FUEL

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO - A YOUNG ARTIST HIDES BEHIND HER PAIN

To look at her, Isabela would not be the teenager you'd expect to see in a youth shelter. She's petite with a big smile and an instant likability. She grew up in a home with a single mother who was deaf and their seemingly minor communication difficulties evolved to full-blown eruptions. Isabela was constantly sneaking out, continually fighting with her mother, and consistently Baker acted. Self-harm became her release and she nearly ended her own life at the age of 14.

It was of her own volition she entered LSF's Oasis Youth Shelter in Fort Myers. She knew she needed to rest and reset in a place that provided routine and counseling. That didn't mean she wasn't nervous. As with most youth entering a shelter, she wasn't sure what to expect. What would it be like? How would the staff treat her? Would the counseling actually produce results?

While she was anxious to enter the shelter, she found a home.

Isabela immediately found a new way of living. While largely disconnected from the outside world, she instantly connected with the staff onsite. She often beams as she recalls each caring worker who genuinely supported her. While there were certainly bumps along the way, she continued to strive toward improving herself, her future, and her relationship with her family.

Soon, she was introduced to her counselor, Jill and the two instantly clicked. Jill helped Isabela to define herself by more than her past, but by who she was becoming. The two worked together on creating new goals and dreams. Jill's influence and impact on Isabela changed the trajectory of her life

Today, Isabela is on a new path with many reasons to show her big smile. She has graduated from high school and begun college. She has intentionally improved her relationship with her mother. And, she is now working on fulfilling her God-given potential. At LSF, we are repeatedly fueled by stories like Isabela's and we are excited to play a part in changing the lives of more children, families, and communities across the state of Florida in the years to come.





ADULT SERVICES

\$1,703,076









SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT



LSFNET.ORG/DONATE













@LutheranServFla



Added Case Management in Manatee and Diversion Services in Pinellas to keep families from entering the child welfare system. Welcomed Children's Board Family Resource Centers with 7 locations in Hillsborough County.

Acquired Miami Bridge in Miami-Dade County adding two more 24/7 youth shelters. Polk County & N. Florida Case Management added, making LSF the largest provider of child welfare services in FL.



JOIN OUR CIRCLE OF HOPE

As a member of the Circle of Hope, your monthly support allows us to continue our life-changing services with consistency and exellence. LSFCircleofHope.org

QUESTIONS?

makeadifference@lsfnet.org



IMPACT REPORT





TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In 2023 LSF celebrated making our deepest impact while enjoying our widest reach across geography, demographics, and ages. We have been fortunate to help individuals from infants to the elderly have happier and more hopeful futures.

This year...

- Children and families in the foster care system were met with support and resources by our team of case management professionals, who ensure the child's physical, emotional, and educational well-being.
- At-risk youth, dealing with family issues, trauma, and homelessness, were provided with emotional support, crisis intervention, and counseling services through our group homes and shelters.
- Under-resourced children were served with exceptional educational advancement through our Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
- Refugee families who fled their home country due to persecution were provided
- with furnished residences, new clothes, groceries, legal services, and mentoring necessary to rebuild their lives in a new nation.
- Vulnerable seniors were protected from exploitation and advocated for by being connected to critical resources.



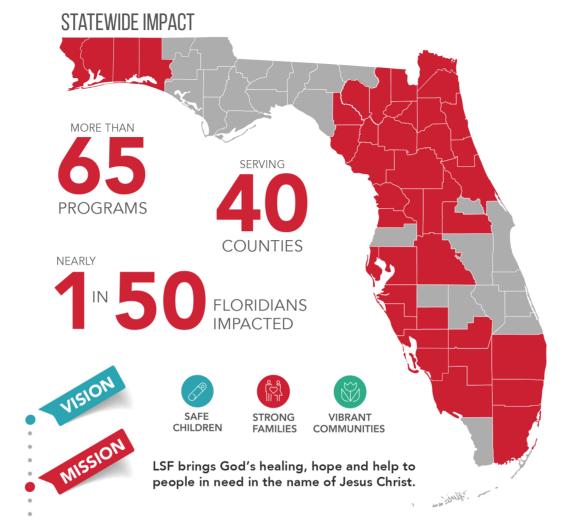
"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause." - Isaiah 1:17

CHANGING LIVES FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS!



1984

LSF established 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. Expanded statewide footprint with residential and counseling services in Southern Florida, including first youth shelter in Oakland Park.





Children and Families in Need of Services and Guardianship programs launched in Northwest. Doors opened to a new shelter in Fort Myers.



Child Welfare with Case Management services added in Lee County.



Child Welfare with Case Management services added in Pinellas county.



23,326

children and families served through community counseling, foster care & adoption, and family support programming

758

youth found refuge and direction at one of our shelters or group homes





MAKING FAMILIES STRONG

Educated more than

3,900

at risk children and helped their families through LSF Early Head Start and Head Start programs



3,578,232

meals and snacks served to children in Head Start and after school programs

CREATING VIBRANT COMMUNITIES



Managed prevention and treatment of mental health and substance abuse for

3,903,092

individuals through LSF Health Systems in a 23-county region

Served more than

15,000

refugees and immigrants from across the globe





Supported

357

adults at risk of exploitation due to age, disabilities or other life altering issues





Head Start Services grow from Hillsborough County & Belle Glade to include Duval, Pinellas, and Palm Beach. LSF Health Systems begins serving Northeast and North Central Florida, improving the quality and level of mental health and substance abuse care in Florida.

Residential services for youth added with the opening of Grace Place in West Palm Beach and Dream Center in Sarasota.