

How you can Help

Upcoming Events & Awareness Holidays

LCFS 143rd Anniversary	February 2026
Child Abuse Prevention Month	April 2026
Mental Health Awareness Month	May 2026
Foster Care Awareness Month	May 2026
Top Golf	May 2026

Donate
A donation to The Foundation for Lutheran Child and Family Services allows us to continue to offer these vital services to the community. Donations can be made in a variety of ways.

Arrange a donation for The Sharing Place!

Donate financially!

Arrange a donation to the Pando Pantry!

Volunteer
Another great way to help our programs is by volunteering! We offer a wide variety of ways you can get involved.

I want to volunteer with LCFS!



Lutheran Child and Family Services
1525 N. Ritter Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46219

The Voice is published twice 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

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Winter 2026



A Place to Heal. A Place to Grow.

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Celebrating Service Excellence: Sven Schumacher Wins Micah Award

On February 3rd, our Executive Director, Sven Schumacher, received the Micah Award at the Lutheran Services in America Summit conference.

The Micah award recognizes a leader who embodies the call of Micah 6:8 to: “act with justice, mercy, and grace.” Schumacher has served as executive director of Lutheran Child and Family Services of IN/KY, Inc. for more than 30 years, guiding the agency through significant growth and innovation to better serve children, families, and communities across Indiana.

“I have always seen it as a privilege to help children and families. Being an advocate and getting people involved is a wonderful thing to do.” Schumacher said.

With more than 30 years at LCFS, Sven has shown what good servant leadership looks like. His commitment to the children and families we serve—and his constant support for our staff—has helped create a safe, welcoming place for everyone.



“Engaging and Empowering Families and Communities with Love, Compassion, Faith, and Support”

Inside Lutheran Child and Family Services

Meaningful Moments with Miss Dee

By: Hannah Lannswift, Development Associate

When Miss Dee, Program Supervisor for Lutherwood Emergency Shelter Care, leaves her house every morning, she takes a moment to say a prayer when she locks the door of her house. “Thank you for my beautiful house, thank you for the beautiful world, thank you for my beautiful car, and thank you for my beautiful job.”

Miss Dee works with the young residents at Lutherwood, running activities like arts and crafts and life skills workshops, providing them with structure, and bringing much-needed normalcy into their lives. She gives them opportunities to eat out at restaurants, go to the movies, and makes sure they celebrate every single holiday—even Groundhog Day!

I had the opportunity to sit down with Miss Dee, who has worked with youth in trauma for 30+ years, and she shared with me some of the meaningful moments from her time at LCFS that show the love and compassion she has for all of the children at Lutherwood, and how she lives out that “love is the key that can unlock every door.”

The kids at Lutherwood love painting! Miss Dee took this love of art and offered them a unique project: to create artwork with messages for the kids who come after them. She let them write from the heart, whatever they thought the next residents in their rooms would need to hear. And now the walls of Lutherwood are covered in heartfelt messages, such as, “Relax, you’re going to be just fine.” and “It’s okay to not be okay.”

How to make your bed. It might seem obvious to us how to make a bed, but Miss Dee knows that some of the children she serves never had a bed to make before. Because of the difficult situations these kids come from, they often lack skills that we take for granted, skills that are essential for adult life. Learning how to make their beds, get up on time, and have structure in their days is very important to Miss Dee. “I would tell the kids, you’re going to grow up one day and get a job, and you need to be able to get up on time and make your bed.”

When she’s not at work, Miss Dee can be found proudly singing at her church. Prayer, Gospel music, and her relationship with God uplifts her and gives her the energy to go into work every day with compassion and love. “These kids are here of no fault of their own,” she says. “There is a lot of neglect, especially in their mental health, when their parents are just not around.” Miss Dee has a long view of the children’s time at Lutherwood. “We’re just one stop on their journey.... They could be the next doctor, the next astronaut. This is not the end of their stories. Every child deserves love.”

We are so thankful to have such wonderful members on our team, like Miss Dee, who come to work every day ready to support the children we serve with care, love, and hope. Because of them, our residents’ journeys are just beginning.



From the Inside Out

By: Kathy Witto, Spiritual Life Leader

And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Revelation 21:5

It’s so much fun to watch God making things new every day!

Here’s a text from a co-worker, describing the NEW she has recently found.

Hey Ms Kathy. I woke up and read my bible today. I really enjoy reading it and finding out what God means to me. ... My journey has been rough but I’m still learning, and I give him all the thanks for not giving up on me...

This conversation with a resident shows a new-found curiosity.

Resident: I have a question about God!

Ms. Kathy: Yes?

R: You know how God is always answering our prayers, and helping us, and stuff?

K: Yes!

R: Well, how can he do that? That’s not normal.

K: Because he loves us and wants what’s best for us.

R: Yeah, but if my father here were to give me all those things, like a good home, and regular meals, and keep me safe, I would appreciate him and say thanks. But we don’t always do that with God. What does he want from us?

I praised her for wonderful insight and encouraged her to continue the conversation with us.

Your prayers, financial contributions, and willingness to share our story helps to make all of this possible! We look forward to the new things we will see as God’s work continues in this place!



Sharing the Warmth of Christmas – One Blanket at a Time

On the morning of December 25th, patients at Community Hospital East were surprised with the gift of handmade blankets through the Loving All Patients Through the Holidays project.

For the second year in a row, Lutherwood residents worked throughout the year to craft 100 blankets to be handed out on Christmas morning. This work of service makes a lasting difference, both for the patients at Community Hospital and for the youth at Lutherwood, who happily dedicated their time to giving back to their community this holiday season and spreading joy for our neighbors.

On December 22nd, DCS Director Adam Krupp, Sven Schumacher, and George Hurd, Board Member and Vice President of Community Fairbanks Behavioral Health (CFBH) and Community Health Network, dropped off the blankets, and Lutherwood residents prepared them for delivery to patients.



The Sharing Place in Temporarily Moving

Starting this March, The Sharing Place food pantry will be temporarily relocated to our friends at Servants of Christ Lutheran Church (7650 Oaklandon Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46236).

This move is a part of the first phase of construction on the pantry, bringing new flooring, fresh paint, and eventually an expansion of the pantry thanks to our partners at Lawrence Township. We can’t wait to see the final product!

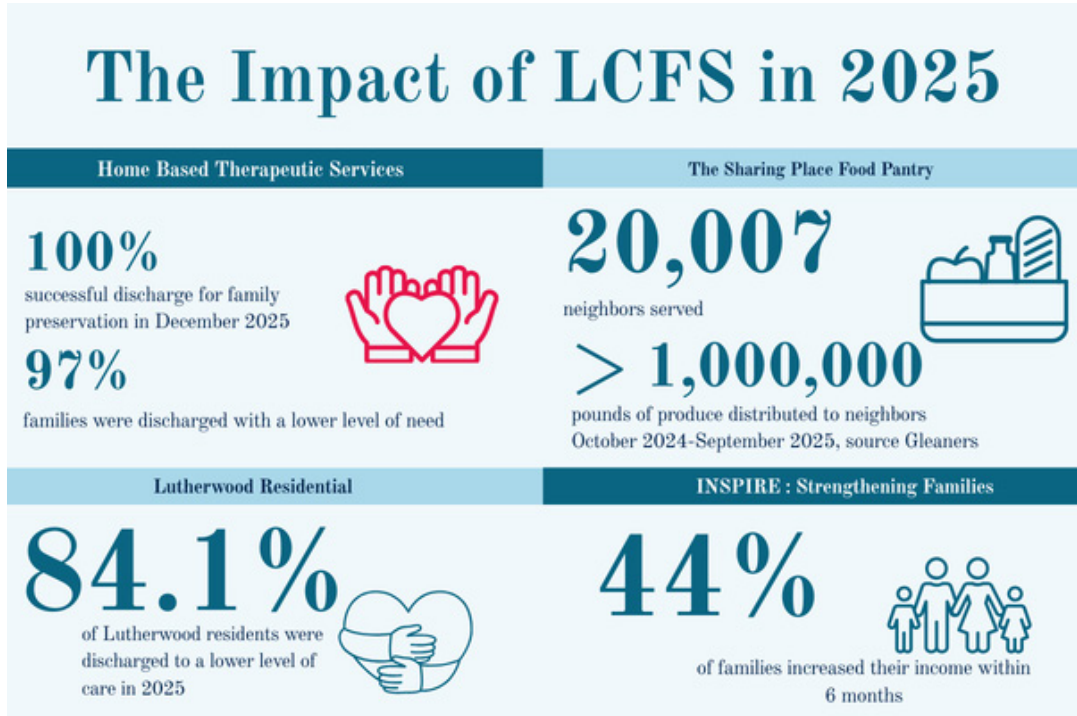
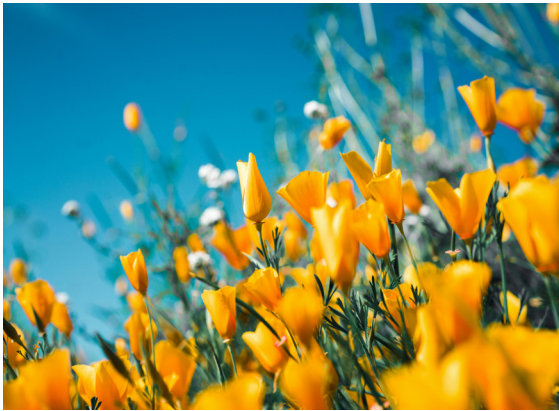
Create a Lasting Legacy of Compassion

Including The Foundation for Lutheran Child and Family Services in your will or estate plan is a meaningful way to ensure that compassionate care continues for generations to come. Planned gifts provide long-term stability for our programs, helping children, families, and individuals access the support they need during some of life’s most challenging moments. Your legacy can become a lasting reflection of your values and your commitment to serving others.

There are several ways to make a planned gift. Many supporters choose to include a charitable bequest in their will, designating a specific amount or percentage of their estate to The Foundation. Others name the Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or establish a charitable trust that provides financial benefits to loved ones while also supporting our mission. These options can often be arranged with flexibility to meet your personal and financial goals.

Planned giving is not only about the future—it is about creating impact today. By informing us of your intentions, you allow Lutheran Child and Family Services to steward your gift thoughtfully and plan for continued growth and service in the years ahead. Your foresight helps ensure that our programs remain strong and responsive to the needs of the community.

As you consider your estate plans, we invite you to remember The Foundation for Lutheran Child and Family Services. Your legacy of generosity can provide hope, stability, and compassionate care for countless individuals and families for years to come.



Scan here to see the full 2025 Impact Report!

