



The Voice

LCFS Continues to Serve Those Most in Need Despite Challenges due to COVID-19

For the past five months, LCFS has continued to adapt to the serious health crisis COVID-19 has created. Our programs and operations have been modified to reduce exposure and spread of disease. Family visitation for our youth in residential care was paused, transitioned to “virtual” visits, and now is slowly returning to in-person visitation with appropriate safety measures. Many of our regular Sharing Place volunteers had to step back in order to ensure their health. The adjustments have been enormous!

As many of you know, client-choice has been a very important component of our approach at the Sharing Place. However, to promote social distancing, we have shifted our operations to a curbside pick-up model. At the moment there are new plans under development to open a version of client-choice that can promote client selection while still maintaining all necessary safety protocols.

Another program being directly impacted is SEED. Brady Gurganious, our Spiritual Life Leader, is now going from center to center once a week (for all 6 centers) to lead chapel services for those who want to participate. Additionally, voluntary, bi-weekly Bible study opportunities have also been moved to the centers.

Our residential programs have faced tremendous challenges; we have worked very hard to ensure that children and families did not have undue disruption in services. Despite all the difficulties, LCFS was able to successfully discharge 35 residents between the onset of our COVID-19 precautions in March and the end of July. These young people were able to meet their treatment goals and move back home to family or other less restrictive placement options! We had multiple students graduate from High School during this time, which is a tremendous achievement for many youth in foster care! We are so proud of all their hard work and the caring staff that make it all possible!

All of our programs are doing everything in their power to create a safe and caring environment; we feel blessed that we have been able to continue serving those most vulnerable in our community during this difficult time.



Stay tuned for new LCFS programming in the coming months!

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Our Mission:

Engaging and Empowering Families and Community with Love, Compassion, Faith and Support



ActivateIndy Energizing Volunteerism in Indy

ActivateIndy was created around the idea of helping people build communities, establish holistic partnerships, attract volunteers, and engage a network and support system for organizational leaders. Thrivent is working with eight (8) local nonprofits to generate increased volunteerism in our community; current members include:

LCFS, Student Impact, Youth for Christ, Shepherd Community Center, Salvation Army, The Hope Center, Wheeler Mission, and The Grace Care Center.

Initially, Thrivent provided sponsorship for volunteer events for groups of five or more who signed up a team through the ActivateIndy website. However, due to COVID-19, this incentive program is currently on hold. Nevertheless, groups are still encouraged to sign up to volunteer at the Sharing Place as well as at the LCFS campus.

For LCFS campus volunteers, all activities are currently held outdoors, and are adhering to current social distancing and safety guidelines outlined by the Marion County Public Health Department. At the Sharing Place, these guidelines are also being followed. LCFS is limiting group size, enforcing use of masks and appropriate PPE, conducting temperature checks, distributing hand sanitizer, and utilizing a curb-side pick-up model. You can also help by donating cash, nonperishable food, and hygiene supplies for The Sharing Place if you are not able to volunteer. As we look forward to the holiday season, donations for the Christmas Store of toys, gift cards, household items, and board games will also be needed. For additional information, please email us at events@lutheranfamily.org.

Pando Aspen Grove of Community Heights brings Hope to Homeless Youth in Indianapolis

LCFS is proud and delighted to announce that **Pando Aspen Grove of Community Heights (Pando) has received the Quality Endorsement in Permanent Supportive Housing from the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)**; our new housing project has demonstrated CSH's rigorous predevelopment quality standards on a national level as well as meeting the Indiana Supportive Housing Institute's goals.

Quality Permanent Supportive Housing serves as a foundation for housing stability, empowerment, mental and physical health, educational and employment opportunities, and expansion of social capital. Our program will serve thirty young adults ages 18-24, with a focus on those who have aged out of the foster care system.

Demolition is currently underway to make way for the new facility, which will be constructed across the street from the LCFS main campus on 16th Street. The target date for completion of construction is late Spring 2021. LCFS is pleased and eager to continue supporting our community by providing valuable services and supports. Not only will we better serve youth: Pando will help improve safety in our neighborhood as well as beautifying the community with new, affordable housing options.



Legacy Gifts—you can make a lasting difference!

Did you know that the Foundation for Lutheran Child and Family Services has a legacy society? A legacy society is a group of generous donors who have made arrangements to include LCFS in their wills or estate plans after their passing. This allows for continued and planned donations to our organization; **we are so grateful for all of our donors who have made this lasting commitment to LCFS, and we would like others to consider joining the LCFS legacy society!**

There are a variety of different ways that you can join this exclusive club. For example, donors could do any of the following:

- Bequeath a set dollar amount or leave the Foundation for LCFS a percentage of their estate in their will
- Name the Foundation for LCFS as a beneficiary in their life insurance policy
- Set up a trust and name the Foundation for LCFS as a beneficiary of that trust
- Create an endowed fund with a written gift agreement by giving the Foundation for LCFS a large dollar gift (preferably over \$100,000) while living; per the terms of the gift agreement, the Foundation does not spend the principal, and is able to use the interest/investment earnings from the gift for perpetuity
- Make a gift to a Community Fund (e.g. CICF in Marion County) and ask that the Foundation for LCFS receive a portion each year – in this instance, the Community Fund is in charge of investing the funds and providing us with a distribution (usually annually)



With any of these options, you can join the LCFS Legacy Society, and make a difference to the lives of youth and families in Central Indiana even after you have passed. Please contact us at develop@lutheranfamily.org for more information.

#GivingTuesdayNow a Huge Success!

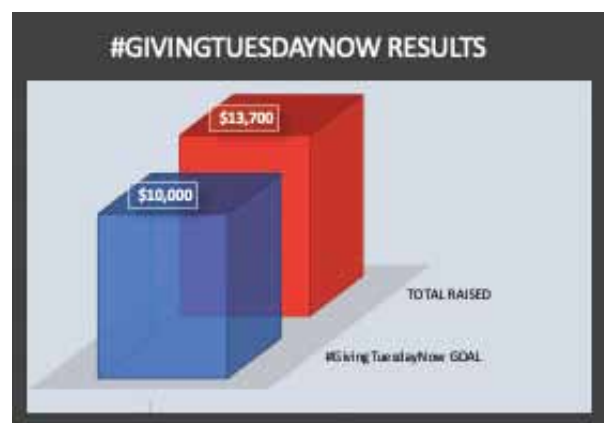
We would like to thank everyone who made #GivingTuesdayNow such a success. Through the generous support of many donors, **we were able to exceed our goal and raise \$13,700 for our #GivingTuesdayNow campaign!**

This tremendous achievement was made possible due to the generosity of our **LCFS and Foundation Boards of Directors, who collectively provided \$5,000 in matching funds.** The matching funds were a key factor for many other donors who wished to maximize their giving.



The flurry of online gifts that kept rolling in on that Tuesday in May was definitely exciting to see—and much appreciated as well. **A sincere THANK YOU to all that participated in this national day of giving!**

We would also like to take a moment to say **THANK YOU** to the Domino's Pizza on Shadeland Avenue for donating over 60 pizzas to support the spirit of the day by providing lunch for all the residential youth and the staff caring for them. The Domino's Pizza in Lawrence pitched in as well, delivering 6 pizza for the staff and volunteers working at the food pantry that evening. You can say Domino's truly delivered for LCFS on #GivingTuesdayNow!



The Voice

Lutheran Child and Family Services
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The Voice is published three times a year to share information about our ministries and programs with all our friends and supporters.

Questions or comments?
Email develop@lutheranfamily.org,
or call (317) 359-5467

Visit us online! www.lutheranfamily.org

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Join the Club!

Lutherwood Society (LWS) is a giving club for faithful donors who have committed to serve as a consistent, stabilizing force for the services and programs of LCFS through ongoing philanthropic support. The purpose of this club is to ensure our ability to respond to the growing needs of our community with adequate services and facilities, providing a fiscally sound future for the organization with unrestricted resources.

For more information or to request a pledge form, please contact us at (317) 359-5467 or email events@lutheranfamily.org

