

Spirit

Fall
2019

LfCS 
Lutheran Family and
Children's Services of Missouri

Turning Over a New Leaf



Six-year-old Amara has always been quiet and shy. She speaks softly and sweetly, and finds comfort in her favorite things. Her best friend is her stuffed dog Rocko, that she holds onto tightly. Every morning she asks for her curly hair to be put up in her favorite scrunchie with bright purple polka dots — her favorite color. She's even learned to like her new glasses that she just got to help her read her favorite stories at school. Amara doesn't smile often, but when she is comfortable enough to share a laugh or grin with someone special, she shows off two loose front teeth to the world.

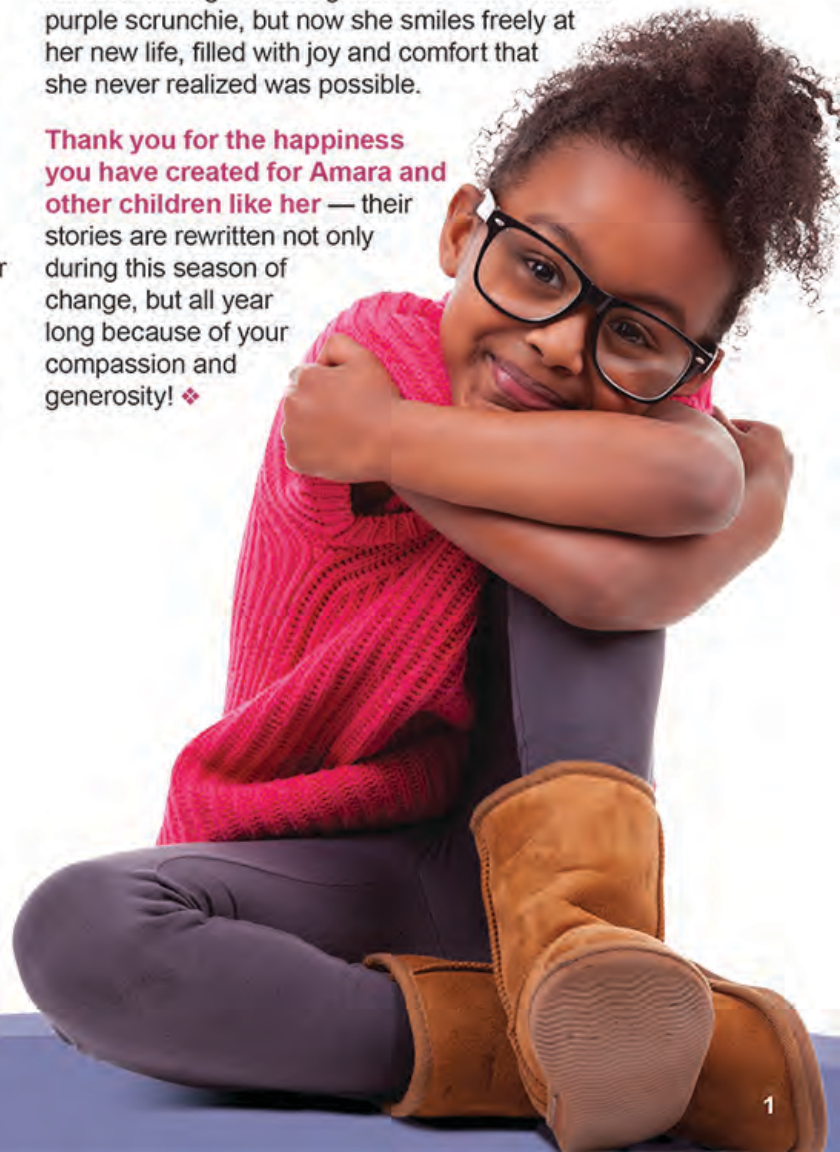
Amara's parents struggled with addiction and her family has lived in poverty since before she was born. Often Amara was left alone, and without enough to eat. Her home life became increasingly more unsafe, and so Amara was placed into foster care. She was scared to stay in a new place with new people, and was anxious about the changes that were to come.

On her first day in her foster home, Amara sat at the kitchen table with her foster mom and dad for dinner. They asked her what she wanted to eat, but it had been so long since she had something good and filling, she didn't even know what to ask for. Her foster mom said that one of her favorite foods was grilled cheese, and so Amara tried it too and really liked it. "Maybe this will be okay," she thought hopefully.

After dinner, her foster parents took her upstairs to see her new bedroom. She couldn't believe her eyes as they opened the door to reveal a bed all her own with a bright purple bedspread. Her eyes filled with happy tears and she gave her foster mom a big grateful hug.

Amara still misses her mom and dad, but because of Lutheran Family and Children's Services, she feels safe and loved with her foster family, who cares deeply for her. Amara quickly found that she loves them right back. She is still the same little girl in many ways. She still clutches Rocko as she plays with her new siblings and neighbors and still loves her purple scrunchie, but now she smiles freely at her new life, filled with joy and comfort that she never realized was possible.

Thank you for the happiness you have created for Amara and other children like her — their stories are rewritten not only during this season of change, but all year long because of your compassion and generosity! ❖



UPCOMING EVENT NOVEMBER 16

Treat Your Little Princess - & Help LFCS, Too!



Tickets are now available for the Princess & Me Tea on Nov. 16 in Springfield, Mo., with proceeds benefitting Lutheran Family and Children's Services.

Your princess will get to meet 12 princesses (including Cinderella and the Snow Queen!), sing along with performances on stage, have all the sweets she can eat, and get a goody bag with a tiara and other treats! For an additional donation, she can have a makeover, glitter tattoo, manicure and professional souvenir photo.

New this year are "Mommy & Me" matching Tea-shirts and sweatshirts!

Tickets are \$25 for children and adults and can be purchased by calling 417-862-1972 or online at lfcsmo.org/about/events. You can also go to Facebook Events and search for 2019 LFCS Princesses & Me Tea. ❖



Thanks for making "A Million Dreams" come true for Missouri children and families!

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the 36th Annual LFCS Dinner and Auction! The event was held on September 21 at the Four Seasons-St. Louis. Your generosity helps make children and families across Missouri safer and stronger together! ❖

For more photos of the event, please visit lfcsmo.org.



Imagine All the People

Dear Friend,

I wish you could see all of the things that I've been so blessed to witness throughout my time at Lutheran Family and Children's Services.

Fresh, joyful smiles from children who experience a loving embrace from their devoted foster parent ... the relieved, hopeful look of a single mother who finally receives the help she so desperately needs ... the happy tears falling from adoptive parents' faces when they find out they finally get to take their child home ...

These moments happen because of incredible giving and compassionate neighbors just like you who help make children and families across Missouri safer and stronger together.

Your generosity fulfills dreams and changes lives in a sustainable and positive way. You may never have the chance to meet the people that you help; you may never know all of their names or see their faces, but the power of your presence in their lives will not be forgotten. Your support makes deeply profound changes in our clients' lives every single day. The impact I have been so lucky to see that reaches over 35,000 children and families throughout the state every year occurs because of you: a donor, advocate and believer.

There's one message I can pass on from the interactions I have had with our clients: thank you, thank you, thank you. No matter the circumstance, the overwhelming gratitude we receive day in and day out is a direct reflection of the kindness you share with those who need it most. Our appreciation for you runs deeper than you will ever know. Thank you endlessly from every single one of us here at LFCS.

With a gracious heart,

Mike Duggar
President/CEO



Counting Our Blessings

Thanks to your generosity, LFCS has been able to place these children in their loving forever homes!



Baby Tatum and big brother Owen.



Kristy, Doug and baby Jack.



Joshua, MariBeth and baby Henry with the judge at finalization.



Kyle, Amanda and baby Amelia.



Shamira, Andrew and baby Levi.



Nick, Micah and baby Paisley.

Children Are Unintended Victims of Domestic Violence

When we hear the words “domestic violence,” it is probably not children who immediately enter our minds. However, children are profoundly impacted by domestic violence in their homes. They are not merely innocent bystanders when they witness violent acts ... they are indirect victims.

Research has shown the significant impact that domestic violence has on children. They may experience anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, nightmares, difficulty concentrating, and many other physical and behavioral health problems. Additionally, children may develop low self-esteem and unhealthy relationship patterns that can affect them as they grow into adults.

LFCS offers several services across Missouri that help children who witness domestic violence in their families, including counseling, mental health services, and family therapy.

Your gifts to LFCS support crisis care for kids experiencing trauma, and make available critical resources for parents so they can give the best care possible for their children. Thank you for stepping in to help these innocent children! ❖

Volunteer Spotlight!

Carmen Dorman, a longtime LFCS volunteer and past board chair, has worked in the Southwest Missouri office since 2010. An adoptive parent herself, she has become one of our best friends and most dedicated advocates over the years, and she and her daughters have been active participants in the Springfield region's adoption panels. Our congratulations and endless gratitude to Carmen for nearly 10 years of making a difference! ❖



IRA Rollover Reminder

If you have reached age 70½ and are required to take minimum distributions from your IRA, you may enjoy tax savings by directly transferring funds from your account to eligible charitable organizations, including Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri. For more information, contact Janice Raeber at 314-754-2786 or JaniceR@lfcsmo.org. ❖



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866-326-LFCS (5327)
www.lfcsmo.org



Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri (LFCS) is fully committed to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and our Affirmative Action commits to employ and advance in employment, minorities, women, protected veteran and individuals with disabilities. We 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 law. In addition to federal law requirements, LFCS complies with applicable state and local laws governing nondiscrimination in employment in every location in which the company has facilities.



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.

Memorial Gifts

April 20 - September 13, 2019

Miles Wayne Anderson

Codee & Jason
MacDowall

Dr. Gerald L. Behrens

Donna Behrens

Rosel Discher

Carin Fedchak

Rev. Richard Eissfeldt

Dr. & Mrs. Alan Bachert
Nancy & Frank Dimina
Marilyn & Robert Duea
Ann Eissfeldt
Larry & Eedy
Gustafson
Lynn Huras
The Huras Family
Judith Janssen
Jeanette Kennel
Mary Alice & Michael
Long
Paul & Janice Manley
Mr. & Mrs. Charles
Parrott
Ruth Rangel
Dorothy Rasche
Joyce & Frederick
Schumacher
Jon & Barb Trettel
Margaret Turney
Robert Yeo

Renate Feder

Peggy Haeger

Dawn Finn

Larry & Eedy
Gustafson
Janice & Mike Raeber

Frances Grotjan

Joyce Jones

Ruth Hagen

Gene & Doris Hagen

James Hanf

American National
Insurance Co.
Linda Anderson
Mike & Sharon Barhan
Kevin Butler
Rev. Tom & Debby
Cederblom & the
people of Life360
WestGate
Kathy Gaither
Nolan & Elana
Goldberg
Bud & Betty Greve
Lindsey & Jane
Robison
Bettyann Shuert
Team O'Reilly
Timothy Wimmer

William Jasinski

Patricia Jasinski

Harold & Rosie Kaiser

Greg & Linda Doss

Bob Kern

Jim & Gayle Woolf

Tom Kiehne

John & Molly Strickland

Janice Kroeger

Greg & Jenny Gastler
Lucille Huslage
Leona Morton

Vivian Lansing

Greg & Linda Doss

Billy Mayfield

Anita Duggar

Violet Quinn-Platt

Gene & Doris Hagen

Rev. Dr. B. F. & Helen Rehmer

Peggy Haeger

Marie Ripp

Greg & Linda Doss

Kathy Roth

John & Molly Strickland

George C. Schaeffer

Marian & Joseph
Brisusco

Ray Schreiner

Rick, Richard, Terry, &
Michael Miesner

Joan Mary Schroeder

Alice Asbed
Mark & Beth Bossi
Lola & Larry Finn
Forshaw of St. Louis
Larry & Eedy
Gustafson
Diane Hanna
Susan Kutterer
Mary & Lance Smith

Carole Spree

Dorothy Baumann
Tim & Lisa Daegling
Doris & Hugh
Harrington
Steven & Brenda
Kleiboeker
Kristen Schade
The Telle Family
Patricia Trojahn
Karen & Jim Vogelsang
Jill, Cindy, & Janice
Walsh

Donald Tanner

Larry & Eedy
Gustafson
Rosemary & Dick
Woolley
Lynn Pederson



Tributes

April 20 - September 13, 2019

Richard & Judy Aufdenberg
50th Wedding Anniversary
Melba Brase

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Ault
Wedding Blessings
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Mrs. Edye Caffray
Retirement
Gayle Woolf

Carol Dippold
Retirement
Norma Kaempfe

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Dobson
The birth of Eloise
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Laura Edwards
Happy Mother's Day
Deloris & Kenneth Goldacker

Janet Farmer
Mary W. Farmer

Karen Freed
Happy Mother's Day
L. Hunter Kevil

Carol Grohmann
Phil Willmert

Ida Grover
Happy Mother's Day
Debra Cooper

Donna Guinn
Penny Stewart

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Hulcer
**The birth of grandson,
Aiden**
Jim & Gayle Woolf

June Mausling
Happy Mother's Day
Jean Holthe

Kristine Messmer
Happy Mother's Day
Sarah & Donald Messmer

Scott Negwer
W. Dudley McCarter

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Springer
Brian's Wedding
Jim & Gayle Woolf

Sharon Stenzel
Happy Mother's Day
Judith Stenzel

Jeanie & Ashley Thompson
James & Beverly Thompson

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zilm
**The birth of grandson,
Luis Michael**
Jim & Gayle Woolf

