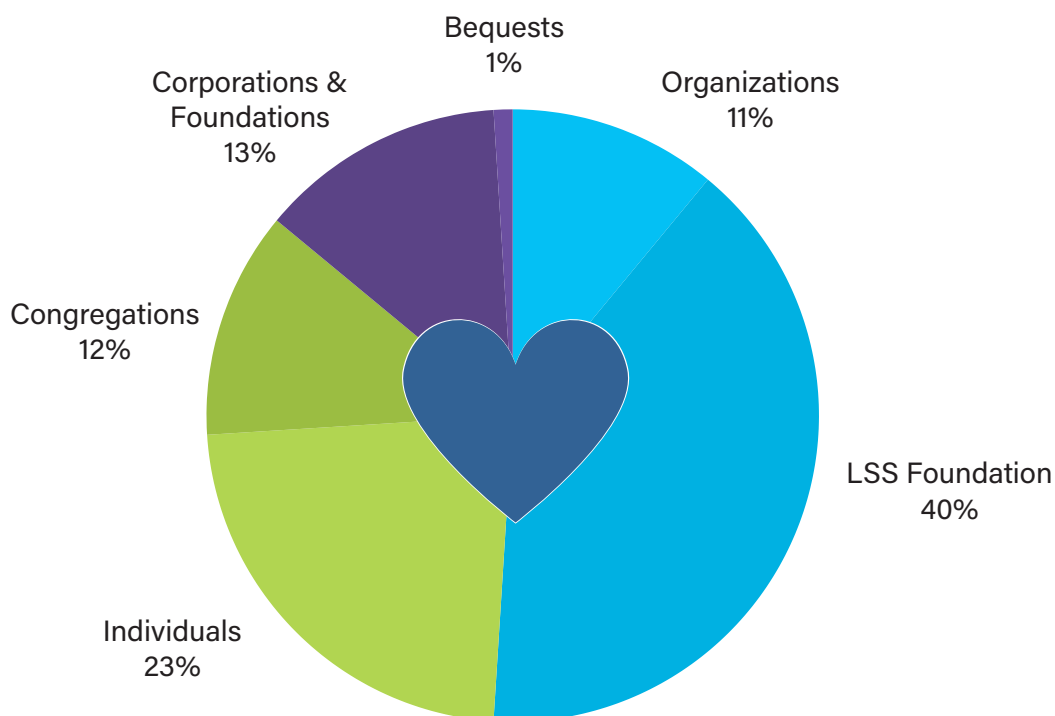

Héctor Colón
President & CEO




Eric Lorenz
Operating Board Chair

2023 Financials

Sources of Contributions



Revenue*	
Federal, State, Local Service	\$52,425,326
Client Fees, Insurance or Contracts	\$10,340,971
United Way	\$112,463
Capital & Other Grants	\$1,282,496
Bequests & Contributions	\$2,013,251
Other Income	\$1,785,618
Total Revenue	\$67,960,125

Contributions	
Individuals	\$734,767
Congregations	\$366,980
Corporations & Foundations	\$419,783
Organizations	\$357,503
Bequests	\$32,076
LSS Foundation	\$1,285,066
Total Contributions	\$3,196,175

Expenses*	
Program Services	\$60,818,014
Administrative & General	\$5,365,240
Fundraising	\$1,153,787
Total Expenses	\$67,337,041

*NOTE: This state of financial positions is prior to audit completion.



Scan the QR code to learn more about Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS).

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Uniting Hearts Through *Faith*

For 141 years, LSS has been the social ministry of the Lutheran Church in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

Scan the QR code to learn more about our

Loving **LUTHERANS CHALLENGE**



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Michelle Naples, Chief Integration Officer

Randy Oleszak, Chief Financial Officer
Mara Dučkens, Chief Advancement Officer

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