Safe at Home

Every child deserves a forever family and a home where they feel safe and loved.

But sadly, thousands of Missouri children live in fear and uncertainty.

Fourteen-year-old Jenny was one of them. By age nine, the little girl had faced more hardships than most people do in a lifetime.

“I lived with my mom — mostly in rehab centers, homeless shelters, or with babysitters,” Jenny recalled. “One night we slept on a church balcony. I woke up and saw my mom using drugs …”

In the grip of addiction, Jenny’s mom wasn’t the parent she should be. She came to a breaking point, and one day, the unthinkable happened. Jenny remembered, “A petting zoo came to my daycare. My mom told me to go see the animals and then meet her in the parking lot. But when I came back, she was gone. It got later and later. She never came back, and the people at the daycare called the police.”

Thankfully, LFCS donors enabled us to be there to help rescue Jenny from a future that seemed to hold little promise.

Our caseworker went to work immediately to find her a loving home. In a matter of hours, foster parents welcomed the little girl into their home.

LFCS caseworker Joanna kept in close touch, and oversaw Jenny’s visits with her mom. “I always felt better seeing Miss Joanna,” Jenny said. “She was honest and knew the right thing to say; she would comfort me when my mom canceled.” Three years later, when her foster parents asked if she would like to be adopted, Jenny said YES.

The Missouri Department of Social Services receives over 5,000 reports of child neglect or abuse every month.*

This need overwhelms our financial resources, but certainly not our hearts.

November is National Adoption Month. Through your continued generosity to Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, you can help us serve more children like Jenny, along with their parents who are facing desperate circumstances because of poverty, homelessness, illness, and addiction.

“Today, through our ups and downs, I am SO happy that I can call my family my own,” Jenny said. “And I am happy that LFCS has people like Ms. Joanna to help.”

Join LFCS for our 31st Annual Holiday Home Tour in Southeast Missouri! The tour will be self-guided through six area homes, beautifully decorated for the holidays.

Call 573-334-5866 to purchase tickets beginning November 5!

Save the Date
And Join Us in 2019!

ST. LOUIS
Hope for Families Golf Tournament
Friday, May 17, 2019

LFCS Dinner and Auction
Saturday, September 21, 2019

SPRINGFIELD
Princesses and Me Tea
Saturday, November 2, 2019

CAPE GIRARDEAU
Kentucky Derby Party
Friday, May 3, 2019

Holiday Home Tour
Saturday, December 7, 2019

Plenty to be Thankful For

From faith and family to friendship and food, Thanksgiving is the time when we reflect on God’s countless blessings in our lives.

This season at LFCS, our plate is overflowing with appreciation. We are wrapping up our 150th anniversary year with immense gratitude for you. I’ve been welcomed into church after church this year and been fortunate enough to speak with hundreds of donors.

Without your constant friendship and support, we could not carry out the promise upon which our ministry was founded.

The children and families we serve often share their gratitude to us with tears of joy. They tell us over and over again, in words meant as much for you as for our staff: “I don’t know what we would’ve done without you all. We can never thank you enough.”

Still, our work is far from finished.

I hope you can make an especially generous gift this season ... one we will use to bring life, light, and love to more people in need. From babies adopted into loving families to children rescued from neglect and abuse; from teen mothers accompanied throughout their pregnancy to youngsters benefiting by early education; from couples and families working to overcome brokenness to neighbors helped following natural disasters.

Grateful to God and to each other, let’s carry on with the promise of providing hope and help where it’s needed most!

With gratitude,

Mike Duggar
President and CEO
Offering Innovative Care for Children and Families

LFCS applauds contributors across the state whose gifts are enabling the expansion of its services to children and families in North St. Louis City and County.

Adding to its 50-year history of providing comprehensive daycare services and early childhood education, Hilltop Child and Family Development Center now offers expanded services to meet the needs of the entire family unit, including prenatal classes, parenting courses, individual and family counseling, and more.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house attended by LFCS executives and community leaders was held October 30.

“We can now prepare our students for future success by supporting, not only the child’s development, but that of the whole family,” said Hilltop Director Julie McAfee. “The communities we’re serving often face extreme poverty, crime, and trauma. Easy access to holistic intervention and support is vital. No other such services currently exist in this geographic area and LFCS is proud to lead the way in meeting the needs of these children and their families.”

Shortly after, we identified that Greyson was suffering from effects of lead poisoning.

LFCS worked closely with his pediatrician on a plan to reverse the problem. Greyson also began to participate in the mental health program at Hilltop to help address some of the behavioral challenges caused by the lead poisoning. He has since learned tips and tools for behavior modification and is thriving in his supportive classroom.

Comprehensive services like these round out Hilltop’s tradition of providing innovative early education curriculum. Classes take place in a nurturing, safe, and stimulating atmosphere, with goals specialized to meet a child’s individual needs.

LFCS President and CEO Mike Duggar notes, “By helping these families journey through pregnancy, parenthood, and beyond, we improve their odds tremendously.”

You are invited to take a tour to see firsthand how your gifts are at work and what sets Hilltop apart from other centers. For questions or to schedule your visit, call (314) 785-7327 or email ShannonH@lfcs.org.

In September 2018, Hilltop was selected by the Office of St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson and Alderwoman Pam Boyd as the 2018 Neighborhood Business of the Year for the 27th Ward.

It’s the kind of help that can rescue a family in crisis, a family like Bri’s.

Bri first turned to Hilltop when her full-time babysitter quit “out of the blue” because of health concerns. Bri had no one she could turn to for care of her five-year-old son, Greyson. Within days, LFCS was able to place her son in Hilltop’s Head Start program.
Memorial Gifts

Clara S. Binger  
Jeanine & Harold Hager

Vandella Bockelman  
Bea Daugherty

The Mother of William Cole  
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Patricia Hopmeier  
Marilyn Adaire  
Roger & Barbara Dierberg  
Tom & Gail Dollar  
Roy Evers  
Judith Hanses  
Sandy MacLean  
Gerald & Sandra Mathews  
Dorothy Norland  
Ronald & Joyce Parks  
Carol Rucker

William Jasinski  
Patricia Jasinski

Harold & Rosie Kaiser  
Bob & Barb Mackenzie

Rosemary (Rosie) Kaiser  
Carrol & Benjamin Goddard  
Judy Julius  
Kari Rinkus

Lou Ann Launhardt  
Lori Launhardt

Elvira Lorenz  
Norma Kaempfe

Alvin Mathis  
Tom & Lynn Kapp

Joan & Dave Moran  
Dana Lewin  
Larry Roth  
Anonymous

Scott Tams  
Susan Andrew

Linda Verseman  
Anonymous

John Wilson  
Janice & Mike Raeber

Tribute Gifts

Amy  
Donna Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Justin Baker  
The birth of Charlie  
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Jim Dankenbring  
W. Dudley McCarter

Wilson & Shari Freyermuth  
Robert & Sharon Bailey

Larry Frickenschmidt  
Birthday Wishes  
Tom & Diana Seboldt

Bob & Jane Ingle  
50th Wedding Anniversary  
Claudine & Throck Osborn

Linda & Larry Lemke  
Steve & Karla Rosenblum

Connie Mahn  
90th Birthday  
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Mercurio  
Wedding Blessings  
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Scott Negwer  
W. Dudley McCarter

Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Richards  
Hailey’s wedding  
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Amy Schaper  
70th Birthday  
Gayle Woolf

William J. Sippel  
Happy Father’s Day  
Rodney & Mary Sippel

Ralph & Mary Walther  
40th Anniversary  
Melba Brase

Betty Werner  
20th year of practice  
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Larry Woolf  
The birth of grandson, Oliver  
Jim & Gayle Woolf
In honor of LFCS’s 150 years of service to Missouri families, a very generous donor is offering to double all year-end contributions to Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, up to a total match of $50,000. We hope you will be one of the first to respond during this very special Matching Gift Challenge by returning your reply card and gift today! Or, donate online by visiting lfcsmo.org.

Click on DONATE and choose “Make a Gift Today.”

Your gift of...
$500 will become $1,000
$150 Anniversary level!
$75 $300
$75 $150 Anniversary level!

Every dollar you send will go twice as far for kids and families in need.
So if you’ve been waiting for the right moment to give, this is it! ✨
Celebrating $75   $150   $150   $300  $500   $1,000
In honor of LFCS’s 150 years of service to Missouri families, a very generous donor is offering to double all year-end contributions to Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, up to a total match challenge by returning your reply card and gift today! Or, donate online by visiting lfcsmo.org.

The Difference Your Giving Made

“I had given up hope about my overwhelming anxiety, but my counselor has shown me new techniques to handle it that are like miracles. I am doing so much better. I now have an inner calm, peace, and faith in the midst of personal difficulties.”
— “Daniel” LFCS client

YES! During the Matching Gift Challenge, I want to help LFCS carry on its promise into the next 150 years of serving Missouri’s children and families. Please DOUBLE my enclosed year-end gift of:

☐ $50    ☐ $150    ☐ $250    ☐ $500

Name
Address
City       State       ZIP
Phone
E-mail

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, Missouri 63132

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