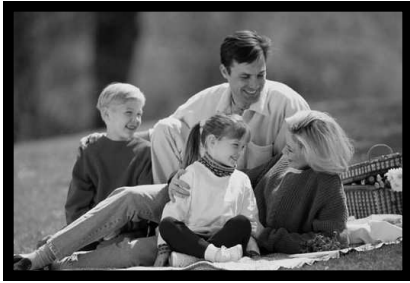


LSS Helps Provide a Home and Love for Children



Children in foster care have been through the worst in life. Todd and Chris Purvis have seen it all as Lutheran Social Service foster parents.

Young kids arrive with physical scars, burn marks, feelings of abandonment, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and emotional scars that are hidden from view.

“How is any of that fair to a child?” asks Todd, who is the school police officer in Blue Earth, Minn.

With a special love for children, the Purvises signed up to be foster parents 11 years ago after a social worker had invited them to consider the idea. Not even cancer for both Todd and Chris could keep them from a job that they consider a calling.

The goal in LSS’ Treatment Foster Care is to work with the foster family, the child in placement and the family of origin to resolve issues and return the child to his or her home and/or community. In special circumstances, some children are not able to return home and may be adopted by a family.

Being a foster parent is not easy, and it’s definitely not for everyone. Kids generally need therapy and ongoing special education services.

The Purvises soak in the support they receive Lutheran Social Service. Counselors offer round-the-clock support, education, training, and monthly support meetings with other foster parents. “We’re not afraid to seek extra support,” Chris said. “I do the best job I can, but I’m not a therapist.”

While Chris said that she wouldn’t take in older teens, she and Todd provided respite care to one 14-year-old boy and he’s been with them for three years.

“The other day, he had made a cake for us from scratch that read, ‘Thank you for loving me’ on it. Being a foster parent is the hardest job I’ve ever done, but it’s definitely the most rewarding. I love trying to make a difference in a child’s life.”

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“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is the tree of life.” - Proverbs 13:12

At Lutheran Social Service, we see many people looking for hope. That search leads in many directions, youth seeking shelter, seniors looking for a nutritious meal, refugees looking for a fresh start in a new country, couples looking for a child to adopt, and counseling for a financial crisis. Each of these people feels a burden that makes their heart ache.

Our mission is to ease that burden by providing hope and avenues to fulfill their specific need. It is our joy to work with each individual who comes to one of our services looking for help and hope. In fact, LSS has come to regard our entire mission as itself a movement – a Movement of Hope.

It is our goal that each individual feels Christ’s love in the midst of the situation we are helping them with. With their needs met, those we serve take a step closer to being a “tree of life,” someone more fulfilled, in a position to employ their own assets as part of their community.

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide hope for more than 100,000 people every year and help them fulfill their longings. We offer a wide variety of social services throughout the state of Minnesota. Our services include:

- Adoption
- Assisted Living
- Disaster Relief
- Financial Counseling
- Housing
- Mental Health Counseling
- Refugee Services
- Senior Services
- Services for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Youth Services

For more information about LSS and any specific service, please visit our website at: www.lssmn.org.



Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota serves all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, handicap or age.

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