

THE

Voice

Sertoma Fund Raising Effort Raises More than \$30,000 Supports Recreation Room and Library

Spearheaded by members of Lawrence Sertoma Club, a special fund raising effort to benefit Lutherwood raised more than \$30,000 for a recreation room and library in the new dormitories. Two rooms will be named in honor of Sertoma and will create a lasting recognition for more than 44 years of dedicated service to Lutherwood children. Sertoma Club's longstanding record of dedication and support has made a tremendous difference in the lives of these children.

Sertoma is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit international organization dedicated to **"SERvice TO MAnkind."** Sertoma clubs raise more than \$20 million annually for local community service projects that promote freedom and democracy, to assist youth and to benefit a variety of other local community needs, as identified by the individual club.



Pictured above are Keith Hartman, a Lawrence Sertoma member, (far left) presenting a Sertoma check to Tania Deng, (center left) president-elect of the Board of Directors for Lutheran Child and Family Services and Sven Schumacher, (center right) CEO of The Foundation for Lutheran Child and Family Services, receiving another Sertoma check from Deborah Hartman, (far right) a Lawrence Sertoma Member.



Pictured above are Carlyn Johnson, (left) a Geist Sertoma member, presenting a Sertoma check to Monique Busch, (right) Senior Director of Community Operations for Lutheran Child and Family Services.

Mission Statement

In response to God's love and grace in Jesus Christ, Lutheran Child & Family Services of Indiana/Kentucky serves human needs with the support of the church and community by providing programs of compassionate care and counsel to enhance dignity and quality of life.

IRA Rollover Provision Reinstated Through 2009

President Bush has signed into law the \$700 billion economic bailout bill (H.R. 1424, Financial Rescue Package), which includes a two-year extension of the IRA Rollover provision as well as other charitable giving provisions.

The provision will be made retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008, and will apply to gifts made from that date through Dec. 31, 2009.

The provision exempts from taxable income any funds transferred ("rolled over") from an Individual Retirement

Account (IRA) to a charitable organization. The following limitations apply:

- The donor must be age 70 1/2 or older.
- The cap on annual IRA rollovers is \$100,000.
- The contribution must be a direct gift to a charity (no planned gifts).

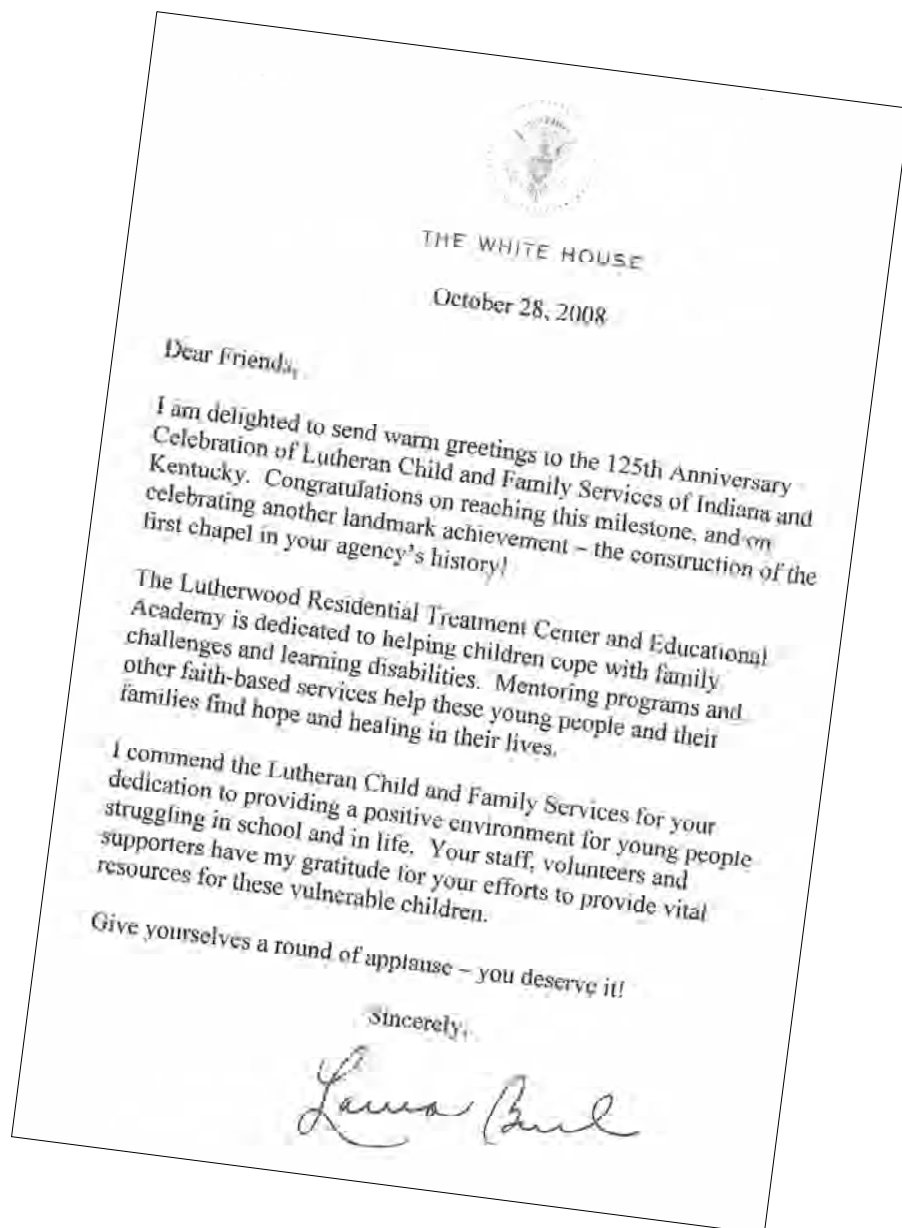
To make a gift from your IRA, please contact Suzanne Killen, Director of Development at (317) 359-5467 ext. 320.



Don Wylin, (center left) treasurer of the Board of Directors for Lutheran Child and Family Services, enjoys a lunch buffet with other agency volunteers. In November, volunteers were honored for their support, service and dedication.

Lutheran Child and Family Services Receives 100% Compliance

Lutheran Child and Family Services achieved 100% compliance with the State of Indiana Department of Child Services by passing all inspections. It was not necessary to provide any plans of correction. A special congratulations goes out to all employees for achieving perfect compliance on the first round of inspection.



First Lady Laura Bush congratulated Lutheran Child and Family Services on its 125th Anniversary.



In September, Barnes & Noble Booksellers announced the plan to donate 1,000 new books to the Sertoma Library at Lutherwood. Pictured: Jerry Shomali, Campus Supervisor, and Rebecca Roberts, Community Relations Manager for Barnes & Noble Booksellers.



Members of Die Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe (The Little Bat Dance Group) provided entertainment for November's Volunteer Appreciation Event.



Construction of the Family Strengthening Center is progressing rapidly and is scheduled to be completed in July 2009.



In November, Gethsemane Lutheran Church made generous monetary donations to The Sharing Place and The Sharing Place Holiday Store. Pictured above, Daniel Julian, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, presenting a check to Sven Schumacher, CEO of The Foundation for Lutheran Child and Family Services.



Lutherwood residents attended the Indianapolis Colts vs. the New England Patriots football game on November 2nd. The tickets were a gift from Coach Tony Dungee.



Lutherwood Academy teachers (left to right): Gillian Fletcher; Lynette Klipp; Suvarna Gunashekar; Mary Burton; Simone Hamels-Smith; Rod Little; Sara O'Brien; Brenda Zweig

We're on the Web
www.lutheranfamily.org

The Sharing Place Food Pantry Low Need Continues to Increase

While food prices continue to increase, few of us have learned the true meaning of hunger. For most of us, “hunger” is working through lunch or is associated with a diet. However, there are children and families in Central Indiana who do know the true meaning of hunger. These are the children who tuck portions of their free school lunch into their pocket to save for later because they don’t know if they will have food for supper at home.

The need for food continues to increase in Central Indiana as a result of our current economic climate. As a result, The Sharing Place has experienced increased lines at their eastside location and the pantry is currently serving approximately 900 individuals weekly.

The Sharing Place will continue to need food and monetary donations to meet the increasing needs of individuals and families during the holiday season. Please consider donating the following:

- Noodles
- Cereal
- Canned fruit
- Canned tuna/meat
- Pasta sauce
- Canned vegetables
- Boxed potato sides
- Boxed rice meals
- Boxed meals (Hamburger Helper, Mac & Cheese)

Ready, Set, Learn!

Serves Over 850 Children

Thank you to all the individuals and organizations that generously supported this year’s *Ready, Set, Learn!* school supply and uniform drive.

We exceeded our goal and raised over \$16,000 to support Lutherwood Residential Treatment Center and Education Academy students and The Sharing Place “School Store.” In addition to generous monetary gifts, we received in-kind donations of school supplies and uniforms

Feeling out of place, unprepared for school or poorly dressed can interfere is a child’s ability to learn. With your help, over 850 disadvantaged and at-risk children in our community went back to school carrying the supplies they needed and wearing new uniforms. Your gifts prepared children for a new beginning – a new year – of learning opportunities.

On behalf of the children, we thank you for your generosity!

The “Best and the Worst”

On September 27th, Dennis Meyer, owner of Meyer Financial Strategies, hosted his annual festival. The event featured German foods, including bratwurst, sauerkraut, and traditional German desserts. Entertainment was provided by Martha Jo’s Sauerkraut Band and Die Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe (The Little Bat Dance Group), who danced and gave polka and German folk dance lessons.

This year’s event benefited the programs and ministries of Lutheran Child and Family Services, specifically Lutherwood Residential Treatment Center and Education Academy and The Sharing Place. Guests made generous monetary and in-kind gift donations of items such as socks and underwear, canned goods, toys and games. In addition, Lutheran Service Club of Indianapolis provided matching funds for the monetary gifts. Meyer Financial Strategies is owned by Dennis J. Meyer, CFP, who is an independent faith-based financial advisor.



Dennis Meyer, Meyer Financial Strategies; Sven Schumacher, Chief Executive Officer; Martha Jo’s Sauerkraut Band

New Teachers at Lutherwood



Suvarna Gunashekar is a first year Math teacher who recently graduated from the University of Michigan with degrees in Sociology and French.

Currently, Suvarna is part of the Indianapolis Teaching Fellows, a highly selective program that brings qualified candidates into the Indianapolis school system. Through the Fellows program, she will earn a Master of Arts in Teaching from Marian College.



Rod Little, an elementary school teacher, was born in Kokomo, Indiana. Rod was among the first graduating class of Taylor High School and was

also in the first graduating class of Indiana University at the Kokomo campus in 1973. After finishing school, Rod traveled all over the country playing music and singing with many bands. He now divides his time between music and teaching.



Gillian Fletcher is a middle and high school Social Studies and Sciences teacher who received her BA in History and secondary teaching license from Indiana University, Bloomington. In

addition, Gillian has almost completed the accreditation for her Special Education license. Gillian has worked for Indianapolis Public Schools for 6 years.

Meet Our Interns for the 2008-2009 School Year

Lutheran Child and Family Services has 6 interns who spend between 15-20 hours a week in one of our continuum of care programs: Transitional Living/Independent Living, Foster Care/ Special Needs Adoption, Residential, Family Preservation, or Family Strengthening Clinical Team.



Brayton Pickard is working on his Master in Social Work degree with a concentration on leadership. To achieve this, he interns for the agency's Independent Living outreach program through Trinity House, a group home for males ages 14-21. As a professional, Pickard plans to work in an administrative capacity for a medium to large agency.

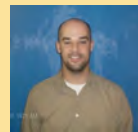


Like Pickard, Polly Lay is concentrating her Master in Social Work degree on leadership. An IUPUI student, Lay interns for the agency's Community Based Programs, focusing on the Friends to Family mentor program.



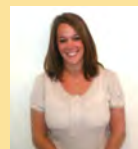
June French is an IUPUI student pursuing a Bachelor in Social Work degree and a Master in Marriage and Family Therapy degree.

French interns with the Residential Clinical Team.



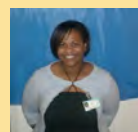
Trinity House is pleased to welcome Mark Sattler, a Master's level counseling student from Wesleyan University. Sattler will concentrate on the residents' mental health

through individual counseling and teaching independent living skills like money management and self-care.



Dana Newton is also a Master in Social Work student and has found interning at Lutheran Child & Family Services to be eye opening.

"The sheer number of individuals involved in every one of these children's lives is unbelievable." Through her internship, Newton hopes to learn about practical individual therapy techniques, family therapy interventions and available community resources.



Aiesha Ward has learned about available resources first hand as a previous intern and current part-time Youth Specialist with Lutheran Child and Family Services. During

her second internship, Ward is working with Family Preservation and co-facilitating the Addictions Group for identified Lutherwood residents.

Lutheran Child and Family Services feels blessed to have so many talented students working with us and assisting us in providing excellent services to our clients.

If you are interested in learning more about student internship opportunities please call Dr. Monique Busch, Senior Director of Community Operations at (317) 359-5467 ext. 324 or mbusch@lutheranfamily.org.

Recreation Activities at Lutherwood

The Recreation Department experienced a busy summer and an equally busy fall. Throughout the summer, Lutherwood residents enjoyed activities such as a kickball league, horseback riding lessons, laser tag and bowling outings, trips to the zoo, vacation bible school plus cooking and art classes.



Lutherwood residents learn to cook pizza

During the fall, the children were occupied with intramural flag football, soccer and volleyball teams, more cooking and art classes, trips to the movies, and pumpkin carving in late October. Recently, twelve children were taught to sew by Christ Church - The Lutheran Church of Zionsville. Other youth volunteered with Indianapolis Public Schools, by handing out water and snacks to those working to cleanup schools damaged by recent bad weather. Many residents also participated in the adopt-a-grandparent program with Rosewalk at Lutherwoods, which is adjacent to Lutheran Child and Family Services.

Recreational activities offer our youth an opportunity to explore and challenge themselves not only through physical play, but also help them develop social skills, and emotional and mental stamina. Independent living skills, such as cooking, are taught to help prepare youth for life on their own.

To learn more about the Recreation Department, please contact Rod Mitchell, Programs Director, at (317) 359-5467 ext. 340 or rmitchell@lutheranfamily.org. To make a donation to the Recreation Department, please contact Christina Schelle, Office of Development, at (317) 359-5467 ext. 361.

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THE VOICE
 LUTHERAN CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
 WINTER 2008