

the Lutheran Connection

Vol 1, Issue 3

Fall 2001

Inside ...

2-3...Time, Talents and Support

- Ways To Stretch Your Giving
- How To Help This Holiday Season

4Senior Services

- Prune Juice Follies
- Wisdom Elderhousing
- Partners With LSMS

5Community & Family Services

- Marriage Seminars
- Welcome Pastor Staats

6-7...Multi-Cultural Services

- Churches Meet To Discuss Ways To Help Refugees
- Refugee Resettlement Receives Grant

Planning Ahead for the Souper Bowl?

You don't have to be an avid football fan to make a big play during the Super Bowl festivities. If you and your church plan to participate in the 2002 Souper Bowl fight against hunger, consider making LSMS and its emergency assistance programs the recipients of your fund drive. Your efforts could touch hundreds of lives throughout Central and Southern Arizona. ■

A Message From Executive Director Lynn Baker



As we all struggled to understand the scope of the tragedy of September 11, we saw a tremendous outpouring of unprecedented acts of kindness and contributions that generated more than one billion dollars of support to the families affected by these acts of terrorism. We saw people from around the world step forward to help in ways we never imagined.

At the same time, we all heard President Bush's urging that all Americans "get back to the normal routine of our lives." We at Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest hope to assist in this effort by sending you our final newsletter for 2001, filled with the message that in spite of recent tragic events, our work goes on.

During these troubled times, Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest continues to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, counsel those less fortunate, and provide hope for those who are hurting. Today, more than ever before, we realize the impact on refugees in terms of their personal trauma and economic hardships. We may even now have a better understanding of what it must be like to live in constant fear. Current events bring back memories of previous world conflicts to our senior population who might not have imagined they'd live to see another war.

Our work in the community and in the churches must continue. We must be grateful for every day the Lord gives us to help someone; to make a difference in just one person's life; to welcome the stranger on the shore; and to form more partnerships to protect what we've created and allow us to grow in our service. Together, we can move through this tragedy and find new ways to provide "a touch of hope." ■

In the next issue of The Lutheran Connection, LSMS intends to acknowledge all 2001 LSMS Donors, including individuals, churches, organizations, corporations, and foundations. Please let us know by January 1st if you prefer to remain anonymous or if you would like any changes made to your name or title as shown on the mailing label of this newsletter. Thank you.

Time, Talents and Support

Giving Time & Sharing Talents



Faithful volunteers give of their time to pack boxes for neighbors in need at Lutheran Westside Food Pantry.

The Lutheran Westside Food Pantry, a mission program of Advent Lutheran Church, continues to help those in need, thanks to the dedication of its volunteers. Despite its singular reliance on donations, the Food Pantry opens its doors regularly Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. From Jan. 1 to Sept. 1 this year, 35 volunteers have given more than 1,314 hours to operate the pantry; 1,800 food boxes have been distributed, and 2,805 adults and 3,304 children in need have been served. ■

Thanks For Supporting Our Ministries!

LSMS Marriage and Family Life Ministry extends a big thank you to the **Lutheran Brotherhood Advisory Board** and the **Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation** for providing a \$12,000 grant to hold a Building Healthy Christ Centered Relationships in Youth Conference. The conference is currently in the planning stages and is anticipated to take place in Casa Grande in the Fall 2002. A portion of the monies received will also support the "Child In Our Hands" conference on January 25-26, 2002 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Phoenix, Arizona. This conference is designed to give participants the vision and tools to help lead their congregation in doing effective youth and family ministry. ■

LSMS Is Pleased To Announce New Ways To Stretch Your Giving

- **Lutheran Brotherhood's Simply Giving** electronic funds transfer program makes it easy for members who are also donors to give by automatically transferring money from a bank account to LSMS on a monthly or quarterly schedule. No more envelopes, stamps or reminders. Your gift flows automatically and directly into the LSMS Gift Account reducing administrative costs. As a member of Lutheran Brotherhood, your automated gift can be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100 per year.
- **Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) Giving Thanks Program** can authorize direct donations from your account to LSMS. Your donation can then be considered for the AAL Member Gift-Matching Program.

Applications for these programs are available through your District Representative, by calling Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest 520-748-2300, or faxing a request to 520-748-2355. ■



LSMS Marriage and Family Life Ministry staff and volunteers give the thumbs up to the Lutheran Brotherhood Advisory Board and the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation for providing a \$12,000 grant to hold a youth conference.

Time, Talents and Support






You Make A Difference!

Giving to Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest can create a win-win situation. As a donor, you receive tax benefits and the satisfaction of making a difference in the lives of others. For those who benefit from LSMS services, the impact of your gift can be life changing. While some of you may never see the results of your contributions, we hope the messages and information shared in this newsletter help you envision the world of good we do for hundreds of people every day thanks to the support and generosity of caring individuals like you.

This season, please consider making a donation to support LSMS programs knowing we are committed to good stewardship of all gifts. In an effort to demonstrate our commitment, we are hoping to keep administrative, mailing, and postage costs at a minimum by providing the following holiday giving opportunity instead of a separate holiday letter. ■

Ways You Can Help This Holiday Season

With the holidays rapidly approaching, here are a few ideas on ways you, your church or your organization might choose to "give thanks" or "celebrate" and help LSMS programs as well as those served by our ministries.

-  Make certain that a lonely, isolated senior receives weekly reassurance calls through **F.I.R.S.T. FRIENDS** with a \$20 donation.
-  Donate \$25 to **East Valley Community & Family Ministry, Tucson HelpCare** or **Lutheran Westside Food Pantry** to help buy a turkey, ham, or food for a needy family this holiday season. Donations of canned goods and packaged food are welcome at these sites throughout the year.
-  Help sponsor a senior's attendance at one of the **Lutheran Senior Services Adult Day Health Care** programs with a \$30 donation and give a caregiver a much-needed break.
-  Give a homebound senior two or more hours of housekeeping, companion or personal care services through **East Valley** or **Tucson In-Home Services** with your \$35 donation.
-  Help the **Refugee Resettlement Program** provide arriving refugee families with the basics of starting their new life in America with a \$50 donation.

These are just a few of the many ways you can help. For more information, call 520-748-2300. ■



End Of Year Holiday Giving



Yes, I would like to provide a gift to Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest this holiday season. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation.

Please contact me to discuss other ways I can provide assistance to LSMS.

Please send me an updated LSMS Agency Directory of Programs.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

LSMS accepts and appreciates gifts of cash, stock, mutual funds, life insurance, and real estate. For more information, call 520-748-2300.

Senior Services

Prune Juice Follies Are A Big Hit!

The Prune Juice Follies were a hit again this year at the 2nd Annual Autumn Social in Tucson on October 26th, which raised funds to support Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest's various senior service programs. This year's proceeds appear to have matched last year's \$5,000 total. Due to the success of last year's event, the Prune Juice Follies volunteered their services yet again to help raise funds and awareness about senior issues and services.

In addition to the Prune Juice Follies' generous entertainment donation, there has been tremendous community support to match funds raised by Joel Cmiel of Miracle Ear and Wal-Mart, donated raffle items from Trader Joe's, Salon De Nouveau and the Westward Look Resort, and donations of time, talent and space by Chuck Harding, Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church and the Santa Cruz Lutheran Church youth group. ■



Guest of Honor Grandma Tootsie (age 101) is serenaded by Zircon Zelda.



Santa Cruz Lutheran Church Reps and Youth Group volunteer at The Prune Juice Follies.

LSMS Partners With Wisdom Elderhousing

Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest would like to introduce our new partner in the continuing services offered by Tucson Lutheran Homes, Peace and Catalina Havens. Wisdom Elderhousing, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, is nationally recognized in the senior health care industry. Wisdom Elderhousing became an official partner in the endeavors of Tucson Lutheran Homes on September 1, 2001. The partnership was entered into to solidify and strengthen the programs. Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest is thrilled to have such a competent, committed, and above all caring partner. Together, our mission will be to: "Maximize independence and quality of life for seniors in need of supportive services by offering a residential environment that cares for the whole person mind, body and spirit." ■

Lutheran Senior Services Timeline... 17 Years of Compassionate Care

1984 DayBreak Adult Day Health Care Center opens in Tucson to provide respite for caregivers as well as nursing, nutritional services and activity programming for seniors effected by dementia and Parkinson's Disease.

Serving 34 Clients Monthly

1986 East Valley Adult Day Health Care Center opens in Mesa to provide respite for caregivers as well as nursing, nutritional, and therapeutic services to frail and/or neurologically impaired elders and young adults.

Serving 45 Clients Monthly

1999 DayBreak Home-Based Services is developed and opens in Tucson to provide housekeeping, respite, and personal care to seniors in their homes.

Serving 350 Clients Monthly

2000 DayBreak Adult Day Health Care Center opens in Apache Junction to provide day health care services to seniors in rural Pinal County.

Serving 20 Clients Monthly

2000 Lutheran Senior Services begins managing Tucson Lutheran Homes, two assisted living homes

with a capacity of 10 residents each. TLH has been serving the Tucson community for 14 years.

Serving 19 Clients Monthly

2001 DayBreak Home-Based Services opens in Mesa to provide housekeeping, respite, and personal care services to seniors in their homes. This program serves the widest geographical area, including Maricopa and Pinal Counties and cities from Casa Grande to Apache Junction to Mesa.

Serving 110 Clients Monthly

2001 Tucson Lutheran Homes partners with Wisdom Eldercare, Inc. to continue to provide safe, caring and supportive living services to seniors in Tucson.

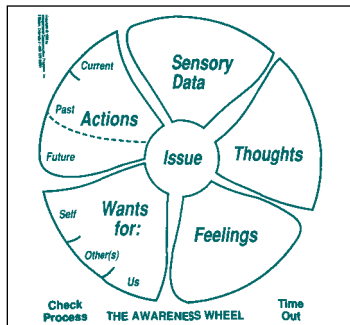
**WE PROJECT
PROVIDING MORE
THAN 200,000 HOURS
OF DIRECT SERVICES
IN 2001**

What? My Marriage is Not Going to Be Perfect All The Time?

LSMS Introduces Communication and Enrichment Seminars

We all know that relationships take a lot of hard work. They also take a lot of communication, a lot of understanding and a lot of love. Good news: A Couples Communication and Enrichment Seminar is coming to a location near you! Whether you are planning to be engaged, engaged, newlywed or have been married for years, this 15-hour seminar will help you:

- Strengthen communication skills
- Explore relationship strength and growth areas
- Learn new ways to work through problems
- Better understand your partner



The Awareness Wheel is a model for helping couples work through difficult issues.

The seminars are based on the nationally recognized "Growing Together" using the Prepare/Enrich Inventories, and the "Couple Communication" trainings, which have had tremendous life-changing results in the relationships of countless couples around the country. Couples who attend the training will experience a comprehensive package of



Theresa and John Christiansen had the chance to experience the Marriage and Communication Seminar they will be teaching at Train the Trainers Day.

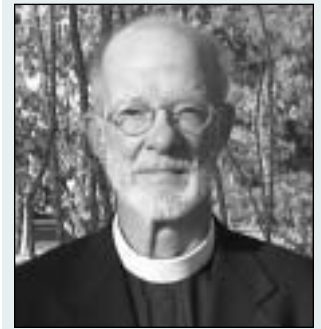
skills and information to enhance and strengthen their relationship.

The seminars are made possible through a \$231,000 grant recently awarded to LSMS by the Arizona Department of Economic Security. The contract will allow LSMS to hold Marriage and Communication Skills Seminars in Maricopa, Pinal and Yuma Counties. LSMS received more than 30 percent of the monies awarded statewide!

These seminars are a must for couples who want to make a great relationship even better. Please call Traci Gruenberger at 480-654-4539 (in Maricopa County) or toll free at 877-445-2300 (outside of Maricopa County) for dates and locations. ■

Congregations: Any congregation or groups of congregations that signs up 10 couples each can host a seminar. Please call Dick at 602-253-3077 if you are interested. Members of our congregations are encouraged to invite relatives, friends and neighbors.

Pastor Staats to Head Marriage Ministry



Pastor Richard C. Staats

LSMS is fortunate to welcome Pastor Richard C. Staats as our new Project Director for Marriage & Family Life Ministry. Dick has been the Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in central Phoenix for 15 years. He will now deliver marriage enrichment for LSMS and develop a ministry of marriage care for our congregations. Dick will be teaching some of LSMS's Couples Enrichment Seminars as well as marketing for couples to take the classes.

Dick and his wife, Linda, came to Phoenix from Nebraska, where Dick was an Area Director for Lutheran Family & Social Services from 1976 to 1986. In addition to his Master of Divinity degree, Dick has a Master's in Human Development and The Family from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena. ■

Multi-Cultural Services

Phoenix Area Churches Reconfirm their Commitment to "Welcome the Stranger"

Helping the thousands of refugees living in Maricopa County was the topic of a day-long meeting on October 12 that brought together 30 Phoenix area churches from seven denominations at the Church of the Beatitudes. The event, organized by the LSMS Refugee Resettlement Program, brought together local church members, national religious representatives and former refugees to learn and share ideas about refugee resettlement. "Our hope is that by coming together as a community during these difficult days we can help to inform, motivate, inspire and act," LSMS Refugee Resettlement Program Director Craig Thoresen said.

The event, called "Blessed are the Peacemakers: Local Involvement in Refugee Resettlement," was co-sponsored by the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and Church World Service (CWS). In addition to national representatives from LIRS and CWS, representatives from the national offices of the United Church of Christ and United Methodist Committee for Relief also contributed to the agenda.

Attendees participated in several educational activities, which included discussion groups, breakout workshops and an explanation of international refugee processing by the President of LIRS. All participants confirmed that the tragedies of September 11 would not shake their determination to welcome innocent refugees. The stories of three former refugees who escaped persecution in Sudan, Kosovo and Afghanistan to start a new life of freedom in America moved many in the audience to tears.



LSMS Church Sponsorship Developer Jill Campos, LIRS President Ralston H. Deffenbaugh Jr., and LSMS Multi-Cultural Services Director Craig Thoresen helped host the event.



Abraham Reech of Sudan, Vjolca Musliu of Kosovo and Asmeen Hamkar of Afghanistan tell their heroic tales of escaping persecution and building a new life in America.



LSMS Refugee Resettlement Advisory Board member Mary Loe (right) chats with representatives from Desert Cross Lutheran in Tempe during a discussion session.

During the day, participants shared ideas about how their congregation could help provide much-needed services to refugees, such as transportation or medical procedures beyond what is covered by insurance. The lunchtime ceremony highlighted the generous contribution of both time and resources by numerous Valley churches (see list on page 7). Refugees living in the Phoenix Area also contributed to the event through an art display that included original refugee artwork from Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo. ■

Please see page 7 for a list of churches honored at Refugee Resettlement meeting.

Multi-Cultural Services

Maricopa County Churches Recognized for their contribution to the LSMS Refugee Resettlement Program during 2001

Armenian Apostolic Church and Cultural Center

American Baptist Churches

First New Life Missionary Baptist Church
Madison Baptist Church
Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

First Christian Church of Mesa
First Christian Church of Scottsdale

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

All Saints Lutheran Church
Ascension Lutheran Church
Community Church of Joy
Faith Lutheran Evangelical Church
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Living Water Lutheran Church
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Resurrection Lutheran Church
Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

St. Peter Lutheran Church
Trinity Lutheran

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Lutheran Church of the Master
Trinity Lutheran Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Mountain View Presbyterian Church
Palo Cristi Presbyterian Church
Valley Presbyterian Church

United Church of Christ

Church of the Beatitudes
Desert Garden UCC
Shadow Rock Congregational Church
South Mountain Community Church
Congregational Church of the Valley

United Methodist Church

Lakeview United Methodist Church
Tanner Chapel AME
Wesley United Methodist Church

Refugee Resettlement Receives LCMS Grant

The Refugee Resettlement Program is an award recipient of a \$25,000 Domestic Grant through Lutheran Church Missouri Synod World Relief. The grant is intended to address mental health issues resulting from the religious, political, and social persecution refugees have faced in their home countries, often at the hands of the same terrorists and oppressors we now know. The Refugee Resettlement Program is grateful for this innovative demonstration project funding. ■

For more information about the LSMS Refugee Resettlement Program, please call 602-248-4400 or visit our website at www.lsmsaz.org.



Refugees from Southern Sudan enjoy gifts given by a local church sponsor.



LSMS Community Service Supervisor Leanne McElroy holds up a dress that the Taliban forces Afghani women to wear. The women must cover their heads, hands and feet.

Refugee Holiday Giving Project

Families, churches and businesses interested in participating in the Refugee Holiday Giving Project can call 602-248-4400. You will be assigned a refugee family living in Maricopa County in need of gifts this holiday season. ■

LSMS Continues to Provide *A Touch of Hope*

LSMS is the social service arm of the Lutheran Church providing services to families and individuals throughout Central and Southern Arizona. Programs include:

- Senior Services
- Telephone Crisis Intervention and Telephone Reassurance
- Refugee Resettlement
- Job Placement Assistance as Needed
- Emergency Assistance
- Marriage Ministry
- Counseling
- Family Life Ministry
- In-Home Support Services

For more information, contact:
Lutheran Social Ministry of the Southwest
5049 E. Broadway Blvd., Suite 102
Tucson AZ 85711
(520) 748-2300 fax (520) 748-2355
email: lsms@mindspring.com
website: www.azstarnet.com/nonprofit/lutheran-ministry



Tucson Lutheran Homes serves 20 residents, including Myrtle Maina, in its two assisted living communities



Children settled through the Refugee Resettlement Program get to experience American traditions.

Thank you

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON AZ
PERMIT NO 1503

5049 E. Broadway Blvd., Suite 102
Tucson, AZ 85711

