

# SOARING

LUTHERAN SERVICES FLORIDA

FALL 2001

## LSF Programs and Lutheran Congregations Join Forces to Bring Healing, Hope and Help to Children and Families in Need

**“ . . . Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose.” (Philippians 2:2) NLT**



The idea in the Biblical quotation above is beautifully expressed by the hundreds of partnerships that have been formed between the professional staff and dedicated volunteers in the LSF programs and the caring members of the Lutheran congregations in communities throughout Florida. The unity of spirit exemplified by these

partnerships is the essence of true teamwork. When Lutheran Services Florida and the Lutheran congregations work together, the hungry are fed, the homeless are sheltered, and thousands of children, the elderly, and families in need receive healing, hope, and help to improve their lives.

During the past 20 years, more than 450,000 people received assistance from LSF and, last year alone, nearly 40,000 children and families in need turned to LSF for the vital services provided by its programs, including:

- **The Child Care Food Program**
- **P.E.P.P.I. Head Start Child Development Program**
- **Refugee and Immigration Programs**
- **Naturalization Services Program**
- **Guardianship Programs**
- **Employment Programs**
- **The Vocational English Language Training in the Workplace Program**
- **KidCare Programs**
- **Residential Youth Shelters and Family Crisis Counseling Programs**
- **Housing Programs**
- **Disaster Response Programs**

One of the major reasons LSF has been able to extend a lifeline to so many people in desperate need is because of the strength of its important partnerships with the Lutheran congregations. Examples of these partnerships throughout the state include:

### **LSF-Tampa Bay Region**

- The members of the **Outreach and Human Care Committee of Our Savior Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg** make beautiful lap robes for the elderly in **the LSF Guardianship Program**. They also sew special colorful cloth bags and fill them with personal hygiene items (shampoo, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, razors, combs, towels, etc.) to be given to the refugees when they first arrive.
- The members of **Our Savior Lutheran Church in Tampa** donate furniture for the apartments of newcomer refugee families, give special Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls made with loving hands to the children in the refugee families, and knit warm afghans for the elderly in the **Guardianship Program**.
- The **Ladies' Sewing Circle of Lutheran Church of the Palms in Palm Harbor and All Saints Lutheran Church in Lutz** sew hundreds of beautiful quilts and donate them to the **LSF Refugee Program** so that each refugee family will receive a new quilt as a welcome gift when they arrive in their new country.
- At **Grace Lutheran Church in Tampa and Our Savior Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg** Christmas is the time when the congregations conduct their "Gifts for the King" project.



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**A HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
OF THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCHES  
IN FLORIDA**

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**MAKE A GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE**

Perhaps the most important benefit of making a gift of life insurance to Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) is that you have the opportunity to help people in need. You receive the satisfaction of making a significant charitable contribution while also receiving a charitable income tax deduction for the value of the policy.

If you have a policy you took out years ago, but no longer need the protection, you can assign ownership of that policy to LSF and, upon your death, all proceeds will benefit vital LSF programs that assist disadvantaged children, the frail elderly, and families in crisis. If you still are paying premiums on the policy, you will benefit from making an additional tax-deductible contribution each year to LSF. The Agency will then pay the premium and keep the policy current.

Another way to make a gift of life insurance is to take out a new policy through your favorite life insurance agent and assign ownership of the policy to LSF. If you choose to do this, then each year you will make a tax-deductible contribution to LSF and the Agency will pay the premiums. You will be astounded at how large a gift you can make at a relatively small annual cost by using life insurance to make your contribution! Other options include selecting a single premium policy, making one tax-deductible gift to LSF for the amount of the premium, or designating LSF as a partial beneficiary of an existing or a new policy.

To learn more about making a gift of life insurance, please contact LSF or send the coupon below to receive our helpful brochure entitled "A Special Beneficiary."

**Please complete and mail to:**

Gary Kovar, Director of Development  
Lutheran Services Florida  
2700 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 308  
Tampa, FL 33607

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



**Ms. Margret Bowles**  
*Chairperson, LSF Board of Directors*

**Dear Friends,**

I want to take this opportunity to extend my personal congratulations to Linda Kennedy, Youth Care Supervisor at Currie House Youth Shelter in Pensacola, and Larry Barnhill, Counselor at Oasis Youth Shelter in Ft. Myers. These two special people recently were honored by the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services for their dedication in serving others in need. Larry was named the top counselor in the entire state and Linda received the Youth Care Specialist Award.

In addition, Larry also received a similar honor from the Southeastern Network of Youth and Family Services and was presented with the "LSF Crystal Apple Award" for exemplary service to the Agency.

Linda and Larry have worked tirelessly helping troubled teens and runaways resolve family conflict, stay in school, and get their lives back on track. We feel privileged to have them on the job.

On behalf of the LSF Board of Directors and the entire "LSF Family," we want to thank Linda and Larry for a job well done.

Ms. Margret Bowles  
Chairperson, LSF Board of Directors

## LSF PROGRAMS AND LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS JOIN FORCES (CONTINUED)

Members of the congregations coordinate with LSF program managers to determine the names and clothing sizes of those who are most needy and purchase and wrap hundreds of gifts for children, the elderly, and refugees.

### The LSF Miami-Dade Region

- The **LSF Housing Program** maintains a Pantry to distribute food to needy families referred by the Department of Children and Families, the Homeless Trust, and area churches. These people have nothing and the **LSF Food Pantry** is their last hope. To make certain the pantry is fully stocked and replenished every month, **St. Thomas by the Bay, Christ the King, St. Timothy, Lord of Life, and South Miami Lutheran Churches** work together. The members of the congregations coordinate the purchase and delivery of food items for the Pantry diligently every month to ensure that those who are most in need do not go hungry.
- **Esperanza Center** is a facility operated by LSF to provide temporary homes for homeless families with young children. While the families are in residence at the Center (for approximately six months) they receive assistance to find jobs and learn to become self-sufficient. Volunteers from **Grace Lutheran Church** donate their time and labor making improvements to the Center and the **Youth Group of St. Thomas by the Bay Lutheran Church** prepares backpacks filled with school supplies for the children at **Esperanza Center**. Every month the members of **South Miami Lutheran Church** gather food and clothing to donate to the families living at Esperanza and every Sunday the congregation's Youth Group goes to the Center to tutor the children and read stories to them.

### LSF-Southeast Region

- The **LSF P.E.P.I. Head Start Child Development Program** for at-risk, pre-school children is located in Belle Glade, a poverty-stricken, agricultural area populated largely by low-income families and migrant workers. The Program is an oasis of hope where children, aged 3 to 5 years, are cared for in a clean and safe environment, learn basic educational skills, and receive a complete breakfast and nutritious lunch every day while their parents work long hours in the sugar cane fields. These children receive excellent care, but they do not have the extras that so many other children enjoy. When the children at **Early Childhood Ministries, a pre-school program operated by Lutheran Ministries in Christ Lutheran Church in Coral Springs**, learned about the children at P.E.P.I., they decided to donate their pennies to the "Pennies from Heaven Fund" to help. They also chose P.E.P.I. as their "Sister Pre-school." When their parents learned about the "Children helping children" project, they also joined in the fundraising effort. Recently, P.E.P.I. Head Start received a \$1,400 donation from the children at Early Childhood Ministries. Plans already are under way for the two groups of children to get together when the parents from Lutheran Ministries in Christ Lutheran Church deliver gifts to distribute to the children at P.E.P.I. just before Christmas.

- As they have done for the past five years, the ladies of the **Love and Tender Care Sewing Mission of Faith Lutheran Church in Eustis** have raised over \$1,000 and have sewn new clothes for nearly 200 children in the **P.E.P.I. Head Start Child Development Center**. Mrs. Johanna Van Hassel, the leader of the group, also inspired the members of **Bethany Lutheran Church in nearby Leesburg** to join in the effort to benefit the children. As a result, the ladies at Bethany also are busy sewing clothing for the children and raising funds. All funds will go towards the construction of a much needed tricycle path in the outdoor playground area.

### LSF-Northwest Region

- **Our Savior, Crestview; Good Shepherd, Shalimar; St. Paul, Niceville; Trinity, Cantonment; Immanuel, Pensacola; Grace, Pensacola; Redeemer, Warrington; and Lord of Life Lutheran Churches** have donated food, clothing, and household supplies to **LSF Youth Shelters (Currie House, HOPE House, and Safe Haven)** for troubled teens in the Pensacola area. These churches also have made financial contributions to support the services provided by the shelters and the congregation members actively serve as LSF program volunteers.
- **Emerald Coast Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa**, recently held a chili supper with all proceeds benefiting LSF's **HOPE House**, and **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gulf Breeze**, donated clothing to the **Currie House Youth Shelter**.

### LSF-Southwest Region

- **Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Charlotte**, raises funds for LSF's **Charlotte Youth Shelter** and also donates office space for the shelter's Counselors.
- **St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Ft. Myers**, supports LSF's **Oasis Youth Shelter** with financial donations, provides space for Advisory Council meetings, and opens its Youth Ministry activities to the adolescents in residence at Oasis.
- Also in the Ft. Myers and Naples areas, **Gateway, Redeemer, Messiah, Zion, Faith, Grace, and Emmanuel Lutheran Churches** actively support the **Oasis** and **Charlotte Youth Shelters** with financial contributions and volunteers.

The Agency's Mission is to "Bring . . . Healing, Hope, and Help . . ." to people in desperate need—troubled youth, at-risk children, the frail elderly, the incapacitated, the unemployed, homeless families with young children, families in crisis, refugees and immigrants, and victims of natural disasters. If you are interested in joining the "LSF Family" by becoming a program volunteer, or if you would like information about how your congregation can build a social ministry partnership with LSF programs, please call (813) 875-1408 or 1-800-651-1853.

# LSF NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Roger Sellew

## LSF Appoints New Board Member

Mr. Roger F. Sellew, 63, recently was appointed to serve on the LSF Board of Directors.

Mr. Sellew, a retired business executive with more than 30 years of experience, previously was employed with Monsanto Company in St. Louis, MO and Advanced Elastomers Systems, L.P. in Akron, OH.

Mr. Sellew brings to the LSF Board a strong background in business and finance, as well as extensive experience in church and community relations. He serves in numerous leadership roles including President of the Tarpon Spring Helen Ellis Memorial Trust Foundation, Director of the Tarpon Springs Rotary Club, and Congregational President of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Tarpon Springs.

Mr. Sellew and his wife, Roberta, currently reside in Tarpon Springs.

## LSF Counselors Honored

Larry Barnhill, a Counselor at LSF's Oasis Youth Shelter in Ft. Myers for the past 10 years, recently received the "Counselor of the Year Award" from the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services. This statewide award recognizes Mr. Barnhill for his untiring service and commitment to making a difference in the lives of the youth and families he assists in the LSF-Southwest Region. Mr. Barnhill also recently received awards from the Southeastern Network of Youth and Family Services, from Lutheran Services Florida for exemplary service in helping youth and families in crisis, and was nominated for the Annual Award for Counselor of the Year from the National Network for Youth. The winner will be announced in February of 2002.

Linda Kennedy, Youth Care Supervisor at LSF's Currie House Youth Shelter in Pensacola for six years, received the "Youth Care Specialist Award" from the Florida Network for Youth and Family Services.



(L to R) Dee Richter, Executive Director of The Florida Network of Youth and Family Services; Linda Kennedy, LSF Youth Care Supervisor; Larry Barnhill, Youth Counselor; Jim Wells, LSF Chief Operating Officer.