



the Lutheran Connection

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Time, Talents & Support

Our Mission

Showing kindness, doing justice, and serving those in need.

Our Vision

Following the example of Christ, LSMS will provide, for all people, quality human care services that build and strengthen individuals, families and communities.

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Jody Wood – A Vision of Faith and Commitment

One day in November about six years ago, a bright, young, talented woman applied for a position as site-manager for our adult day health care center at Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church in Tucson. We had just made the difficult decision to close our other Tucson day health care center and I was determined to hire someone who would ensure this would never happen again!

After a brief but very rewarding interview, I took my first step in faith for the future of our agency and hired Jody Wood. Jody not only made sure our adult day care center remained open, she made it flourish. Our clients and families loved her. The number of participants soared to its highest level ever.

From that point on, I let faith be our guide... and with success in hand, Jody worked even harder and opened our third adult day care center, this time in Apache Junction. With three adult day care centers now serving Mesa, Tucson, and Apache Junction, you think someone might be content — not Jody! She remembered a conversation from her initial job interview when we shared a common vision for LSMS – to provide care for seniors and respite for their family care givers, starting in their homes right on through to supervised group homes.

Before I knew it, we were on a plane to Southern California to tour several successful senior service programs. I should have seen it coming. Three months after that trip, and

with Jody's vision, enthusiasm and unfaltering commitment, LSMS opened its first in-home senior service program in Pima County. This program flourished and has become Lutheran Social Ministry's largest program, providing over 75,000 hours of senior services annually!

Nearly two years ago, Jody was looking for her next challenge and wanted to try her hand at fund development. It took little

encouragement for me to offer her the opportunity to do just that. Her accomplishments are too many to list, but here are some of the highlights: A President's Council Giving Society of major donors; Faithful Expressions, a faith-based micro-enterprise that will debut at the ALDE conference to over 700 Lutheran development executives nationwide; direct mail donor appeals, annual reports, newsletters,

marketing materials... and a host of donor recognition events that now highlight our calendar.

Will our agency and the Lutheran community miss Jody Wood? You betcha! Personally, I'll miss the joy and laughter. But most importantly, I'll miss my work partner and dearest friend.

Good luck, Jody, in your new career and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

God Bless You,

Lynn Baker, Executive Director



LSMS is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and recognized by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Partners in Caring

Jack (his name has been changed to protect confidentiality), a 37-year-old married man with three children, had been laid off from work for almost five months when his wife received the news that she, too, would be laid off. With his unemployment benefits almost completely used up, the few weeks that it would take for his wife's benefits to go into effect seemed like an eternity. With his family to consider, along with the stack of bills piling up, Jack turned to Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest for help.

Holly Brown-Sisson was assigned as Jack's JobNet case manager. She provided guidance throughout his search for employment. With this guidance, Jack learned how to create an effective resume and significantly improved his interviewing skills. Holly referred him to agencies that provide assistance with credit counseling and advice on avoiding a home foreclosure. And, through



Case manager Holly Brown-Sisson

Tucson Partners in Caring, his family was able to receive assistance with food and clothing.

Unfortunately, as time went by, it became increasingly difficult for Jack and his wife to meet all of their financial obligations. One of their family vehicles was repossessed and they were forced to continue their employment search with only one vehicle. But Jack was determined.

He continued to work with his JobNet case manager.

Eventually, a Tucson Partners in Caring congregation was able to donate a vehicle to Jack and his family. With prayers, support and guidance from his JobNet case manager and a Tucson Partners in Caring congregation, Jack is now employed. And, with the added relief of an extra family vehicle, his wife is employed, as well. Jack and his wife managed to hold onto their home and continue to regain financial security. The Tucson Partners in Caring congregation and JobNet continue to be an active part of the family's lives and their faith.

Community & Family Services

*Empowering individuals,
families and communities*

Maricopa County: 480-654-4539

Pima County: 520-748-2300

Senior Services

The Final Journey



Rarely do people wish to deal with the prospect of dying. Our caregivers address these issues on a daily basis. In working with the elderly it becomes a reality that cannot be avoided. Our caregivers are fully trained and assist each transition with compassion.

Every once in a while something happens that reminds us why we do the things we do, and that death is not the end, only a beginning.

David Willoughby (his name has been changed to protect confidentiality) was admitted to the Catalina Haven assisted living facility home back in November. He very quickly became a staff favorite. At 98 years of age he was very active in the daily routine. He was a bit ornery but it only endeared us to him. The only problem was that David was very sick and his memory was fading fast. In December the decision to place David in hospice was made by the family. Everybody knew that David was fading fast but it didn't stop our caregivers from trying.

They were there for him everyday. Changing him, helping him from bed to wheel chair, and preparing his food so that he could feed himself. We have at the heart of our philosophy the understanding that while we may be able to do nothing about the quantity of life, we can make sure that the quality of life isn't lacking.

One day David took a turn for the worse. His body began to give up and he was dying. Again, this did not stop our caregivers. They may not have been able to help his body anymore, but they sure could be there for his soul. Many a spare moment was spent with David at his bedside,

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reading from the Bible, singing hymns to him, praying, and assuring him that all was well.

It was one such evening, after everybody else had gone to bed, that one of our caregivers, Susan, found herself again at David's bedside. She was holding his hand, telling him how much they cared, and wiping his brow. Suddenly Susan stopped. She took his hand and whispered, "David, when you get to heaven let me know."

David Willoughby passed from this earth two days later, and a bit of us went with him. The staff took it hard, but knew they were also needed elsewhere. The caregivers understand that their obligation is to the living. Besides, he was in the hands of the

ultimate caregiver. Susan started her two days off the same evening that David had passed away. It was well deserved after the events of the last week. She decided she would go spend a couple of days at her brother's house. She packed her things and headed the few short miles to her brother's house. She was going to relax at a place where nobody had the phone number. As she started driving she remembered her request of David, "When you get to heaven let me know."

Two days later she was feeling recharged and ready to get back to work. She was still at her brother's house when the phone rang. She knew that it couldn't be for her since she had not given the number to anybody. She looked at the Caller ID

box and screamed. There it was on the screen, "D. Willoughby." Her brother answered the phone and hung up after a short conversation. "It was only a wrong number", her brother told Susan. Susan knew differently. She knew that David had let her know that he was in heaven, and why we do the job we do.

Senior Services

Promoting an individual's level of independence while maintaining quality of life with dignity and respect

Maricopa County: **602-424-0578**

Pima County: **520-514-7642**

Pinal County: **520-723-8223**

Multi-Cultural Services

Bantu Inspiration

After months of anticipation, the Phoenix resettlement office is abuzz over the new arrival of several Somali Bantu refugees. To help meet the needs of this challenging population, LSMS has accepted two AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers to establish an orientation program in Phoenix. For Jennifer Nishwitz and DaVaun Sanders, seeing the refugees' rapid adjustment to life in the Valley has been an incredible experience. "Our families have been here for two

weeks or less," Sanders says. "Just this week, we hosted a Valley Metro presenter to show our families how to use the bus. It was fantastic!" Dolores Nolan, Valley Metro Outreach Coordinator, presented a slideshow, which focused on pictures and utilized props—the biggest of which was an actual city bus used specifically for training purposes. The refugees were able to take a short ride around Phoenix while they practiced paying bus fare and requesting stops on Valley streets. "The participants really enjoyed themselves and laughed about their awkwardness in this new environment. Having hands-on experiences in a no-pressure situation is a great way for them to learn and build confidence," Nishwitz beamed. Translator

Abdullahi Ali added, "This was amazing. It will be so helpful to them."

The Bantus' resilience and eagerness to succeed in their new life has been an inspiration to all involved. To further support the Bantus' transition, upcoming phases of the orientation series will include workshops about safety, nutrition, and women's health issues. Also planned is a special program designed specifically for the youth entering school. Despite the trials the Bantu arrivals have faced, they are maintaining a positive outlook and have proven ready to tackle the learning curve.



Multi-Cultural Services

Assisting refugees in establishing new lives with new opportunities

Maricopa County: **602-248-4400**

Pima County: **520-721-4479**

Time, Talents & Support

LSMS Would Like to Thank Our 2003 Contributors

We are able to serve Arizona communities because of the support we get from our partners in ministry.

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Time, Talents & Support

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Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church - Tucson
Abiding Savior Lutheran Church - Tempe
All Saints Lutheran Church - Phoenix
American Lutheran Church - Sun City
Apostles Lutheran Church - Peoria
Ascension Lutheran Church - Paradise Valley
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church - Tucson
Bethel Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Mesa
Body of Christ Free Lutheran Church - Tucson
Calvary Lutheran Church - Tucson
Casas Adobes Church - Tucson
Catalina Lutheran Church - Tucson
Central Lutheran Church - Arizona City
Chalice Christian Church Disciples - Tempe
Christ Lutheran Church - Coolidge
Christ Lutheran Church - Goodyear
Christ Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Christ Lutheran Church Women - Sedona
Christ the King Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Church of the Beatitudes - Phoenix
Church of the Valley - Phoenix
Community Church of Joy - Glendale
Covenant Lutheran Church - Quartzsite
Desert Cross Lutheran Church - Tempe
Desert Hills Lutheran Church - Green Valley
Dove of Peace Lutheran Church - Tucson
Encanto Congregational Church - Phoenix
Epiphany Lutheran Church - Apache Junction
Esperanza Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Eternal Life Faith Guild - Mesa
Eternal Life Lutheran Church - Mesa
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – Chicago, IL
Faith Lutheran Church - Yuma
Faith Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Faith Lutheran Church - Safford
Faith Lutheran Church - Tucson
First Evangelical Lutheran Church - Mesa
First Presbyterian Church – Spokane, WA
Gethsemane Lutheran Church - Tempe
Gloria De Cristo Lutheran Church - Yuma
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church - Paradise Valley
Grace Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Tucson
Grand Canyon Synod – ELCA - Phoenix
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Chandler
Hope Circle/Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Hopi Foundation - Tucson
Hosanna Lutheran Church - Mesa
La Casa De Cristo Lutheran Church - Scottsdale
Living Christ Lutheran Church - Flagstaff
Lord of Grace Lutheran Church - Cortaro
Lord of Life Lutheran Church - Sun City West
Love of Christ Lutheran Church - Mesa
Lutheran Church of the King - Tucson
Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior - Green Valley
LWML, Fountain of Life Lutheran Church - Tucson
LWML, LC of the Risen Savior - Green Valley
LWML/Trinity Lutheran Church - Prescott Valley
Mary Circle/Shepard of the Valley Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Messiah Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Mount of Olives Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Mount Zion Lutheran Church - Tucson
Mountain View Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Mountain View Presbyterian Church - Scottsdale
Mt. Zion Lutheran Church - Peoria
Nativity Lutheran Church - Gilbert
New Covenant Lutheran Church - Scottsdale
Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Mesa
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church - Tucson
Peace Lutheran Church - Peoria
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Phoenix
Resurrection Lutheran Church - Oro Valley
Risen Savior Lutheran Church - Chandler
Santa Cruz Lutheran Church - Tucson
Saving Grace Lutheran Church - Gilbert
Scottsdale Congregational UCC - Scottsdale
Shadow Rock Congregational Church - Phoenix
Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church - Sun City
Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church - Sierra Vista
Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church - Lutheran Seniors Assembly - Surprise
St. Cyril Church and School - Tucson
St. John's Lutheran Church - Glendale
St. Luke's Lutheran Church - Mesa
St. Mark's Lutheran Church - Phoenix
St. Peter Lutheran Church - Mesa
Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church - Tucson
Sun City Christian Church Disciples of Christ - Sun City
Tanque Verde Lutheran Church - Tucson
Trinity Lutheran Church - Litchfield Park
University Lutheran Church - Tempe
Victory Lutheran Church - Mesa
Victory Lutheran Church Women - Mesa
WELCA, Evangelical LC of the King - Tucson
WELCA, Mount Olive Lutheran Church - Lake Havasu City
WELCA, Shepherd of the Valley LC - Phoenix
WELCA, Streams in the Desert - Tucson

Time, Talents & Support

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United Way of NYC
United Way of Tucson and
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Welcome to Amercia Project
West Valley Lutheran Thrift Shop
White Elephant Gift Shop

A special thanks to all who have donated their time, talents and support to our programs and ministries.

Join our President's Council!

Join the many individuals who have already joined our President's Council. Your contributions of \$500 or more on an annual basis qualify you as a member. Your membership is testimony that you believe in the ministries offered by LSMS and that you and your family wish to make a firm commitment to the clients we serve. You will be recognized and honored at an annual reception in either Tucson or Phoenix and share ministry moments with our valued clients. We are making a difference together.

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Platinum*****

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\$5,000 to \$9,999

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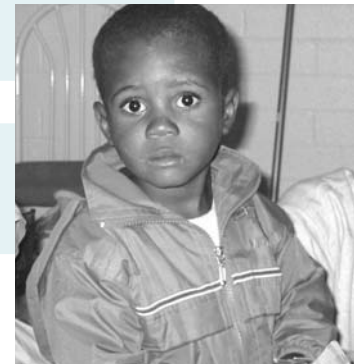
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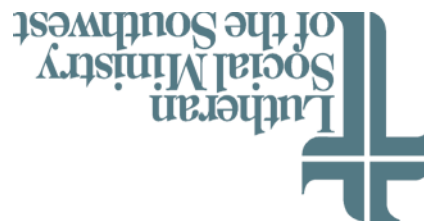
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