

THE

Voice

New executive director has a heart for kids and families

Michael Johnson, recently appointed as Executive Director of Lutheran Child & Family Services, has been described as “the king of loaves and fishes”-- a reflection of his ability to accomplish a great deal with limited resources.

Prior to joining the staff of LCFS, Mr. Johnson's talent earned accolades for him in St. Louis, where the St. Louis Chapter of the NAACP recognized him as Man of the Year. St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay recognized Mr. Johnson's contributions to St. Louis by proclaiming February 24, 2007 “Michael Johnson Day.”

Mr. Johnson most recently served as Vice-President of Urban Services for the YMCA of Greater St. Louis. He also served as Special Assistant to the CEO of Philadelphia Public Schools and as Human Relations Officer with Chicago Public Schools. He earned his MBA

from the University of Phoenix and a bachelor's degree in business education from Chicago State University.

As a child growing up in Chicago's tenements, Mr. Johnson learned firsthand the importance of education and positive adult role models on the lives of children. “I'm very excited

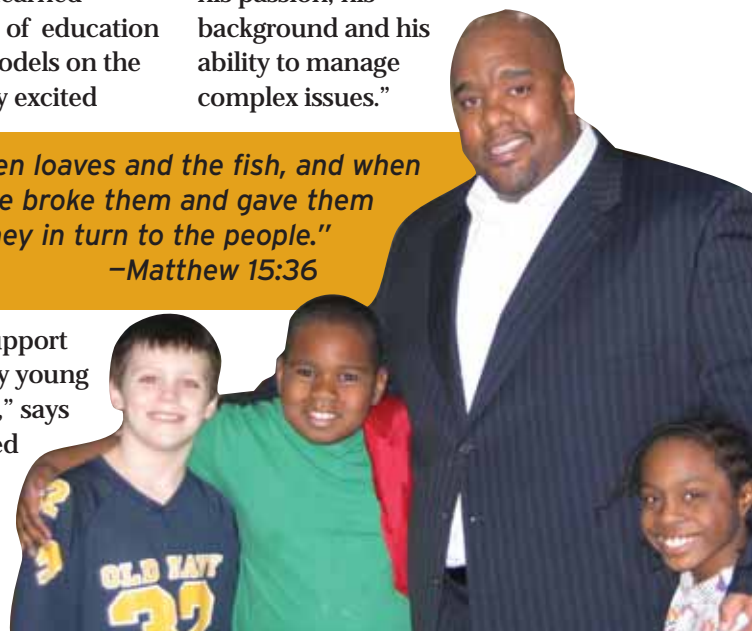
someone who brings experience, energy and talent to our agency,” said Lewis Lundberg, President of the Board of Directors for LCFS. “We are impressed with his passion, his background and his ability to manage complex issues.”

“Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people.”

—Matthew 15:36

about the services and support LCFS provides to so many young people and their families,” says Johnson. “I'm very focused on delivering programs that will make a positive impact on their lives.”

“Mr. Johnson is



Dr. Sue Ellen Reed, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction, talks with students in Lutherwood's on-grounds school during a recent campus visit. During meetings with Lutherwood staff, Dr. Reed discussed the importance of education among residents of Lutherwood and the need to focus on their families. “Wrap-around services are the key to success for parents who don't know how to parent,” noted Reed.

Luther & Bonhoeffer – A Tradition Affirmed & Corrected

A TRIP TO GERMANY WITH REV. BILL NOVAK AND MR. SVEN SCHUMACHER

Reservations are now being accepted for a trip to Germany October 27-November 5, 2007, 2006 with co-hosts Rev. Bill Novak, pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and Sven Schumacher, CEO of The Foundation for Lutheran Child & Family Services. The tour begins in Berlin and includes a visit to Wittenberg, Erfurt and Munich. Tour prices are \$2895 per person (based on double occupancy) or \$3295 (single). For registration information, contact Grueninger Tours at 317-465-1122 or info@grueningertours.com.

Some gifts don't last a lifetime. They last several lifetimes.

Nearly five years ago, Lutheran Child & Family Services embarked on the *Give Hope a Home* capital and endowment campaign to raise \$9.0 million for construction of new facilities at Lutherwood and to strengthen the agency's endowment. Generous donors are helping us do what we cannot do alone – rebuild our campus and create new programs that will ensure a legacy of hope to children and families of the future..

You can be a part of the legacy of hope by making a gift to support the long-term viability of a specific LCFS program. ***Such a gift shows your commitment to LCFS now and in the future.*** With a gift of \$25,000 or more, you may name an endowed fund to support any of the following programs:

- Community-Based Programs
- Family Preservation
- Lutherwood Residential Treatment Center & School
- The Sharing Place
- Spiritual Growth & Renewal
- Trinity House

You can also make a named gift to support specific construction projects now underway at Lutherwood. For example, you may name a classroom in the new day school after yourself or a loved one with a minimum gift of \$600,000. Likewise, a gift of \$1,800 provides furnishings for one child's room. All gifts make a difference! We invite you to contact Suzy Killen, Director of Development at 317-359-5467, ex. 320 or skillen@lutheranfamily.org for more information about these exciting gift opportunities.

Staff Appreciation Day Recognizes Team Effort

Staff Appreciation Day provided an opportunity to say "thanks" to the people who make up the LCFS family of employees. The luncheon and awards ceremony encouraged employees to help, support and value one another. It underscored the need to work together and combine strengths and skills for the common good.

Employees nominated co-workers for awards that recognized work ethic, attitude and overall job performance.



Honorees include (front row, l-r) Julie Handschy, Sara O'Brien, Laura Jacobsen, Justin Wedges (back row, l-r) Wendi Talbert, Executive Director Michael Johnson, Jeremy Van Deman and Clarence Easley. Not pictured: Tim Hoffman

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ."

– 1 Corinthians 12:12

As a result, the following individuals received awards from Executive Director Michael Johnson:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE:
Laura Jacobsen, Clinician

SHOWING UP ON PURPOSE AWARD:

Julie Handschy, Education Coordinator
Sara O'Brien, Arts/Nutrition teacher

ABOVE & BEYOND AWARD:
Clarence Easley, Youth Specialist
Jeremy Van Deman, Coordinator of CQI/CQR

Justin Wedges, Residential Program Supervisor

MILESTONE AWARD:

Tim Hoffman, Youth Specialist
(10 years service)

Mr. Johnson also recognized Wendi Talbert, Residential Program Manager, and LCFS team members in Finance, Community-Based Programs and Family Preservation.

IRA Charitable Rollover - Time is Running Out!

The opportunity for individuals 70 and older to distribute charitable gifts from IRA assets will expire on December 31, 2007. Temporary legislation allows those eligible to direct gifts via their IRA accounts and exclude the amount from their gross income. These gifts (up to \$100,000) can satisfy minimum withdrawal requirements.

TO QUALIFY:

- Donor must be at least 70 years of age
- Distributions can be made from a traditional or Roth IRA;
- Gifts cannot exceed \$100,000 per taxpayer per year
- Transfer of funds must be made directly to LCFS by the IRA trustee

Please consider this wonderful opportunity to accomplish your special philanthropic objectives through the ministries of LCFS.

For more information, please contact Suzy Killen, Director of Development at 317-359-5467, ex. 320 or skillen@lutheranfamily.org. Please consult your financial advisor and/or IRA administrator regarding the applicability to your own situation.

Annual Meeting Gives Green Light to Corporate Restructuring

Representatives from member congregations and representatives of the LCFS and The Foundation for LCFS governing boards participated in a discussion of proposed restructuring of the agency and subsequent by-laws amendments during the 124th Annual Meeting on March 31st.

According to Lewis Lundberg, President of the Board of Directors of LCFS, "The need to update the agency's governing documents was confirmed by



Sven Schumacher (l) CEO of the Foundation for LCFS, and Michael Johnson, Executive Director of LCFS, present "Das Geflügelte Wort" journalism award to Tom Wynne (center), editor, publisher and owner of "Indy's Child Parenting Magazine." The award recognizes journalistic excellence in reporting on issues related to child welfare. Mr. Wynne accepted the award on behalf of Barbara Wynne, the magazine's founder.

a study of our corporate structure and governance processes by an expert consulting firm, consultation with attorneys, and specific dialog with representatives of the ELCA in Chicago and the LCMS in St. Louis. With their guidance and support, we determined that best practices call for eliminating Lutheran congregations as the "members" of LCFS whose delegates annually elect the Board of Directors. Instead, as is increasingly common among modern not-for-profits and fellow members of Lutheran Services in America, LCFS' Board of Directors will be elected from a list of nominees provided by the Board's governance committee."

Eligible voters unanimously accepted the proposed changes, which will provide the Board with greater flexibility in the selection of its members while respecting the agency's Lutheran heritage. The previous by-laws called for 21 members (18 Lutheran), but they contained no requirement for active church membership. Now the Board of Directors will consist of a total of

17 members, 12 of whom must be active members of LCMS or ELCA congregations. Furthermore, Lutheran congregations will be encouraged to participate in the affairs of LCFS by serving on an Advisory Board and offering counsel and support to agency activities.

Michael Johnson, the new Executive Director of LCFS was introduced and Judge James Payne, Director of the Indiana Department of Child Services, offered the keynote address.

The "Community Partnership Award" for service on behalf of LCFS ministries was given to:

- Dr. Erik Henrick, who organizes an annual walk-run at Holy Cross Lutheran Church to benefit The Sharing Place
- Dr. Tom Nottingham of Circle City Chiropractic, who organizes an annual food drive to benefit The Sharing Place East
- Citizens Gas & Coke Utility for sponsorship of the parenting education program
- Dr. & Mrs. Michael Orr, for their support of The Sharing Place East

"Circle of Courage" making a difference in lives of Lutherwood children

Native Americans have a long tradition of treating their children with respect to promote self-confidence and self-discipline. This philosophy of child-rearing is the basis for the Circle of Courage youth development model now used with Lutherwood children. It is based on four universal growth needs of children: belonging, mastery, independence and generosity.

Lutherwood incorporated the behavior model into the children's treatment plans more than a year ago. Since then, the children have

developed a better sense of their personal strengths, community and belonging. As they learn to identify their successes, the children are also learning to take responsibility for better choices than those made in the past. They also they learn the value of generosity, not only to others but also to themselves.

According to Jim Bush, Clinical Director at Lutherwood, "The Circle of Courage methods help children strengthen their natural abilities to connect with others, clarify problems and cope with challenges."



A local artist painted the "Circle of Courage" emblem in the school hallway as a constant reminder for the children. "We added the green cross in the middle to represent Christ as the center of our lives," said Bush.

From the Executive Director

In his new position as Executive Director of Lutheran Child & Family Services, Michael Johnson oversees the day-to-day operations and management of the agency and its programs to assure that the mission and vision for the future are carried out. He is working in close partnership with Sven Schumacher, Chief Executive Officer of The Foundation for Lutheran Child & Family Services.

As Johnson focuses on the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of agency programs, Schumacher focuses on maintaining and improving the supportive, long-standing relationships with friends, donors and churches.

“I look forward to a close working

relationship with Sven, who has done so many great things for LCFS,” said Johnson. “I value and appreciate his support, counsel and recommendations as we work to improve our services in the community.”

“Michael’s heart is definitely with children and families,” said Schumacher. “I’m very impressed by his diverse experience with young people and his eagerness to work closely with The Foundation to help us achieve our goals – supporting children and families through the programs of the agency. Michael will be an effective and dynamic advocate for LCFS.”



SUMMER 2007





1525 N. Ritter Avenue | Indianapolis, IN 46219

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Michael Johnson, MBA, Executive Director
Shannon Bess, MSW, LCSW, Interim Senior Director/Chief
Operations Officer
Leigh Riley Evans, MBA, Interim Senior Director/Chief
Administrative Officer
Suzanne Killen CFRE, Director of Development
Daniel McGinley, ACSW, Director of Lutherwood

LCFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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