After Gerald and his wife, Sheila, divorced, they shared custody of their daughters, Kaylee (12) and Chloe (7). Gerald looked forward to seeing his girls every Wednesday and every other weekend. He knew his children, especially Kaylee, were struggling with their parent’s separation and did his best to create a stable, loving home for them while they were in his care.

Gerald was concerned that Sheila was not providing the same structured environment for their children. With her mom as her primary caretaker, Kaylee started falling behind in school and hanging out with older teens who steered her in the wrong direction. When staying with her dad, Kaylee would confide that her relationship with Sheila was strained and that bitterness was growing between them.

On one particularly tense day at her mom’s house, Kaylee brought home a report card with two failing grades. Sheila lost it and began punching her relentlessly. Chloe was watching and cried out for her mom to stop. When Kaylee couldn’t get up on her own, her mom panicked. Sheila helped her up and drove her to the emergency room. She told doctors Kaylee had fallen down the steps. But by her condition and the look on Kaylee’s face, they knew otherwise.

The authorities contacted Gerald to notify him of the abuse. You can imagine his heartbreak and concern for his children. He immediately knew that he needed to step up to the plate as a dad to do what was best for his kids.

That’s when Gerald turned to Lutheran Family and Children’s Services for help. He needed guidance for himself, and more importantly, support for Kaylee and Chloe. The girls met weekly with their LFCS counselor to work through the trauma of the physical and emotional abuse they had endured.

Now in their father’s care and with the support of their LFCS counselors, the girls have begun to heal and feel safe.

Without help from so many generous friends, free crisis counseling that assists families like Gerald’s simply would not be available.

Thank you for remembering LFCS in your charitable plans throughout 2018, the agency’s 150th anniversary of fulfilling its promise to Missouri families.
Celebrating One Father’s Promise

Chris Gardner, author and father figure portrayed in The Pursuit of Happyness, made what he calls “an empowering decision” when he was just six years old. “I promised myself that when I grew up and had children of my own, they would know who I was and I would be present in their lives.”

In this issue of Spirit, we celebrate one father who showed a similar commitment to his children following a crisis. Gerald turned to Lutheran Family and Children’s Services to help him keep the same promise as every good parent — to be present for his children and to keep them from harm.

Your friendship with LFCS allows us to strengthen communities, one family at a time. Every time you support the promise of a better tomorrow, your generosity reaches a child or parent who may be facing the fight of their lives.

Because of that, we are together growing hope across St. Louis, Columbia, Springfield, Cape Girardeau, and surrounding regions.

I thank you for helping us fulfill the founding promise of our mission. And I look forward to meeting even more friends and contributors throughout the coming months. Thank you for inviting me to share with you our 150 years of caring for Missouri’s families and children.

I am eager to address your church congregation, school family, or other social service organization on behalf of those we serve.

Mike Duggar
President/CEO

You are Cordially Invited …

Please save the date and join other advocates and supporters of Lutheran Family Children’s Services for an extraordinary evening commemorating 150 years of caring for Missouri’s children and families!

Reservations will be taken beginning July 1, 2018 for the promise ball 2018 to be held 5:00 pm Saturday, August 18, 2018 at the Four Seasons, St. Louis 999 North Second Street St. Louis, MO 63102

$200 per person $2,000 per table

The Promise Ball celebrates the fulfillment of our mission across the generations. For a century and a half, LFCS has empowered people, enriched lives, and embraced change for children and families. Our commitment to serve began in 1868 with a promise by Rev. Johann Buenger to a wounded Civil War soldier in need of someone to care for his 10-year-old son. The story of the soldier’s son spread and donations to support his care arrived. This was the dawn of the profound impact Lutheran Family and Children’s Services has made on the children and families of Missouri. Since our inception, more than 1 million lives have been touched by LFCS.

We want to continue this legacy of promise and ensure that for the next 150 years, we can offer as much hope as the last. The Promise Ball will be our largest fundraising event of the year. The Ball will take guests on a journey through our rich history, beginning with that first promise and ending with our vision for a bright future. This special celebration will feature a gourmet dinner, live music by the Charles Glenn Group, dancing, and fellowship. The critical funds raised at the event help to end the cycle of abuse, provide safe and loving homes for children in foster care, and provide preventative programs to children in at risk neighborhoods.

We hope you will plan to enjoy the Promise Ball and that you’ll spread the good news about this very special event!

For additional information, please contact Shannon Hermann at ShannonH@lfcs.org or 314-785-7327.
Meet Kim...

Kim is 20 years old. She entered foster care for the first time as a baby, after her mom lost custody of her and her brothers. Kim's father eventually became her guardian. But after he died from cancer when Kim was just 14, the teen endured the heartbreak of being without a home or family once again.

With help from donors like you and foster care case management from Lutheran Family and Children's Services, Kim has journeyed a long way over the past six years. Her LFCS case worker Sarah calls this young lady “funny, spunky, and very driven to reach her goals.”

Tell me about yourself...

I am currently attending Florissant Valley Community College and I am majoring in pediatric nursing. I am also working full time at a daycare. My life might sound pretty boring. I go to work and school. My grades at school are pretty good.

How has LFCS helped you?

Sarah helps me by making sure I do what I have to do, especially with school. She’s also on top of me about my job and my savings. She makes sure I am good financially.

What are your goals for your future?

I want to have a house, a car, and a family of my own that I can love.

Is there anything you want Sarah to know?

I want her to know how thankful I am for everything she’s done. She stood with me through it all.

Three Easy Ways to Grow Hope

It’s easy to make children in need a part of your life’s legacy. Name Lutheran Family and Children’s Services as a beneficiary in your will, and ensure the future of our important work while helping kids and families throughout Missouri.

Many generous supporters have found “percentage giving” to be a simple solution to the question of how much to give to LFCS while still providing for the well-being of their own children and loved ones.

Donating a percentage of your assets allows for your contribution to remain proportionate to the overall value of your estate at any given point in time.

Here are three simple ways to put your family first while still supporting the LFCS mission:

1. Gift a percentage of your estate to Lutheran Family and Children’s Services in your will.

2. Leave LFCS a percentage of your residual estate (what remains after all other claims and gifts have been satisfied).

3. Name LFCS as a beneficiary of a percentage of your life insurance policy or retirement account.

Be sure to let us know if you have already named LFCS as the beneficiary of a future gift. We would like to thank you personally and ensure that we are aware of your specific wishes for your kind contribution. Thank you!
Through the Years…

Life, love, laughter…

The children who lived at the Lutheran Orphan’s Home experienced a similar childhood to others growing up in St. Louis. These images represent many of the memorable moments in the first half of the 20th century.
Memorial Gifts
March 1 - May 30, 2018

John C. Bright
Janice Bright

Joan Campbell
Joel Guiling

Elizabeth “Buddy” Cason
Betty Hecht

Marie Gomez
Dorothy Rasche

The Mother of Mel Hahs
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Harold Kaiser
Linda & Gregory Doss

Rosemary “Rosie” Kaiser
Janet Biggs
Linda & Gregory Doss
Barbara Girshner
Bud & Bernice Hensel
Moris & Joyce Huelskoetter
Versa Lindemann
Jeannine & Gary Moore
Richard Nickel
David & Linda Ruprecht
Barb Tucker & Family
Dennis & Donna Whelan

Phyllis Rowold
Henry Rowold

The Father of Tom Stevener
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Walter “WK” Waddell
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Tine’ Rosenberg Weitzer
Ruthie Byers
Maryann & Carl Cochran
Marjorie Cornbleet
Carolyn & Jay Henges
Industrial Soap Company
Kathryn Nixon
Suzanne & Tom Pennycook
Nancy Rose
Sally Rosenthal
Liza Scallet
Doris Jean Serkes
Barb & Mike Spector
Renee & Jerry Summers
Dr. Leonard & Martha Weinstock
Susan & Frank Wolff, Jr.
Heide & Michael Wolff

Paul Woolf
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Margaret Kirchner
Cletis Dobesh

Norbert Mueller
Betty Hecht

Rick & Charles Niehoff
Doris Jo Niehoff

Marie Ripp
Linda & Gregory Doss
Tributes
March 1 - May 30, 2018

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Covey
The birth of granddaughter, Eloise
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Mike & Chelsey Duggar
Georgette, Mike & Christine Nack

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Emas
The birth of granddaughter, Samantha
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kilker
A new home
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Mr. & Mrs. Max Pott
The birth of daughter, Kallie
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Pylipow
Ryan’s wedding
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Toni Riccardi
Becoming a Trustee at SMS
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Rev. Iromar Schreiber
Birthday wishes
Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Brockman
Janice Gumerman
Charles & Karen Johnson
Mike & Connie Pritchard
Larry Ross
Gary & Elise Stueve
Carl & Barbara Tiedt
Robert Mark & Julie Trout

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Springer
The birth of grandson, Leo
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Betty Wener
The birth of granddaughter, Nora
and a new house
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Mr. & Mrs. John Willmann
The birth of grandson, Finnegan
Jim & Gayle Woolf
A Heartfelt “Thank You”!

Donors and friends have long been the heroes of the LFCS ministry. In conjunction with the 150th Anniversary celebration, a number of generous contributors have pledged support of $15,000 or more to serve Missouri children and families in great need. We thank those of you who have pledged your commitment in honor of our century and a half legacy.

If you would like to join these distinguished donors, it’s not too late. Our honor roll of 150th Anniversary contributors will be open through December 31, 2018.

Additional recognition levels will honor anniversary year donors who commit a:
❖ one-time gift of $1,500
❖ one-time gift of $150
❖ monthly gift of $18.68, commemorating our founding year.

Thank you for considering one of these special contributions before December 31!

YES! I want to help LFCS fulfill its promise to serve generations to come. Use my tax-deductible gift to serve children and families in need across Missouri:

☐ $___________  ☐ $500  ☐ $250  ☐ $150  ☐ $50

Anniversary Level

Name

Address

City    State    ZIP

Phone

E-mail

☐ Please contact me at the phone number above about making planned gifts to LFCS.

I would like more information about:
☐ Volunteering  ☐ Giving through my will  ☐ Involving my company

I would like to make a recurring, monthly gift of $_________. I understand I can change or cancel at any time.

Charge my gift to:
☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ Discover  ☐ Amex

Card Number

Exp. Date    Sec. Code

Signature

Please make your check payable to:
Lutheran Family and Children’s Services Foundation
9666 Olive Boulevard, Suite 400
St. Louis, MO 63132

Call 866-326-LFCS (5327) to charge your gift by phone. Visit www.lfcsmo.org/donate/ to give online.