MISSION

We seek to bring God’s healing, hope and help to people in need in the name of Jesus Christ.

VISION

SAFE CHILDREN
STRONG FAMILIES
VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

EMPLOYEES 1200
BUDGET $220M

YARELY GARCIA

Yarely Garcia, a Cuban refugee, is a loving mother looking to give her two children the life they deserve; but her days are filled with worries about the future and the challenge of meeting basic necessities.

In Cuba they experienced shortages of everything; food, drink, daily essentials – both physical and spiritual nourishment. The Cuban government ended religious activity after the 1959 revolution that put Fidel Castro in power, and although that ban ended in 1997, the impact of an entire generation growing up without ever having attended church cannot be understated.

Lutheran Services Florida met Yarely and her kids after they escaped Cuba as political asylees. We helped them adjust to life in Ft. Myers through our case-management, employment and legal support services. We also helped them have a special Christmas this year – complete with presents under the tree.
Keeping Children Safe:

- 5,350 mental health services provided to children
- 4,600 children in foster care received services
- 630 youth found refuge and direction at one of our four shelters

Making Families Strong:

- Educated more than 6,000 at risk children and helped their families through LSF Early Head Start and Head Start programs
- 4,000,000 meals and snacks served to children in Head Start and after school programs

Creating Vibrant Communities:

- Managed mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment for 730,500 individuals in a 23-county region through LSF Health Systems
- Welcomed nearly 7,500 refugees and immigrants from across the globe
- Supported 750 adults who have disabilities, live with AIDS or have other life altering issues

“I love LSF because of the amazing co-workers and clients I have come to know.”

– Ivis Triana, LSF employee for Refugee and Immigration Program
“I can’t express in words what this 30-day period has done to help our family and to clarify the issues. I’ve learned so much by watching how Lippman Youth Shelter counselors maintain their peace while talking with upset, irritated or even sometimes deceitful teenagers.”

– Steve L., parent

A HISTORY OF HELPING

Lutheran Services Florida established as a means to sustain the work of Lutheran churches that came together in the 70’s and 80’s to address the Vietnamese and Cuban refugee crises.

LSF began the expansion of its statewide footprint with residential and counseling services in Southwest and Southeast Florida, including its first runaway youth shelter called Lippman.
INNOVATION

A powerful new weapon is emerging in the fight against the opioid epidemic in Florida. It’s not a new overdose antidote, treatment therapy or zero tolerance law. It’s individuals who have experienced drug addiction and/or mental health challenges that are trained and certified to help others recover, and it’s a game-changing movement for those on the frontlines of this deadly battle.

Through a pilot program, LSF Health System’s state-certified peer recovery specialists work alongside emergency room doctors and nurses and then serve as advocates for patients as they progress through treatment programs. When overdose patients arrive in ERs, once they are stabilized, they meet with a certified peer recovery specialist who advises them through their withdrawal and recovery. LSF believes its CPRS program is ready to expand to more hospitals and areas of the state to meet a tremendous growing demand in the mental health and substance abuse areas.

“We have an important destination, and we can only get there by creating innovations driven from our organization’s mission, vision and values,” LSF CEO Sam Sipes said. “Expanding this program will reach more clients and help answer their prayers.”

2013

Determined to improve the quality and level of mental health and substance abuse care in Florida, LSF Health Systems begins and serves a 23-county region in Northeast and North Central Florida.

2012

Committed to strengthening families, LSF begins expanding Head Start Services growing from 300 children in Belle Glade and Hillsborough County to more than 6,000 in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Palm Beach and Duval counties.

2004

LSF begins work in child welfare with case management services in Lee and Pinellas counties.

1992

LSF opens the doors to a new shelter in Fort Myers named Oasis Youth Shelter.

1990

Children and Families in Need of Services and Guardianship programs expands to the Northwest.

1984

Lutheran Services Florida established as a means to sustain the work of Lutheran churches that came together in the 70’s and 80’s to address the Vietnamese and Cuban refugee crises.

1982

LSF began the expansion of its state-wide footprint with residential and counseling services in Southwest and Southeast Florida, including its first runaway youth shelter called Lippman.
LSF has brought God’s healing, hope and help to the clients we serve for decades. In fact more than 35 years ago, we began in a tiny room of a church. Back then, like we do now, LSF was responding to the tremendous needs within our community. We accompanied people through incredibly difficult situations and tumultuous periods of their lives. We were there when people had no other hope. This has always been the core of our mission and will always be the focus of our work.

To continue, we count on your prayers to help guide us and your donations to help ensure we have the funding needed to transform lives. Do you believe in creating a world where children are safe, families are strong and communities are vibrant?

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” – Maya Angelou

We invite you to join us in providing hope-filled tomorrows. Learn more about how you can get involved by visiting LSFNET.ORG