



**Lutheran
Social Service**
of Minnesota

**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT
2023**





**PATRICK
THUESON**

President

A Travelogue of Gratitude and Inspiration

In recent years I have referred to Lutheran Social Service of MN (LSS) as being more than an organization. Rather, LSS is a movement of 25,000 – 2,500 employees, 10,000 volunteers, and 12,500 supporters – all of whom are critically important to the support of individuals and families seeking to change their own lives and achieve their own dreams.

As I reflect on this, the 158th year of the LSS movement, I am pleased to share that 2023 has been a year of blessings, strength, and growth.

And for me, more miles!

After reduced travel due to heightened safety procedures during the peak of the pandemic, I was able to visit more service sites and host more 'listening sessions' in 2023 than in any recent year. What a joy it is to listen to employees, volunteers, and the individuals and families we serve in communities across Minnesota and North Dakota.

The work of LSS is a mosaic of amazing acts of caring and courage in communities everywhere. I'd like to share a little of what I've been blessed to experience in my 2023 travels.

In Northwest Minnesota and North Dakota, I met with LSS team members who provide mental health counseling to individuals, families, children and veterans, as well as to juveniles changing their lives as they await their exit from the criminal justice system. I also visited with LSS teams supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities. It was fun to chat with the individuals supported as they seek to live their their best lives by living and working in communities of their choosing.

In Central and Northern Minnesota, I attended the grand opening of the Fischer Cabin at Camp Knutson – a welcoming, inclusive camp for individuals with identified needs. Later I was honored to meet with team members providing services at the LSS youth resource center in St. Cloud, Pathways 4 Youth. The center provides services to unhoused youth seeking safe homes, employment resources, behavioral health, and financial counseling.

In Northeast Minnesota, I was able to see first-hand the amazing resilience and courage of those served by LSS Bethany, which provides emergency shelter care and family resources. LSS Bethany dovetails beautifully with other LSS services – such as our services for youth at the LSS Center for Changing Lives in Duluth.

In Southeast Minnesota, I met with our LSS Meals team. The team is helping address hunger and food insecurity among both older adults and children by distributing nutritious meals from the new LSS production kitchen in Red Wing.

In Southwest Minnesota, the older adult services team and LSS volunteers were providing nutritious meals at congregate sites. Additionally, busy volunteers were serving in Caregiver Respite and Companion services, all of which enable older adults to remain socially connected and thriving.

In the metro area, I attended the groundbreaking for a new LSS Families Together therapeutic preschool on St. Paul's Eastside. Located at Grace Lutheran Church, the preschool's construction is made possible by the leadership and generosity of the St. Paul Area Synod of the ELCA. We are excited by what the LSS Families Together services will mean for the children and families of the Eastside, and we are grateful for our partnership with Grace Lutheran.

At the LSS Center for Changing Lives in Minneapolis, I visited with those receiving services such as Housing, Employment, Financial Counseling, Foster Care, Adoption, Supported Decision-Making, and Care Coordination. Our resettlement services were particularly busy this year helping refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine find employment, housing, and connection in community.

And in every area of the state, LSS teams were providing statewide services for children and individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

I am grateful to everyone engaged in the LSS movement. And I am thankful for each person who plays their own part in creating the LSS mosaic. A mosaic of sometimes small – and sometimes large – acts of kindness and love of neighbor.

Thanks to so many, 2023 was a year of continued growth and strength. And the road ahead is bright and filled with even greater things to come!

In gratitude,



Patrick Thueson





Photo credit: CC BY-SA 2.0 DEED

Roseville
Population 36,254

.....
RAMSEY COUNTY
Population 536,413

CHILDREN'S HOME ADOPTION
Gretchen & Jill

"Being their parents has expanded our capacity to love and our sense of what it means to be a family."



We provide **SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES** that strengthen their resiliency



16,256 Individuals & Families Served

774 households received **supportive housing services**

68 families received support through **family resource centers**

136 children received emergency care and resources

114 youth received **1,816** days of emergency shelter care



3,694 received **mental health support and services**

7,366 in-person therapy visits

7,436 virtual therapy visits

83 employer groups (EAP)

12 school partnerships



★ **850** veterans served ★

575 youth from **18** communities served at **19 Camp Noah** day camps in **5** states

Disaster services were provided in **2** MN counties

LSS CRISIS NURSERY
Giselle

"They helped me immediately by finding daycare space. That meant I could still go to work."



St. Peter
Population 12,156

.....
NICOLLET COUNTY
Population 34,454

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN

Through **adoption, foster care and therapeutic foster care** services



- 129** relative/kinship families served in domestic and international programs
- 158** children placed in foster care & adoption programs
- 1,261** individuals received post-adoption services. The median age was **47**.
- 187** children/youth were supported by **135** therapeutic foster care providers
3 out of 4 youth placed in therapeutic foster care homes returned to their home, were adopted, or transitioned to their "forever home" (with relatives or adoptive families).
- 35** children/youth adopted from therapeutic foster care

Through **crisis nurseries** in **5** counties

- 771** children supported
- 1,318** days of care provided
- 26,144** resource items given out (i.e. clothing, diapers, etc.)

Primary reason(s) for placement:

- 38%** Employment
- 24%** Emotional exhaustion
- 16%** Mental Health
- 9%** Health
- 6%** Education
- 4%** Legal
- 3%** Housing



881 families received support through **Deaf & Hard of Hearing** services

- 23** Deaf mentors
- 383** Deaf mentor sessions
- 25** educational workshops



Photo credit: CC BY-SA 3.0 DEED

Detroit Lakes Population 9,869

.....

BECKER COUNTY
Population 35,183

HOUSING SERVICES

Kayla

"It was just a huge relief... From the very first phone call, I knew these were people who truly care."



We support long-term financial stability for people in all stages of life through
EMPLOYMENT, FINANCIAL & LEGAL SERVICES

18,891

Individuals & Families Served



Among **financial counseling** clients

\$8,655,307 repaid to creditors

5,290 attended financial counseling workshops

700 individuals received student loan counseling

78% reported increased confidence in financial management skills

1,502 debt management plans created



Individuals & Families Served

4,343

We help caregivers and older adults maintain healthy, balanced lifestyles through

CAREGIVER & COMPANION SERVICES

Oldest
96
foster grandparent volunteer

Through **caregiver and companion** services

521 individuals received **caregiver support & respite** services

84 caregivers enrolled in support groups

95.5 hours of **emergency care planning** were provided to **29** caregivers

191 **foster grandparent** volunteers supported **1,743** children and youth at **173** partner site schools



1,241 older adults supported by **293** **senior companion** volunteers in MN and ND

78 MN counties



32 ND counties



353 individuals received **971** **coaching and support visits** to make a **healthy transition** home following a hospitalization

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN

Managed **\$38M** in **pooled trusts** for **977** individuals

3,446 financial disbursements

74% of clients reported improved social connectedness



14 individuals under **guardianship** had their rights restored

47,359 hours of support

\$34M managed for **398** clients



1,577 individuals served with **supported decision-making and guardianship options**

★ **17** veterans served ★

Provided **employment services** to

24 people advancing in a health care career



30 adults with a criminal record

486 people with disabilities

1,231 families

35 individuals took training courses to increase opportunities for employment

individuals
602
gained employment



Brainerd
Population 14,580

.....
CROW WING COUNTY
Population 66,123

LSS EMPLOYMENT FIRST
Jack

"They helped me with a lot of job stuff I wouldn't be able to do on my own. I'm a really hard worker, and I always try to do my best. I love going to work every day, and I think people like having me there, too."



Through **DISABILITY SERVICES**
we empower people with identified needs to
shape the lives they imagine for themselves

10,671

Individuals & Families Served



3,904 individuals received
care coordination support

3,561 new members in 2023

4 health system partnerships



1 home opened to support individuals with
assistive technology

67 individuals supported in **37**
intensive-needs homes

385 individuals supported in **99 community**
residential services homes statewide

165 received in-home support services

48 received Employment First Services



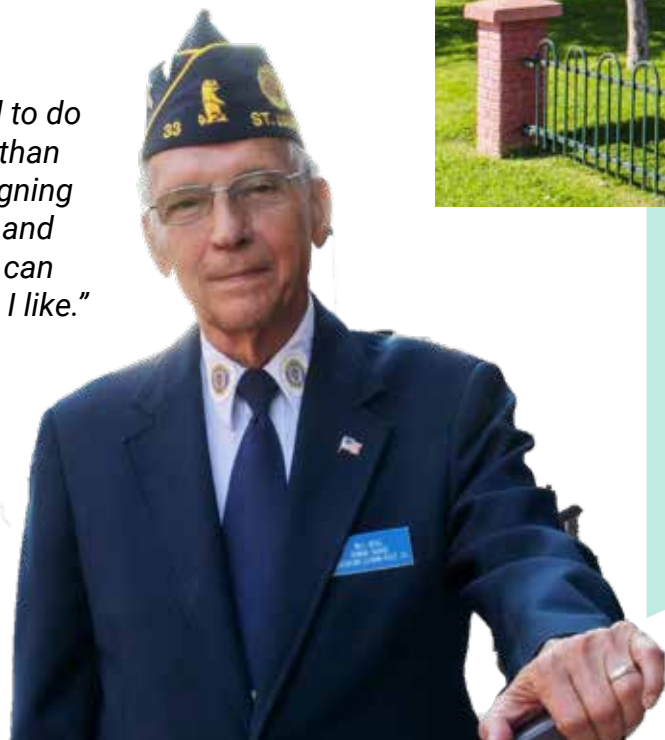
120 individuals lived with licensed
providers in shared living **host homes**

20 new matches

85 Host Home providers in **35** counties

LSS MEALS
Bill

"I thought I needed to do something better than we were doing. Signing up was very easy, and I appreciate that I can choose the meals I like."



St. James
Population 4,704
.....
WATONWAN COUNTY
Population 11,253

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN

PICS

2,035 participants chose self-directed services and were supported by **3,019** workers/caregivers

Services provided in **51** counties



Camp Knutson

1,157 campers attended

19 in-person camps at **Camp Knutson** through **14** partners

1,222 retreat guests enjoyed camp during the off-season

35,503

Individuals & Families Served



We offer healthy, delicious meal options available to anyone statewide through

NUTRITION SERVICES

1,808,778 meals served across Minnesota

1,335 volunteers

78,547 frozen shipped meals delivered to **265** cities in MN

121,495 meals served to adults at **83** dining sites

800,219 meals served to youth at **57** partner sites

736,184 home-delivered meals

★ **3,440** veterans served ★

We keep youth and young families safe while supporting increased stability and a healthy transition to adulthood through

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SERVICES

2,012 children, youth & families participated in **education and group settings**

18 children supported in **preschool** settings



40 young scholars received leadership education through the **LSS STEAM Freedom School**

138 youth participated in **gender and sexuality support groups**

32 youth participated in **6** youth councils



349 families received **kinship support**

1,429 individuals received **sexuality education**

Youth received **rental assistance, education funds and transportation** in all **87** counties

233 youth received support for post-secondary education through Education and Training Vouchers

2,063 youth supported at **3** resource centers/drop-in sites

5,596

Individuals & Families Served



3 **street outreach** workers made **13,708** contacts with youth

7,231 life-saving opioid overdose kits distributed

20,049 basic needs/survival items provided

434 youth received **transitional and supportive housing services**

723 education presentations on **health, safety and prevention of sex trafficking**

1,091 youth received support, safety and affordable housing services

833 youth received health services/supplies



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN

Through

REFUGEE SERVICES

we help new arrivals secure housing, enroll in classes, find employment and connect with support they need to gain self sufficiency

555 individuals received **case management** support

221 from Ukraine

97 Afghan evacuees assisted with legal services

417 refugees were newly resettled from **18** countries



1,516

Individuals & Families Served

114 refugees were placed into jobs

2,700 individuals attended

42 community presentations



101 volunteers contributed

4,040 hours of support

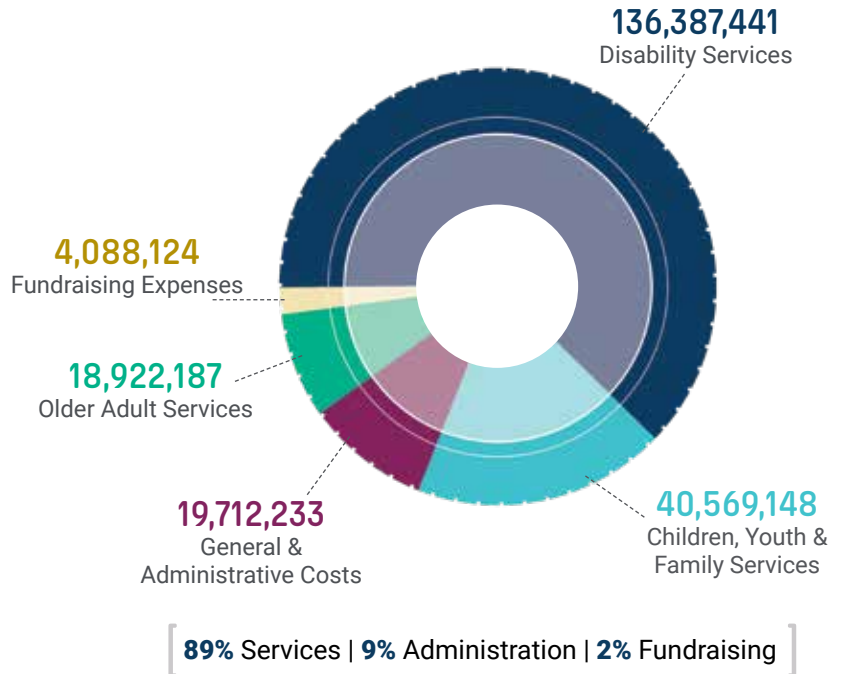
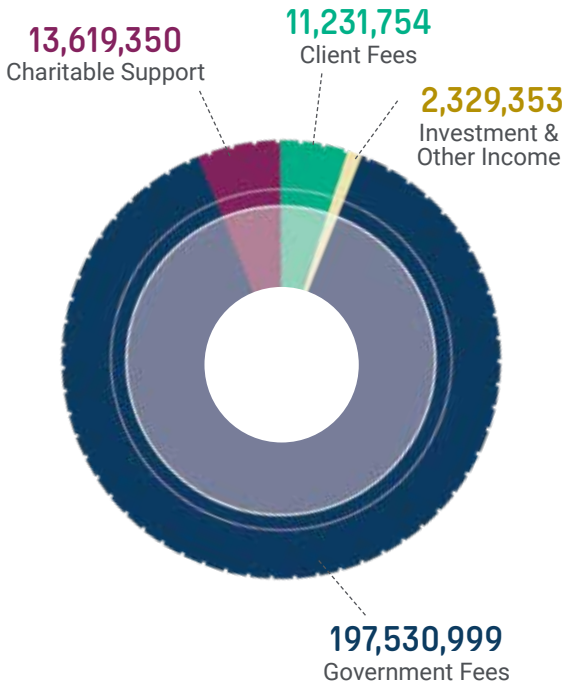


Consolidated Financial Report FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 2023

REVENUE

EXPENSES

AUDITED



TOTAL REVENUES & CHARITABLE SUPPORT

\$224,711,456

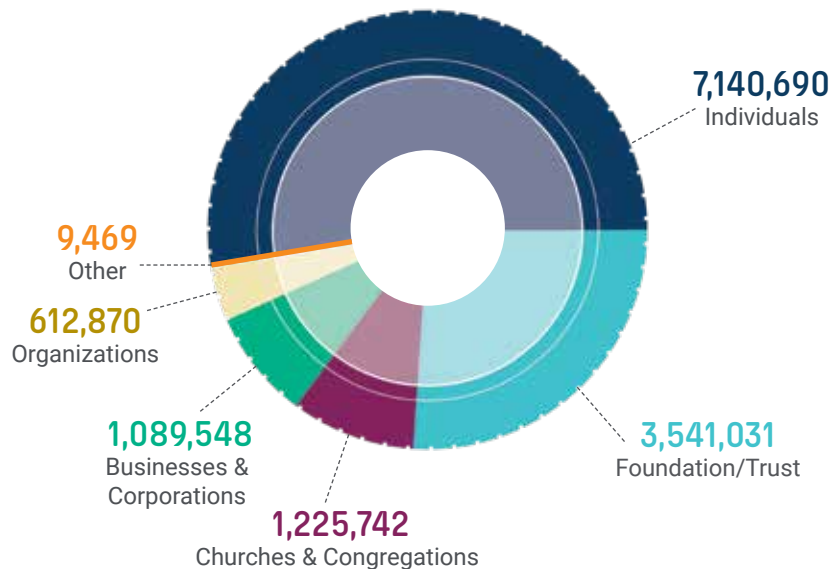
TOTAL EXPENSES

\$219,679,133

Change in Net Assets - Operations

5,032,323

Charitable Support by Constituency FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 2023



TOTAL FUNDRAISING

\$13,619,350



**Lutheran
Social Service**
of Minnesota

2485 Como Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55108

Mission

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota expresses the love of Christ for **all people** through service that inspires hope, changes lives and builds community.

Vision

All people have the opportunity to live and work in community with full and abundant lives.

Strategic Objectives

Social Determinants of Health:

LSS will address underlying barriers to well-being while we continue to take responsibility for helping our neighbors access housing, healthy food, community connection, and other supports that are critical to holistic well-being.

Prevention/Early Intervention:

LSS will innovate prevention, early intervention and family preservation services and support that are critical for helping Minnesotans overcome barriers and change their lives.

Social Justice:

LSS will deepen our commitment to and increase our recognition of barriers to social justice and racial equity both within our organization and the greater community, putting this commitment into action in the way we deliver services, evaluate outcomes, pursue our advocacy efforts, and establish strategic partnerships.



*Lutheran
Social Service
of Minnesota*

©2024 Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. 02/2024

