

## Seniors Making a Difference In Children's Lives

Lorraine "Grandma Lori" Swedzinski says she is "in a different world" when she helps the children enrolled in the Head Start Program through the Family Literacy Program in Ghent. The program's goal is to prepare the children — some of whom are Somali, Hispanic, Nepali, and Oromo (from Ethiopia) — for kindergarten. In addition to basic academic skills, staff and Foster Grandparents help the students develop their English skills. At its core, the program believes a child's parents are his or her most important teachers; therefore, the program's teachers and Foster Grandparents reinforce concepts in the classroom that can be carried into a child's home environment.

*"The children are so sweet and loving. Some of them can't speak English, but they know Grandma"*

*- Grandma Lori*

Grandma Lori joined the Foster Grandparent Program three years ago because she admired other Foster Grandparents who were involved in the program. Today, she spends three mornings a week interacting with three- to five-year-old children, doing everything from reading and counting to making crafts and playing games — all with the goal of educating in mind. "The children are so sweet and loving," Grandma Lori says. "Some of them can't speak English, but they know Grandma!"



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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](http://www.lssmn.org).



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