



Lutheran
Social Services
of the Southwest



Christmas In Action
2015



Please be the light to Arizonans who yearn for a neighbor.

Together, we are achieving great things.



Ethan

A gift of \$25 could provide a foster child like Ethan new pajamas, and a comfort item.

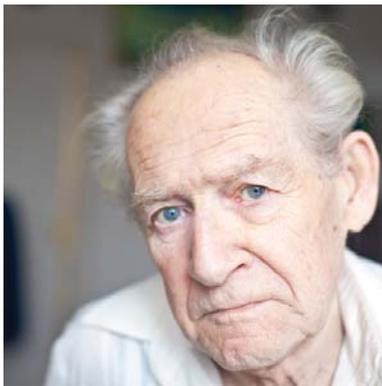
When newborn Ethan was abandoned at the hospital in 2013, he was labeled a failure to thrive. Born prematurely, addicted to heroin with an irregular heart, he was not expected to live. When LSS-SW Family HOMES foster parents Monica and Rogelio received a call about Ethan, they knew he was a gift from God. Two years later, Ethan is healthier and with a permanent home. Over 17,000 children will enter the Arizona Foster Care system this year. You can be their light, because you are all they have.



Lisa

A gift of \$200 could provide over a week of shelter and empowerment for homeless women like Lisa.

Lisa has faced struggles her whole life: Her mother was murdered when she was 4, which was followed by a spiral of abuse and cruelty by caretakers, and later by partners. Plagued by depression, she believed that God had forsaken her and sent her abusive husband to kill her. She spent years on the streets before coming to I-HELP. Through meeting with her caseworker, she was able to get a bus pass, which slowly led to a job, and eventually an apartment. Her next goal is to finish her paralegal certificate. "LSS-SW didn't save my life but it created a path through the darkness. At I-HELP, you don't just sleep in God's house, you also awaken."



Walter

A gift of \$75 could provide an extra afternoon of companionship to somebody like Walter.

Walter is 93 years old and lives in Tucson. He is a veteran of WWII, which left him paralyzed from the waist down. He has no family. As he's aged, daily activities have become harder. "At first," Walter says, "I was reluctant to let a caregiver into my home. I didn't see what difference it could make. But years later, I cannot imagine my life without Maria. I look forward to seeing her. She transmits energy and makes me feel full of life. I know I am not alone." The emotion needs often transcend the physical of these neighbors. Will you help? Because aging is a natural process that affects us all, but many walk the path alone.



Kelvin

A gift of \$500 could give 50 refugee families like Kelvin's employment and English training to establish independence.

Relying on the grace of strangers like you is the reason Kelvin is graduating from ASU this December. Born in war-torn Sierra Leone, Kelvin and his family spent 10 years waiting in a refugee camp in remote Ghana, not knowing what the future would hold. "I knew that I might spend my whole life there. But I prayed for something more." When Kelvin and his family finally did arrive in the U.S., he wanted to succeed. "I knew that I had to stay out of trouble, and look for the good. There is always good to follow." Kelvin's next goal is to attend law school, and eventually work for the United Nations. "America is part of me. LSS-SW and the people here have given me a chance to make a change in the world."



Connie Phillips, MSW
President & CEO

How to give

Online

www.lss-sw.org/donate

Mail

Return envelope with
payment to:
10201 S. 51st Street
Suite 180
Phoenix, AZ 85044

Phone

480-396-3795, ext. 104

Our Goal:

In order to ensure missional vibrancy, financial sustainability, and meet our goal of serving 75,000 Arizonans next year, we need to raise \$50,000 this Christmas season. Our generous lead donor of \$5,000 says:

"I feel privileged and blessed to be able to support the good works of LSS-SW. They help so many people in ways that we can only imagine. The underprivileged in our communities need our help today more than at any time in recent history. The programs and staff clearly need our support in today's environment. I hope and pray you will see your way to help sustain this important mission."

It is because of *You*
that these stories exist.



Dear Neighbor,

What do you really yearn for at Christmas?

We chase meaning in gift giving and extravagant parties—but does this really satisfy what your soul is longing for?

The Bible says "The Lord executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow;"—and uses us to make this reality.

This Christmas, let's try something new. For many of your Arizona neighbors, the holidays can be especially strained. The isolated senior who spends the holidays alone. The child that has been taken from his family. The refugee in a new land. The woman who is praying just to survive the day.

As a LSS-SW donor, you have already done so much that matters. These stories exist because of you. **But the needs abound.**

I invite you to celebrate Christmas with meaning. Join us to create a just Arizona where all people can fulfill their basic needs. Respond as generously as you are able, because there is much work yet to do.

With gratitude for your commitment,

Connie Phillips, MSW
President & CEO

Plan to Hear From Us On Giving Tuesday

After Black Friday and Cyber Monday comes GivingTuesday. On December 1, join us for this global day that launches a holiday season of giving. We'll also be calling our donors to say Happy Holidays and invite you to join us. Participating is easy: go to lss-sw.org/donate and make your gift. Follow the hashtag #GivingTuesday to join the global movement.





Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
10201 S. 51st Street, Suite 180
Phoenix, AZ 85044
www.lss-sw.org

Serving Coconino, Cochise, Gila, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yavapai Counties, including the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas, Arizona City, Casa Grande, Douglas, Gilbert, Glendale, Mesa, Nogales, Payson, Prescott Valley, Queen Creek, and Sierra Vista.

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest serves over 75,000 Arizonans each year.
Our mission is showing kindness, doing justice, and serving those in need.
Contact us: donations@lss-sw.org or 480-396-3795 ext. 104



\$25 Could provide a foster child new pajamas and a comfort item*



\$75 Could provide an extra afternoon of companionship for a senior*



\$200 Could provide one week of shelter for a homeless woman*



\$500 Could provide a job-training and English classes to 50 refugees*

A Christmas Gift With Meaning

For a gift starting at just \$25, we will send a unique LSS-SW Christmas card to anybody (or everybody!) on your Christmas list.

We will do all the work, you simply need to provide the mailing address(es) for the gift recipient(s) in the envelope.

For more on Christmas gifts:
www.lss-sw.org/christmas
480-396-3795 ext 104

**These are examples of the types of services that your gift could provide.*