Our Mission
Through Christ’s love, we empower children and families to overcome challenges today so they can build better tomorrows.

Our Vision
Generations of children and families across Missouri are safer and stronger together.
From the President

Dear Friends,

In 2018, Lutheran Family and Children’s Services (LFCS) celebrated its 150th anniversary of service. Our work began with a single promise made by Reverend Johann Buenger to care for the ten-year-old son of a wounded and widowed Civil War soldier. This one promise became dozens - which grew into hundreds - that turned into millions: hurting children cared for in the orphanage; babies adopted into loving families; teen mothers equipped to care for their babies rather than make a fatal and final choice; children given a fighting chance through early education at Hilltop; hope restored after natural disasters devastated communities; and so much more.

Today, we face a different set of challenges than those of Rev. Buenger, yet the need to build better tomorrows for Missouri children and families endures. Over 5,000 children experienced abuse or neglect in 2018; a statistic that crosses all socioeconomic and educational levels, religions, ethnic and cultural groups. When adverse childhood experiences such as abuse and neglect are not addressed, lifelong medical, mental and social suffering can occur. Through our behavioral health, community prevention, child development and family services, LFCS nurtures and supports children and families who are at risk. Our services offer real solutions that lead to safety, permanency and well-being for those we serve.

Our programs work, but responding to existing—and growing—need requires that we work harder and that our community contributions grow. As we build better futures for those we serve, our organization will also build systems that last, build staff who lead and build fans beyond our traditional base. Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey! Your commitment and dedication to the LFCS mission is humbling. Together, we bring hope to the hurting, we bring light into the darkness, and we bring His loving kindness where cruelty seems to reign—together as one family.

In His service,

Mike Duggar
President & CEO

One Promise. One Family.

2018 MISSOURI CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT STATISTICS*

5,633 CHILDREN IMPACTED BY SUBSTANTIATED CLAIMS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

13,567 CHILDREN REFERRED FOR SERVICES FOLLOWING A FAMILY ASSESSMENT

< 5% OF ASSESSED HOUSEHOLDS CHARACTERIZED AS IN GOOD PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH

< 7% OF ASSESSED HOUSEHOLDS CHARACTERIZED AS STABLE

*According to the 2018 Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report

In 2018, LFCS extended support to 38,000 Missouri children and families.
Meet Somiah

Somiah’s childhood has not been easy. She lives alone with her grandmother in North St. Louis — her mom was incarcerated a year ago and her dad left before she was born. Despite these less than ideal circumstances, Somiah walks in to Hilltop Child and Family Development Center every morning smiling and ready to learn. Hilltop is not just her preschool. Here she receives one-on-one counseling to manage the challenges of growing up without her parents. Hilltop also sends a parenting specialist to the house so Somiah’s grandmother can have access to support too. Surrounded by people who want her to succeed, Somiah’s odds for success beyond school improve each day. Soon, she will be starting kindergarten.
2018 Outcomes

LFCS provides behavioral health, community prevention, child development and family services to combat the staggering child abuse and neglect statistics across Missouri. Last year, we raised and spent over $13,000,000 to provide kids with safe, stable childhoods and to give parents all the resources to make this possible.

**SAFETY**
82% of community prevention clients developed skills to avoid underage drinking, drug use, violence, bullying or other risky behaviors.

100% of adoption and respite foster care clients were free from substantiated incidents of child abuse and neglect.

**PERMANENCY**
89% of families served by LFCS maintained or achieved stable living situations.

208 forever families were formed through reunification, adoption or guardianship.

**WELL BEING**
4,144 children displayed an improved level of functioning after receiving counseling services.

86% of babies were born of a healthy birth weight, making them less likely to have health issues as infants.

80% of pregnant or parenting moms developed coping mechanisms and stress management skills to better parent their children.

LFCS believes all Missouri children and families deserve to have access to quality services. In 2018, LFCS served clients at 109 sites across the state.
6 out of 10 clients served by LFCS live at or below the federal poverty level. Yet, 86% of Missourians live above the federal poverty level.

Lutheran Family and Children’s Services of Missouri provides critical services to children and families to improve behavioral health and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect in order to make generations of children and families safer and stronger together.

80% of clients served by LFCS are under the age of 19.

Nearly 14% of Missouri children living at or below the poverty level experience three or more adverse childhood experiences such as abuse, neglect, witnessing violence, incarcerated family member, or death of a parent.
Meet Tara

Tara stretches her budget to pay her rent, utilities and childcare for her 2-year old son. She dreams of returning to college to receive her nursing degree, but parenting alone has made it difficult. This year, United Way 211 referred Tara to LFCS for parenting services. She receives in-home coaching from a parenting specialist, resources such as diapers, hygiene items and grocery gift cards, as well as assistance with her college application process so she can return to school part-time. She and her LFCS parenting coach discuss the impact returning to school will have and how Tara can manage her stress while making good parenting choices. For the first time since becoming a mom, she truly feels supported. Tara knows that with services from LFCS, she can achieve her dreams.
Rocco entered foster care last year with a trash bag of clothes and one shoe. When his LFCS caseworker brought him to meet his foster family, he was suspicious and tried to run away. Time and attention have soothed many of Rocco's fears. In an effort to address the trauma and abuse he faced prior to entering foster care, LFCS provides Rocco with professional mental health counseling. He no longer feels the need to steal in order to have enough to eat and his fears of abandonment being have begun to ease. As he and his foster parents continue to bond as a family unit, Rocco smiles more often—the scars of his past slowly fading.
FINANCIAL REPORTS
For fiscal year ended December 31, 2018

REVENUE

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<td>Government</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Client Fees</td>
<td>858,303</td>
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<td>United Way</td>
<td>749,955</td>
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<td>LFCS Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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EXPENSES

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Services</td>
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<td>Behavioral Health</td>
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<td>Child Development</td>
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<td>Disaster Response</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>1,926,517</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,299,262</strong></td>
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LFCS is grateful for the generosity and support received by our funders and partners, including:

- Government Contributions
- Client Fees
- United Way
- LFCS Foundation
- Grants
- Rental income
- Other

In 2018, volunteers dedicated 3,227 hours to fulfilling the mission of LFCS.
LFCS is fully committed to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Affirmative Action. We are committed to recruit, hire, train and advance in employment qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, pregnancy, creed, genetic information, gender identity, status as protected veteran, status as a qualified individual with disability or any other characteristic protected by applicable Federal, State and Local law.

For more information, visit us at lfcsmo.org.