



You've got mail.

Hello Colleagues! It's fitting that we celebrate love in the middle of Black History month. Let us spend this time reflecting on the contributions the black community has made not only in our organization, but around the state. My mind immediately goes to a man influential in Tampa's Civil Rights movement. He was Tampa's first African-American city council member and provided inspiration for the National Head Start program. If you know who I am talking about e-mail communications@lsfnet.org with your answer. The first three people with the correct answer will receive a surprise and I promise it's not leftover Valentine's Day candy!

Read on to hear stories from our programs all told with a special emphasis on love to fit this month's theme!

Sam Sipes, LSF CEO

"To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart." -Eleanor Roosevelt

As our CEO, Sam Sipes mentioned in an e-mail last week, Broward County and the State of Florida suffered tragedy when a teenager opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School killing 17 and injuring several others. Executive Director of our Southeast Programs, Gregg Miller reached out to several officials and community members offering help and services. And Terrence Washington, Residential Manager, organized the youth at Lippman Youth Shelter to create cards of compassion for the victims' families. Thank you Gregg and your team at Lippman for showing compassion during a very dark time. We hope all of LSF will continue to share positive thoughts and prayers as lawmakers face what to do next to keep our children safe.

Happy Hearts

Children from High Point center, part of LSF Pinellas County Head Start, are learning about the importance of friendship and how to care for each other and share their feelings and emotions.



How cute are these children showing off their homemade paper hearts?! They spent time reciting the "Five Little Hearts" finger-play, enhancing not only their social emotional skills (such as getting along, sharing and respecting their friends feelings/choices), but their math and language skills as well.

Try it at home with your little one! Here's how it goes:

Five little hearts resting in a row.
The first one said, "I have a pink bow"
The second one said, "I have ribbon and lace"
The third one said, "I have a silly face"
The fourth one said, "I'm plain as can be"
The fifth one said, "Just wait and see"
Five fancy hearts on Valentine's Day.

Duval Creates Memories with Heart to Heart Dance



Over 100 parents and children enjoyed an evening of music with a DJ, dance and photos at LSF Duval Head Start's 1st Annual "Heart to Heart" Dance. Hosted by our two parent involvement groups - aMEN (A Man Everybody Needs) and LOVE (Ladies of Victorious Empowerment)- our families showed up and showed out!

Foster Parent Appreciation

Foster parents in both Lee and Pinellas Counties were recently treated to a fun banquet in their honor!



Attendants in Pinellas were encouraged to wear their most elegant, funny or unique hat as this year's theme was "The Mad Hatter's Ball."

Lee County celebrated at a local church hall and raffled baskets filled with goodies.



Both events are held annually for those who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need.

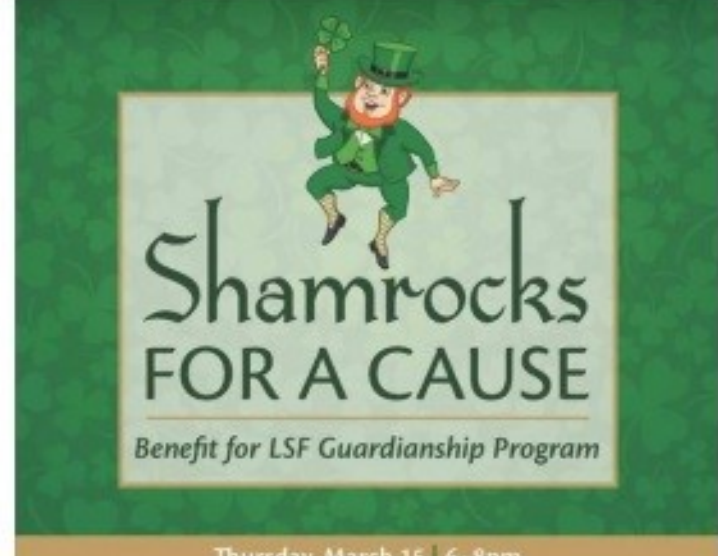
Your Right to Read



Inspiration. Motivation. Can do! These are all words spoken by youth at Oasis Youth Shelter while reading *The Invisible Thread*, a book donated to all youth at the shelter by Diane and Tom Robertson of St. Michael Lutheran Church.

The shelter is looking for 20-25 copies of a new book that the shelter youth would love to continue the book club, Your Right to Read. If you are interested in donating or know someone who would like to contribute, please reach out to Raymond Ballinger at raymond.ballinger@lsfnet.org.

Upcoming Events



Join us for "Shamrocks for a Cause," a special fundraiser for LSF Guardianship program in Sarasota. Enjoy live entertainment, meet new friends and sip on our signature cocktail, "The Lucky Leprechaun." Admission to the event is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. All proceeds go to Lutheran Services of Florida to provide guardianship and advocacy for

those who cannot care for themselves. With admission, you'll receive one free drink and complimentary chef-prepared hors d'oeuvres. Cash bar will be open, along with raffle tickets for purchase for our 50/50 and raffle baskets. Come celebrate St. Patrick's day with us and raise money for a good cause! For more information about the event please call HarborChase of Sarasota 941-468-2838

Tickets will be available for purchase through HarborChase of Sarasota, Lutheran Services of Florida or online [HERE](#).

Visit our Facebook Event website

It's Tax Time or is it?

An important message from your IT Team

If the 'IRS' emails you, it's probably a computer virus. Why, you ask? Because that's not how the IRS communicates with taxpayers! We share this information with you so you can quickly spot an e-mail, social media post or text that is fraudulent.

There is an e-mail currently circulating supposedly from the Internal Revenue Service, which contains an attachment infected with a new form of a computer virus named "Rapid Ransomware." This spam is being sent with subjects such as "Please Note - IRS Urgent Message." The message suggests the recipient is behind on their tax payments and offers an attached "report" (a zip file) to allow the user to view how much money is owed.

Do not open this e-mail! Delete it immediately to ensure your computer files are not compromised. And remember the IRS would never inform you in this way.

Calling all LSF Heroes!



Like what you see? We have all these stories and much more on our official LSF Facebook page. Click on the icon above and join our page!

We are hiring! If you're looking for opportunities at LSF, click on the image above to check out our career source page. Move up, make a career switch or share with friends and family!

Reminder: LSF Town Hall Meeting 3/26