COVID-19: a time of NEED

While many people have experienced challenges in the face of COVID-19, it has disproportionately impacted the families and children we serve at Lutheran Family and Children’s Services.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development recently announced the decision to eliminate the Youth Opportunity (YOP) and Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credit programs due to projected budget concerns stemming from the COVID public health emergency. Tax credits provide $500,000 in vital funding for Hilltop Child and Family Development Center, LFCS Parenting and LFCS Behavioral Health Services helping 3,070 children and families with services which address:

- Abuse and neglect
- Suicide
- Clinical Depression
- Healthy Birth Rates
- Employment Rate
- Unstable Living
- Environments
- Involvement in the criminal justice system

The significant loss of income through the YOP and NAP tax credit funding to support these programs comes at a time when the need is greater than ever. We have become even more reliant on the support of our donors and partners to continue helping families and children in our community now and in the future.

Nearly 49,000 lives were touched by the work of LFCS in 2019.

Calls for help to LFCS have increased since January 2020.

+310%

COVID Relief Fund

If you have not yet made your 2020 gift, we ask you to consider donating to the Lutheran Family and Children’s Services COVID Relief Fund. We recognize that the current economic climate is challenging and we appreciate your prayerful consideration of this request. Your support ensures that we can meet the need of thousands in Missouri.

To make a contribution today, visit: lfcsmo.org/covid-relief
At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, I think we all thought this would be a sprint. It has proven instead to be a marathon. Since March, there has been a dramatic increase in the demand for our help. We have seen an increase across all programs and services, and looking ahead, we expect the need to only grow.

Early on, we outlined what we wanted to accomplish and how we were going to do it. Our first priority was to take care of our staff the best we could, which in turn, allow them to better care for our clients. They put their whole hearts into what they do, and I commend them for their steadfast commitment.

Second, we knew it was critical that we be good stewards of the resources we have, in anticipation of a big financial loss. We are so fortunate for the ongoing response of our donors and partners. They are as much a part of changing lives as we are, and we cannot continue to do it without them.

There is no question that these are challenging times, but I believe we were called to serve in this situation. I am hopeful for the future, and I am hopeful for the fulfillment of the faithful promises we have made to children and families across Missouri.

Mike Duggar,
LFCS President &
Chief Executive Officer

WE PROMISE TO...

LFCS has persevered through challenges in its history because of a strong supporter community that is always ready to help. God has blessed us in so many ways, and we can serve Him by supporting the loving hands at LFCS that are caring for the most vulnerable in this critical time. We can all make a promise to support our LFCS family in this time of need.

Harry Mueller
Donor
Read about the Mueller family’s 30-year commitment to LFCS’s mission: https://lfcsmo.org/mueller/

Hilltop Child Development Center provides integrated services in North St. Louis, including parenting education, case management, and individual and family counseling in addition to childcare services.

a Hilltop family

After a negative experience at her previous school, Abriell began having behavioral issues. Her mom, Taylor, turned to Hilltop. Once she spoke with the director of the center and learned of the partnership with Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, Taylor knew it was the right choice for her daughter.

Over the last year, Abriell has made a dramatic transition thanks to the counseling she has received at Hilltop. She has formed positive relationships with her teachers and classmates. Her academics have advanced, her communication has improved and her happiness has increased. A challenge before, it is now easy for Abriell to share how she is feeling. She started kindergarten this fall and is thriving.

Lutheran Family and Children’s Services supported not only Abriell, but her entire family. When Taylor was in between jobs, we helped her find a new one. When she was pregnant with her second child, we provided her with mentorship and important supplies including diapers, clothing and a playpen. She couldn’t be more thankful for the resources and the mentors she has found at Hilltop.

“HILLTOP IS HERE FOR THE KIDS AND THEIR EARLY EDUCATION, BUT IT’S ALSO SUCH AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE FOR PARENTS.”

Taylor, a Hilltop Parent

Taylor and her daughter, Abriell, on the Hilltop playground.
surrounded by LOVE

Jen and Daniel began their adoption journey with LFCS after struggling with infertility for years. Hopeful, they looked forward to the day they would become parents.

Shortly thereafter, a young expecting couple came to LFCS asking for help. They felt unprepared to raise a child and wanted to know more about adoptive placement. Supported by their own LFCS caseworker, the birth parents learned about openness, the selection process and the ongoing support LFCS would provide.

Jen and Daniel completed their home study as the birth parents were ready to be matched with an adoptive couple. While discussing adoption with their caseworker, the birth parents described distinct experiences and hopes they had for their baby boy. They reviewed profiles of several couples waiting to adopt.

WHEN THEY CAME ACROSS JEN AND DANIEL, THEY KNEW THEY HAD FOUND THEIR SON’S HOME.

A year and one day after coming to LFCS, the adoption hearing was finalized. Jen and Daniel stay in touch with his birth parents through letters, pictures and social media, creating a family that includes the gift of love from both his birth and adoptive parents.

WE PROMISE TO...

Although our family has never been served directly by the programs at LFCS, we have been greatly influenced by their work because we’ve witnessed their impact on children and families in our community. From helping a struggling mother find a loving home for her children to providing counseling for a boy experiencing hardships at school, LFCS is always ready to serve, and their passion calls us to respond when support is needed. We promise to use our blessings to help LFCS serve now and in the future.

LARRY AND CHRISTIE TETJEN DONORS
Read about Christie and Larry’s passion for LFCS: https://lfcsmo.org/tetjen/

60-70% of all adoptions in the United States are open adoptions, in which the biological and adoptive families have an option of contact.

Source: https://adoptionnetwork.com/adoption-statistics

180 adoptive families received services from LFCS in 2019 and 2020.
Faithful Promises

Faithful promises are at the heart of our impact. Our team’s promises to strengthen and protect Missouri children and families have never been more crucial than over the last three months.

Visit lfcsmo.org/faithfulpromises to read about more promises guiding our work and the ways they have helped children and families most in need.

lfcsmo.org/faithfulpromises

Follow us on social media: 📱/twitter/instagram/LFCS