



LSF NAMES NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAM SERVICES

Dr. Peter Ledecy was recently promoted to the newly created position of Vice President, Program Services. He brings to this position more than 20 years of experience in social services and healthcare. Serving as Director of the LSF-Southwest Region for the past two

years, Dr. Ledecy played a leadership role in the Naples, Ft. Myers, and Sarasota areas ensuring that those most in need— at-risk children, troubled youths, families in crisis, and the incapacitated—received shelter, care, and necessary social services. Under his direction, the LSF-Southwest Region was chosen by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) as the Case Management Organization to serve Central and Southern Lee County following the State's recent privatization of child welfare services.

Dr. Ledecy will be responsible for over 60 programs. The Directors of the five LSF Regional Offices and the LSF Director of Program Design and Development will report to him.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE HONORS JUDITH BUNKER



Ms. Judith Bunker, LSF Director of Disaster Response and Church and Community Relations, was chosen by LDR to receive the "Bringing Help and Hope Award" at the recent LDR Biennial Conference—"Spirit in the Desert"—held in Scottsdale, Arizona. Ms. Bunker is only the fourth person to be honored with this important award. "I was surprised and humbled, as well as delighted by this great honor. So many people have worked hard with me over the years and I really want to share this

award with them.," said Ms. Bunker.

Although Ms. Bunker retires from LSF, she will remain active as a volunteer serving on the LSF Advocacy Steering Committee and continues to serve as a member of the ELCA Council. Judith Bunker has directed the Lutheran Services Florida Disaster Response team for nearly 10 years following the horrific destruction left in the wake of Hurricane Andrew that devastated Miami and the surrounding areas. During her tenure, tens of thousands of survivors of Florida's hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires received immediate aid and on-going assistance to rebuild their homes and their lives. Additionally, as Director of the LSF Church and Community Relations Program, Ms. Bunker also served as the liaison between various LSF programs and the Lutheran congregations throughout Florida.



LSF APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF CHURCH AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Ms. Danielle Kearney recently was promoted to the position of Director of Church and Community Relations, succeeding Ms. Judith Bunker who retires from LSF this month. Ms. Kearney will be responsible for developing

relationships with the Lutheran congregations and communities throughout Florida to provide support to develop and implement social ministry programs and help congregations form partnerships with LSF. She also will be responsible for Lutheran Disaster Response in Florida, including training and preparation, as well as relief efforts.

Ms. Kearney has been employed with LSF since the agency was founded nearly 23 years ago, and she has played a pivotal role in developing the LSF Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Program. Under her leadership, more than 50,000 refugees and immigrants have become self-sufficient and succeeded in building new lives in freedom.

MR. WELLS GOES TO WASHINGTON

James A. Wells, LSF President and CEO, was in Washington, D.C. recently to attend the White House National Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives with President Bush. While in our nation's Capitol, Mr. Wells maintained a busy schedule meeting with U.S. Senator Bill Nelson and Jim Towey, White House Faith-Based and Community Initiative Director, as well as visiting the offices of other legislators including U.S. Senator Bob Graham and the Hon. Michael Bilirakis. Additionally, Mr. Wells met with Jill Schumann, Lutheran Services in America (LSA) President; Bob Miles, incoming LSA Board Chair; and Ruth Henrichs, exiting LSA Board Chair, as well as with others from LSA and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS).



(l to r) Lynette Engelhardt Stott, Director of Governmental Relations, LIRS; Lisa Carr, Director of Public Policy, LSA; Sen. Bill Nelson, (D-FL); James A. Wells, LSF President and CEO; and Barbara Below, Director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care's Social Ministry Organizations.

HEALING, HOPE AND HELP

"CARING FOR HEALTH: OUR SHARED ENDEAVOR"

By Sue Nardy, RN Parish Nurse

The Parish Nurses of the Florida/Bahamas Synod have joined forces with Lutheran Services Florida to promote health and foster wellness, health education, and care through the Lutheran congregations. One of the first results of this collaboration is the Parish Nurse Program Information brochure, printed courtesy of Lutheran Services Florida.

Parish Nurses act as facilitators, referral agents to community resources and medical services, health counselors, advocates, educators, volunteer trainers, lay ministers, encouragers,



and "friends and prayer partners." Their responsibilities include making home, hospital, and nursing home visits. Parish nurses assist and are responsible to clergy and their congregations. Their work may be in a paid or a volunteer position, and they often serve in a collaborative arrangement with a sponsoring hospital or health care system. It is the goal of all Parish Nurses to be "healing agents" working to carry out God's will. The spiritual dimension is central to the Parish Nursing practice that encompasses people's physical, psychological and social concerns.

The International Parish Nurse Resource Center in St. Louis, Missouri reports that approximately 10,000 Parish Nurses serve congregations in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and other parts of the world.



Lutheran Services Florida
3627A West Waters Avenue
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LSF-NORTHWEST REGION

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LUTHERAN SERVICES FLORIDA FOCUSES ON ADVOCACY

By Lisa Carr, MSW, Director of Public Policy
Lutheran Services in America



Lisa M. Carr, MSW,
Director of Public Policy
Lutheran Services in
America

Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) has formed a public policy committee and is partnering with Lutheran Services in America (LSA), Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), and other organizations advocating for people in need. As Director of Public Policy for Lutheran Services in America, I met with the LSF Board of Directors at their January meeting and gave a presentation about the importance of public policy. I later gave an update on what is happening on the national level at the first meeting of the LSF Advocacy Steering Committee.

James A. Wells, CEO, Lutheran Services Florida (LSF), was in Washington, D.C. recently to attend a conference with President Bush and Jim Towey, White House Faith-Based and Community Initiative Director. Mr. Wells also met with Senator

Bill Nelson (D-FL) and the staffs of Senator Bob Graham (D-FL) and Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL). These meetings provided an opportunity to tell elected officials about Lutheran Services Florida, the programs and services the agency provides, and the people in need it serves throughout Florida.

LSF is focusing on public policy advocacy because the Agency believes it is important to strive constantly to improve the quality of services provided to its clients—be it day care to at-risk children from low-income families, resettlement for refugees who have fled persecution, protection for the frail elderly, or shelter and counseling for troubled youths. The LSF staff believes that service goes hand-in-hand with justice and by increasing awareness and advocating for change in unjust public policy, the quality of the services they deliver to clients is improved. The goal is to help people in need rise above poverty and become self-sufficient.

People often hesitate to get involved in advocacy because they equate it with activities such as demonstrations at the Capitol and public protests or they have a vision of well-paid lobbyists in expensive suits. While demonstrations and public protests are legitimate advocacy strategies, these activities are just a small part of the story. The majority of advocates are just regular people who believe passionately in social justice.

Advocacy is just a matter of seeing a need and finding a way to address it. To advocate is literally "to plead the cause of another" which most of us do all the time on behalf of our neighbors, our families, and our friends. Policy advocacy is the next logical step taking that pleading into the political arena on behalf of people we don't know personally. Advocacy is a practical way to translate such basic values as respect for human dignity and concern for children, the elderly, the helpless and those who have no voice of their own into policies and laws.

Advocacy is a core part of our American democracy that covers a broad range of activities. You can be a policy advocate if you are willing to:

- Speak up;
- Help others receive services or benefits to which they are entitled;
- Challenge government systems that don't work;
- Vote for, laws, budgets, and policies that do work; and
- Be a voice for others, especially those less fortunate.

I invite you to join in our advocacy efforts! Become informed and get involved by volunteering for LSF, your congregation, or your community and begin advocating by making calls or writing letters to legislators about issues of concern before your state legislature and the U.S. Congress. You can make a difference through advocacy.

Many thanks to Nancy Amidei and her publication "So You Want to Make a Difference: Advocacy is Key", which I used as a reference in writing this article. For more about OMB Watch series called Tools for Advocates, go to www.ombwatch.org.

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Please send inquiries to:

MS. JOY MARGOLIS,
Director,
Marketing/Communications

LUTHERAN SERVICES
FLORIDA

3627A West Waters Avenue
Tampa, FL 33614

Phone 813-875-1408

Fax 813-875-1302

www.lsfnet.org



HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD

In the past few months we have been commemorating the Supreme Court Decision Brown vs. The Board of Education. This is one of

the most significant social justice actions our nation has taken since the Emancipation Proclamation. By courageously deciding that schools must not segregate on the basis of race, the Supreme Court changed our country's entire school system. This act of social justice made a monumental difference in our world.

"Social Justice" is another way of naming what we do when we make policy changes in our social contract. These changes ensure that more people have access to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Unfortunately, the terms "social justice" and "public policy" evoke mixed reactions. For some people, they mean change and often that is harmful or upsetting; for others the terms may mean that at long last a wrong has been righted and an injustice redressed. Whatever position is taken, social justice cannot be ignored, since it seeks to address the root causes of injustice and poverty.

Why should we be concerned about social justice? As Christians we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. This surely means equal treatment and care. What we want for ourselves, we also strive to provide for others. When we read the parable of the Good Samaritan, we are struck not only by the need to care for the wounded traveler on the road, but we also know that we are required to do something to make the road safer for all travelers. When we read about

the prodigal son, we know it is the story of a father's forgiveness, but we also are reminded that sons and daughters do stray and make bad choices and we are called upon to act to make the world they go into safer from drugs and exploitation of any kind. This is the call of social justice to which every Christian must respond.

Although Social Justice often is separated from social ministry, they are intricately intertwined. When we establish food pantries to feed the hungry, we also should make every effort to change policies that create hunger. Offering loving and holistic childcare is an important ministry, but it can be even more meaningful when wedded to actions that create better wages and training for those who care for our children. Lovingly made quilts for runaway kids are a blessing indeed, but when we advocate for public policy changes that provide teens with alternative ways to resolve family conflict, stay in school and build productive lives, then we are truly changing the world.

Each of us has a special calling – a feeling for a particular ministry to the poor, the marginalized, the stranger. As we continue our ministries of care, let us look at that we feel called upon to do for others less fortunate or more needy while at the same time seeking ways to change or make public policy that creates a better world for ourselves, our families, our neighbors and our world.

Judith Bunker
Director, Church and Community Relations
Director, LSF Disaster Response

**IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST,
LUTHERAN SERVICES FLORIDA, AS AN AGENT OF ITS
PARTICIPATING CHURCH BODIES,
SERVES TO BRING GOD'S HEALING, HOPE AND HELP
TO PEOPLE IN NEED.**

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE LSF-NORTHWEST REGION



Dear Friend,

Beginning this year, CINS/FINS providers throughout Florida will subcontract a portion of their non-residential services to other providers in areas designated as high crime where youths are at the greatest risk for delinquent behavior. The LSF-NW Region is currently working to build a partnership with one of the minority providers in

our community. We are excited about this because we believe that partnering with other agencies will allow us to expand and provide our much needed services in areas we have previously been unable to reach.

Our vision is that one partnership will develop into others, and the result will be that many more youths and families will receive the help they so desperately need! Please remember us in your prayers as we move forward with this next challenge.

Sincerely,

Beth Deck

Regional Director, LSF-Northwest

NEW PARTNER FOR HOPE HOUSE

By Cyndy Freshour

Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) welcomes all new opportunities to build partnerships between LSF programs and local businesses and organizations within the community. Recently, what began as the simple opening of a new outdoor deck for employee lunchbreaks at the Crestview Aerospace Corporation (CAC), ultimately became a fundraiser to support the LSF HOPE House Youth Shelter.

When Ann Gustafson of Crestview Aerospace was contacted about becoming a sponsor for the LSF-NW Eighth Annual Team Up Fore Teens Charity Golf Classic, she decided that she was more interested in supporting the shelter in a way that involved all CAC employees. Ann said she liked the whole idea of HOPE House – helping teens and their families resolve conflict and become reunited – and that she was especially pleased that HOPE House is located in Crestview. Because Crestview Aerospace Corporation is one of the largest employers in Okaloosa County and its employees are actively involved in giving back to the community, it made a lot of sense to build a

partnership with HOPE House, a program that helps Crestview families in crisis.

On April 9th, employees of Crestview Aerospace partnered with HOPE House by purchasing lunches to the tune of almost \$800. The Boeing Company helped by supplying paper goods and hot dogs, and Publix provided a \$75 gift certificate for food, as well as other discounts. Crestview Aerospace generously matched the amount raised for a grand total of \$1,570.

Crestview Aerospace Corporation has been a leading supplier of aircraft structures and assemblies for commercial and government aircraft for the past 40 years. The company is involved in the production of new aircraft structures, as well as the modification of both fixed and rotor wing aircraft. CAC received the Governor's Business Leadership Award in 2002.

Crestview Aerospace, in conjunction with the Okaloosa County schools and Embry-Riddle University, plans to house a new technical school on their property to train a young, local workforce – providing high skills/high wage jobs for young people in Okaloosa County.

We look forward to a long and productive partnership between HOPE House and Crestview Aerospace Corporation in the future.



LSF-NORTHWEST JOINS GULF COAST KID'S HOUSE

After several years of planning and hard work, a long-time dream of a child advocacy center in Pensacola, Florida finally became a reality on March 1, 2004 when the Gulf Coast Kid's House opened. Several agencies moved in and immediately began providing services, including the



Lutheran Services Florida Sexual Abuse Treatment Program. Nancy Hagman and Mae O'Shea will provide the counseling services and Leslie Uemura is the Administrative Assistant for the program.

Because children are our most precious resource, it's hard to imagine anyone harming a child, but it's more common than most people realize. Every year, more children die from abuse and neglect than from diseases such as AIDS, polio or measles.

Child abuse is a community problem. No single agency or individual has the knowledge, skills or resources to provide all of the assistance needed by abused children and their families. The vision of the Gulf Coast Kid's House is to provide a place where child protective services, law enforcement, prosecution, medical and mental health professionals work together under one roof to provide comprehensive services.

The key concept behind the Gulf Coast Kid's House is that an abused child will only have to tell his or her experience of abuse one time to one person. Prior to the Gulf Coast Kid's House, if a child was abused he or she had to repeat the abuse experience numerous times at various agencies. Now, at the Gulf Coast Kid's House, a child only tells his or her experience one time to one advocate, ensuring a prompt response.

"TEAM UP FORE TEENS" 8TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year's tournament was the first time in 8 years that the weather did not cooperate and the tournament was rescheduled from April 30th to June 4th. The day of the event seemed like the hottest day of the year; however, it did not slow down the dedication of our regular golfers and supporters.

The day was filled with fun and many businesses and individuals showed their support buying raffle tickets, donating auction items and door prizes, and volunteering their time. We'd especially like to thank the following volunteers and donors who have given generously year after year: Dr. Marcus E. Paul, D.M.D., Hygeia Coca-Cola, Popeye's Chicken, Lewis Bear Company, Crystal Mountain Water, Southern Wine and Spirits, Home Depot, Wal-Mart & WMEZ Soft Rock 94.1, our golfers, and the LSF and Volusia Golf Club staffs. Some of our regular auction packages included 3 day and 2 night stays donated from Point Clear Grand Hotel Resort, Pensacola Beach Hampton Inn and Pelican Beach Resort in Destin.

Our "Team Up Fore Teens" supporters have definitely made this event successful! Thanks to everyone.

