



Jaimie in her United Way 2-1-1 office.

## Making the Most of Community Resources

*United Way partner gives time, energy, and expertise to LSSI Works*

Lutheran Social Services of Indiana is blessed with many community partners. In fact, we could never do all that we accomplish without the added help, support, and collaboration from several different organizations in our community. Of these, United Way has long been a key partner in our work.

We recently had the opportunity to sit down with Jaimie Ferren, who not only makes referrals to LSSI through United Way's 2-1-1 hotline, but who also volunteers at our new LSSI Works program. Here, she shares her thoughts on the value of our partnership and the reasons she goes above and beyond to make a difference for our clients.

### Tell us about your role at United Way.

**JF:** 2-1-1 is a 24-hour hotline that connects people with local providers in health and human services. As the director of 2-1-1 Services, I am responsible for the day-to-day operations of our program. I hire, supervise, train, and coach the 2-1-1 Team. In addition, I help our specialists with any hard problems they encounter. I am also responsible for building relationships in the community, such as the one we have with LSSI Works.

### What did you think when you first heard about LSSI Works?

**JF:** I was pretty excited. Here at 2-1-1, it's great to be able to help people,

but sometimes the help we offer is just a temporary fix. Of course, it's important to meet those immediate needs, such as making sure there's food in the pantry. But I'm also glad to be able to refer people to LSSI Works, because it offers more opportunity for transformation, which is a long-term solution to people's needs.

### You have said that you can relate to students at LSSI Works on a personal level. Tell us about that.

**JF:** Years ago, I was working in real estate when the market crashed. I was not expecting to look for a job in a really tough job market. As a single mom, I had so many questions, but I didn't know where to turn for answers. Volunteering at LSSI Works gives me a chance to share the information I've learned, both as a social service professional and as a person who has experienced the pain of job loss. Today, I can look back at that time as a blessing, because it gives me a chance to invest in others in a unique way.

### What is your role at LSSI Works?

**JF:** I teach the Employer Viewpoint class. It's a one-time class during each six-week session. As a hiring manager, I have seen thousands of mediocre resumes and incomplete applications and cover letters. I always pass those by. Teaching the LSSI Works class gives me the chance to share that insider knowledge on how to put your best foot

*continued on page 3*

### Let's keep in touch

Interested in being kept in the loop? Sign up for our mailing list and you'll have access to regular updates on happenings at LSSI.  
Sign up at [www.lssin.org](http://www.lssin.org).

Please indicate if you prefer to receive updates via email or in your mailbox.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Celebrating local vendors, local band, and LSSI's local impact!

Mark your calendars now for our fall downtown celebration, **Thursday, October 5, 2017!** At LSSI's annual event, we make it a point to celebrate local vendors, local musicians, and the local impact LSSI is having on the community. This LSSI fundraiser features a silent auction, music from the Farmland Jazz Band and an opportunity to mingle and celebrate with fellow LSSI supporters. If you would like an invitation or additional information on sponsoring the event, please contact Gillian Frazier at [gfrazier@lssin.org](mailto:gfrazier@lssin.org) or 260-426-3347, ext. 353. ■



### Come check out our monthly Breakfast and Motivations Circle experience!

LSSI Works is making a significant difference in the community, and you can get a glimpse of that impact! Each month, we open our motivations experience to those in the community who would like to learn more about LSSI Works. This unique program combines personal and professional development, helping students work on personal patterns that are getting in the way of sustainable, career-path employment. Our Breakfast and Motivations Circle experiences for this summer are: Tuesday, June 27; Thursday, July 20; and Thursday, August 24. Come discover this one-of-a-kind program. At the breakfast, you'll get to tour our facility and experience all the excitement for yourself.

If you're interested in attending or have additional questions, please contact Kristi Stanley at [kstanley@lssin.org](mailto:kstanley@lssin.org) or 260-426-3347, ext. 324. ■

## Leading with Love

*A letter from Angela Moellering, President and CEO*



***"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." — John 13:34-35***

As I was reading the Gospel of John recently, the thought struck me that this passage records Jesus' final teaching before his death and resurrection. I found it interesting that Jesus' last words to his disciples had nothing to do with pointing out others' sins. Nor did he tell them to condemn people who had made bad choices. Instead, Jesus told his disciples to love each other.

Those are pretty powerful words. It's easy to point out all the ways other people have sinned. It's much harder to walk beside them through their pain, offering love and encouragement. Yet this is exactly what Jesus commands us to do.

As a registered service organization through the Lutheran Church, Jesus' command to love others means that here at Lutheran Social Services of Indiana, we offer mercy rather than judgment, encouragement instead of condemnation. Michele Kausch, our spiritual care coordinator, describes our work in such a beautiful way as she quoted her professor, Kristin Wassilak:

*"The task in which we are engaged is serious—it involves souls, not just bodies. We have a Godly desire to beat down the Devil in others' lives, but alas, that is not our vocation. God's Word does that, and we broken leaky vessels hold God's Word before and alongside the hurting soul, praying God's Word changes hearts, encourages weary minds, and carries the sufferer through the Red Sea."*

Many of the people who come to us are already painfully aware of their mistakes. Instead of pointing fingers, we teach them a new way to look at life. We talk with them about ways they can change their behavior and how they can make new and better choices. We sit by their side, encouraging them to reach their goals. In short, we lead with love.

In the process, we have discovered the power of transforming grace. We've seen this transformation in ECHO, when teen moms gain a vision for life after high school and work hard to achieve their goals. We've seen lives transformed at Children's Village, where we prepare young children for success in kindergarten—and life! And we've seen new and exciting transformations at LSSI Works, when people break the barriers that have kept them from pursuing a fulfilling career.

Make no mistake. This kind of transformation takes time. Sometimes, we walk alongside people for months, even years, before we see a transformative breakthrough. For us, taking the time for true transformation is essential. Our goal is to dig deep so that our clients will experience true and lasting change.

To those of you who have been willing to support us through that process, thank you. Your contributions make it possible for us to walk alongside our clients as they achieve that breakthrough. If you haven't yet made a donation to LSSI this year, now would be a pivotal time to partner with us in this ministry, as we lead with love. ■



**You can donate online with a credit card at [www.lssin.org](http://www.lssin.org).  
Just hit the donate button at the top of the page!**

# Annual Celebration Is a Huge Success!

We want to say a **BIG** thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Celebration!

Lutheran Social Services of Indiana wouldn't be able to serve all of the clients we do without your generous help and support. Thank you for investing in the lives of others. Your support makes a significant difference in our community!

Mark your calendars now for next year's Annual Celebration, slated for March 8, 2018.

We'd love for you to join us! To ensure you're on the invitation list, please contact Rachel at [rhardesty@lssin.org](mailto:rhardesty@lssin.org). ■



1. A special thank you to our table hosts Bill and Nancy Berning (Doc Dancer) and their guests— Pastor Tom and Janet Ahlertmeyer, Dan and Beth Nieter, and Carl and Bev Moellering. 2. Steve and Bonnie Sipe 3. LSSI board member Doug Schwartz with his daughter, Krista and wife, Ann. 4. Peggy Kreigh, Judi Mabee, Nancy Becker, and Sandie Beerbower

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forward. It has also given me the opportunity to add my personal insights and let students know that I've been in their shoes.

## Describe the impact LSSI Works is making on clients.

**JF:** This program is unique because it really dives down and gets to those uncomfortable places that are barriers to career-track employment. LSSI Works takes job training to the next level, talking about the baggage we need to set down in order to move on to be our best selves.

## What kind of impact is LSSI Works making in the community?

**JF:** When we talk to people at 2-1-1, they often need help beyond just a food pantry referral or help with the electric bill. Thanks to LSSI Works, we are finally making real progress with people. I think it's also

important to note that a lot of the people who call 2-1-1 are asking for help for the very first time. That's a hard call to make. The staff at LSSI recognizes how humbling that can be, and they do a great job of treating people with dignity. They really make people feel just like any other neighbor or friend.

## Why did you decide to volunteer your time at LSSI Works, above and beyond your already-full plate in social services?

**JF:** I'm excited to be part of something that is making a lasting impact. I teach my class over an extended lunch. It's that important to me. It fills my cup. A lot of our work at 2-1-1 is done on the phone. To see faces rejuvenates me. Plus, working at the director level gives me less client contact, so I love the interactions with the students at LSSI Works. I look forward to those classes and leave there reminded why I do what I do. ■

# Finding the Courage to Pursue a Dream

Meet Clarissa.

She radiates confidence and joy—and for good reason. She's working full-time in a career she loves at



Lutheran Life Villages, and she is ready to move forward with her dreams. In fact, she recently achieved a significant milestone on that journey, completing all the coursework necessary to take her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) exam—an exam she passed with flying colors! The future is certainly promising for this inspiring young woman, thanks to a little help from staff at LSSI Works.

"When I first met Clarissa," says Allison Rorick, individual development specialist at LSSI Works, "she was very shy and unsure of herself." High school was, at times, a little difficult for Clarissa, and she was told by school officials that college might not be an option for her. Although she received full support from her family, Clarissa lacked confidence in herself.

All that changed soon after Clarissa enrolled in the October 2016 class at LSSI Works. The program helped Clarissa grow tremendously, particularly after the initial four-week Foundations class. "At this point," says Allison, "Clarissa's personality really started to shine. She found her voice and the confidence to express her ultimate goal—becoming a registered nurse."

Not one to rest on her previous achievement, Clarissa is beginning a yearlong process to become a licensed practical nurse (LPN), the next step toward her dream. She is also making progress with a savings plan, which will enable her to purchase a car and move into her own apartment. "LSSI Works gave me back my confidence," says Clarissa. "They are like a second family to me." Allison agrees. "We are so proud of Clarissa. It is an absolute joy to walk beside her in this journey!" ■

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of *Perspective*, please contact Rachel Hardesty at [rhardesty@lssin.org](mailto:rhardesty@lssin.org) or (260) 426-3347.

# Mission

Lutheran Social Services of Indiana expresses the love of Jesus Christ for all people through services that empower individuals and families to move toward social, emotional, and spiritual wholeness.



Help you need.  
Hope you can trust.

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Are you struggling to pay your bills?  
Would you like a career, not just a job? Do you let obstacles keep you from living the life you desire?  
If you answered YES to any of these, LSSI Works is for you! LSSI (Lasting Stability and Success for Individuals) Works is an employment initiative by Lutheran Social Services of Indiana committed to providing students just like you with the personal and professional skills you need to find a career, not just a job. We've made a real difference for others, and we can help you, too! Please make plans now to join our next session, which begins July 10. Contact Kristi at (260) 426-3347 to learn more.

**LSSI WORKS  
MAKES LASTING  
CHANGE POSSIBLE**