



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Agency beautification project

Use your green thumb to spruce up LSSI's digs.

Children's Village

Participate in intergenerational-programming activities.

Financial-literacy mentor

Teach individuals and families better ways to manage their resources.

Photographer

Pro or avid shutterbug—we need someone to take pictures for us!

TO A HIGHER LEVEL

Intergenerational programming continues to grow, foster friendships.

Since its inception, Children's Village, LSSI's early-learning center on Lutheran Life Villages' Fort Wayne campus, has focused on intergenerational programming that joins children and residents of the retirement-living community.

The goal of intergenerational programming is to bring together students and residents for fun-yet-meaningful activities that benefit both groups. There's plenty of reading, games, crafts — and just sitting and chatting.

This year intergenerational programming was taken to a new level as the children and residents had the opportunity to spend time together nearly every day of the week. They get

together for exercise classes. Additionally, children deliver mail to residents or enjoy lunch with residents who have memory loss. The weekly Children's Chapel brings them together for worship. The increased interaction has been a huge success.

"I feel that our intergenerational programs have long-lasting effects on our residents that you can't measure," says Tricia Neary, wellness director for Lutheran Life Villages.

"To many outside observers it sometimes appears that a resident may not be actively participating in the programs, but the simple joy of just watching the children puts

a lasting impression on them for days to come," Tricia says. "After a program, I always hear comments in the hallways: 'Did you see that boy?' or 'Did you hear what that little girl said to me?' They cherish and remember every little thing the children do and say."

The intergenerational-programming partnership between Lutheran Life Villages and Children's Village continues to grow through special events and outings. This year's Field Day featured a parachute game, a putting game, temporary tattoos, a balloon release, and a beanbag toss. These activities allowed the residents and children an opportunity to enjoy a day of

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Thoughts from our CEO

In celebration of our 110th year we have much to be grateful for as we serve families through the love of Jesus. Our focus this year is to empower families toward social, emotional, and spiritual wholeness.

In the course of our daily work with families, additional needs come to light, and we want to ensure that families are connected to other LSSI services. We work to balance meeting client needs and strive to stay consistent and

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accountable to the community. We do this in several ways. One is through the implementation of strategic goals. We strive to make all programs in our agency work proactively to meet program and funding goals.

Each program has productivity standards to ensure that individuals and families in need are served and that we continue to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. In 2010, 91 percent of the agency's goals were achieved. When goals are strategically set and achieved, we're more effective in our services and more efficient with our resources.

In 2010, our programs and staff members served 6,233 people, and more than 8,000 individuals were impacted through our services. In 2009, we served

5,951 people. We focus on our core competencies; our services are strength-based and family-centered. Our focus when we serve the community is long-term empowerment, not temporary fixes. Typically, our clients have multiple needs, and we make it a point to serve clients through multiple services. Clients are seeking jobs, in need of stable incomes, have suffered a loss of family stability, and are usually making decisions in crisis. In 2009, we were able to serve 158 people in more than one program; in 2010 this jumped to 347. This approach to services ensures that families are moving forward, and that we're equipping them with the tools they need to sustain that advancement.

One of the ways we provide tools to help individuals and families move forward is through

free financial-literacy classes. In February 2010, we started offering these classes, not only to our clients, but also to local churches and partnering social-service agencies. LSSI led 1,500 lessons in the community and served 384 individuals last year. This year we've added a volunteer mentoring component to this program so clients can receive ongoing guidance. We offer this program free to the community, and we've embedded this into all of our services.

Now, when clients come in to receive financial assistance, they also receive a budgeting lesson. All of our case managers are trained in the curriculum, and we offer the lessons in tandem with our case-management services. We've engaged volunteers from the community and paired them with individuals interested in

receiving eight weeks of free money-management classes.

As LSSI moves forward in response to God's call for our mission to the community, we remind ourselves of His calling: to serve the least of these in a way that honors Him. Our services are intentional and are successful because of the relationships we build with our clients and community partners. We look forward to meeting the ongoing needs of our community, and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ to those we serve. ●

Only four months until Christmas! Every August, LSSI starts gearing up for its annual Christmas Program. If you're interested in adopting a family or volunteering, contact Annie Miller at amiller@lssin.org.

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bonding through play. Although it rained a bit during the second annual intergenerational Zoo Day on June 15, nearly 200 children, residents, volunteers, and staff members from Children's Village and Lutheran Life Villages had the lion's share of the fun.

There was a picnic lunch with hamburgers and hot dogs, and the volunteers, several of them from Trinity English Lutheran, helped watch over the children and push residents' wheelchairs.

"Although it rained during Zoo Day this year, I still heard several residents say what a fun time it was," Tricia says. "Those comments bring a smile to my face and make all the efforts of planning the event worthwhile."

Tim Imler, an LSSI board member and Zoo Day volunteer, adds, "Anytime you can see senior citizens' faces light up because of the kids from Children's Village, and then add the zoo as a backdrop, it's pretty special." ●



DID YOU KNOW?

LSSI has been providing adoption services to the community since 1901.

LSSI provides a 24/7 crisis pregnancy hotline for parents facing unintended pregnancy.

LSSI has a 90-percent success rate in helping pregnant and parenting teens graduate from high school.

LSSI provided more than \$244,000 in direct assistance through Cup of Kindness in 2010.



FEEDING THE FLOCK

White, garlic bites, apple raisin, pumpkin — all practical choices for bread consumption. Through Justice Bread, the community has the opportunity to give back and enjoy some yummy carbohydrate options.

LSSI has been blessed by an 11-year partnership with the Indiana Baking Company. That collaboration makes possible Justice Bread, a program that

helps support the Cup of Kindness program. The Indiana Baking Company bakes the bread at no cost, and half of the proceeds from sales directly benefit Cup of Kindness. LSSI receives \$1.50 of the \$3 charged for each loaf.

There are currently 37 churches in Allen County and the surrounding area that participate in Justice Bread. Every month faithful Justice Bread coordinators

diligently collect orders and payments and deliver bread to their churches. Without their amazing service, Justice Bread wouldn't be sustainable. Last year, Cup of Kindness served more than 1,500 individuals and distributed \$244,000 in financial assistance to the community. Based on these numbers, it's easy to see why Justice Bread is so important.

This partnership joining the Indiana Baking Company, churches, and the Justice Bread coordinators is truly a ministry in its own right. In 2010, 5,556 loaves were sold, bringing in \$8,334 that went directly to serve Cup of Kindness clients. To date this year, the sale of 2,833 loaves has generated \$4,250.

During these difficult economic times, Justice Bread is a very practical way to provide for those in need. If your church is not currently a Justice Bread partner, please prayerfully consider becoming a Justice Bread coordinator for your church so that you can help us serve those most in need.

Each month, Cup of Kindness distributes approximately:

- \$11,000 in rent and shelter assistance
- \$1,000 in food vouchers and bus passes
- \$5,000 in utility assistance

To date in 2011, LSSI has distributed more than \$115,000 in assistance to the community through Cup of Kindness.

As a part of LSSI's ongoing services to clients, a budgeting lesson is taught during each Cup of Kindness visit, and 315 individuals received this lesson when they came in for services. This is one way the agency helps to equip its clients with the tools they need to succeed. If clients can be empowered by showing them ways to improve their situation, they're given hope that they won't always be in the same cycle of need. ●

WE GET LETTERS

Nothing brightens our day more than the letters we receive from the individuals and families we serve. Your continuing support enables us to provide those services.

Letter from a family

I wanted to take the time to say thank you so much for allowing us the opportunity to receive services through community partners. I hope I have the name correct. Both Lisa and Cindy are a tremendous strength and support for our family. I have never felt judged by them. In fact, it's been quite the opposite. They have been there to tell us that our thoughts, feelings, and actions were normal. They have opened the door to new perceptions and ideas.

At times I am feeling alone or insecure. They have never minimized my calls, but instead left me feeling confident and validated. Those things have been important to me. I am crying as I type this email to you as I am rushed with emotion thinking of their selflessness and

kindness they continue to shine on my children and me. We have several agencies involved with our family, but yours has soared far beyond the others that are in place.

We have one agency that has been involved for four years now, and yours has accomplished more in the short months with our family than the intense services of the counseling center. In fact, we have a crisis plan in place for my son with the other agency that states I am to call a home-based worker from their services if crises arrives. I have placed those calls to them and a few other agencies only to have the only response coming from Lisa or Cindy.

There was even one night that Cindy sat with my family

until past 3 a.m. Lisa took my daughter and me so that my daughter may have her first visit with her father. Cindy has calmed my son during violent outbursts when no one else could! They both are there for me at any given moment. I truly feel that way, and it allows me to feel empowered in the knowledge that I truly have a reliable support.

I hope that makes sense. We are currently working on parenting and family rules/structure. It's been a long road for us. I want to say thank you for making it a brighter-looking tomorrow as well as giving us hope. Thank you for all your hard work and effort.



Help you need. Hope you can trust.

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