



*Mission Statement:*  
"God's love in Jesus Christ empowers Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri to help families, children, and individuals experience greater hope and wholeness of life."

## **Fact Sheet**

Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri (LFCS) is a non-profit social services agency with a mission to help families, children and individuals experience greater hope and wholeness of life. Some of the services offered include help with domestic and international adoptions; temporary foster care for infants and children; counseling and support for women experiencing crisis pregnancies; quality child care; youth mentoring programs; and counseling for individuals, couples and families. **Beginning as an orphanage in 1868, the mission was to protect and nurture children without a home. More than 130 years later, LFCS still opens doors for people who are challenged by poverty, violence, divorce, unemployment, illness, homelessness and more.** The services provided by LFCS are open to everyone regardless of race, faith, national origin, gender, or age. Over 80% of the clients served are not of the Lutheran faith.

## **OUR PROGRAMS**

The **Child Welfare** program is founded on a commitment to the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development of children and families. Services offered include pregnancy education and counseling, referrals and direct assistance to women and families experiencing crisis or unplanned pregnancies, temporary and emergency foster care, guardianship services, as well as domestic, international and relative adoptions. The fundamental goal in the child welfare programs is to help parents make good choices for themselves and their children. Over 2,000 individuals are reached through the child welfare program each year.

The LFCS Adoption and Child Welfare program is fully licensed by the state of Missouri and accredited by the Council on Accreditation. It is the only LFCS program offered in all four offices, thereby allowing us to provide comprehensive services to families and children throughout the state of Missouri. LFCS is a member of the Child Welfare League of America and the North American Council on Adoptable Children. Our Child Welfare program employs many master's degree staff who are licensed in their area of professional expertise. These highly-respected professionals belong to local adoption and advocacy leadership groups across the state.

Our **Counseling** service provides outpatient services to individuals, couples and families through our St. Louis office and Senior Counseling services are available through our Southeast Missouri office. Counseling staff are professionally trained master's level therapists. They offer services that address various concerns or problems that occur in everyday life as well as services to help with a variety of mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Group programs are also available.

Our **Community Services** program provides services to the community's most vulnerable families, children and individuals.

- The *Disaster Response Program* responds to the needs of individuals and families impacted by disaster. LFCS provides a variety of services to survivors, including spiritual and emotional care, hardship grants, long-term recovery, and volunteer coordination. We are the coordinating agency for Lutheran Disaster Response in Missouri, Alabama, and Arkansas.
- The *Mentoring Program* provides services to children between the ages 6-17, who are exposed to environmental and sociological at-risk factors. The LFCS Mentoring program is designed to help young people learn how to succeed, while promoting personal and social achievement through group and individual discussion, curriculum-based instruction and character-building activities.

- The *Advocacy Program* serves as a voice and support to individuals, children and families that are impacted by public legislation and policy decisions.
- The *Emergency Assistance Program* of LFCS provides limited, one-time financial assistance to help families crisis situations. We have assisted individuals with utility services, rent/mortgage, or those in need of assistance with paying for a prescription for life-threatening illness for which the individual does not have medical coverage. This program traditionally assist low-income families, however the program will provide one time limited assistance to families who have lost their jobs and find themselves in crisis situations.

Recognized for understanding and meeting the needs of children, **LFCS' Child Care Centers**, Hilltop Child Development Center and Elm Point Early Childhood Center are respected institutions in St. Louis City and St. Charles County.

- **Hilltop Child Development Center** provides affordable, accessible, quality childcare, family education and assistance to families in St. Louis city. As in the past, Hilltop continues to be a viable resource for low-income families. Hilltop is able to serve 108 children, from two to five years of age and offers a kindergarten readiness program. They are licensed by the State of Missouri and accredited by the Missouri Accreditation of Early Childhood Programs and Council on Accreditation. Hilltop is one of only two accredited centers in the 63136 zip code area.
- **Elm Point Early Childhood Center** provides affordable, accessible, quality childcare, family education and assistance to families in St. Charles. Elm Point is licensed by the Missouri Department of Health to provide child care, preschool, and after school services to 148 children, ages six weeks to twelve years of age and offers a kindergarten readiness program. Elm Point received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in 2006. They are also accredited by the Council on Accreditation. Elm Point is one of three accredited centers in the 63301 zip code.

### STATEWIDE OFFICES

<p><b>Mid-Missouri Office</b> 401 West Boulevard North Columbia, MO 65203 573.815.9955</p>	<p><b>Southeast Missouri Office</b> 3178 Blattner Dr. Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 573.334.5866</p>
<p><b>Southwest Missouri Office</b> 2130 North Glenstone Springfield, MO 65803-4646 417.862.1972</p>	<p><b>St. Louis Office</b> 8631 Delmar Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63124 314.787.5100</p>
<p><b>Elm Point Early Childhood Center</b> 3601 Mueller Road St. Charles, MO 63301 636.916.4041</p>	<p><b>Hilltop Child Development Center</b> 6155 West Florissant St. Louis, MO 63136 314.389.1001</p>

**For more information visit: [www.lfcsmo.org](http://www.lfcsmo.org)**

**1-866-326-LFCS**

Certain project costs have been underwritten by the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Neighborhood Assistance Program and Youth Opportunities Program, which offer tax credits to donors who support child care, pregnancy case management, and youth development efforts of LFCS.