

**Lutheran Social Services of
North Florida**



**606 W 4th Ave, Suite 11
Tallahassee, FL 32303**

Fall 2015

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The Faithful Servant

A Message from the President



*Above: President,
Mark Heidorn*

My wife is a weaver. So we see how warp and weft entwine to form fabric. The warp runs the length of the material; it provides the foundation. The weft passes through the warp from side to side in a predetermined pattern; it gives the fabric look and texture. Service is like that. It's not something apart from everything else. It's interwoven, continuous, and becomes part of the fabric and feel of living.

In many ways, people in our community have known the fabric and feel of services provided by Lutheran Social Services of North Florida (LSSNF), which has been part of life in Tallahassee since 1989. For families and individuals who have received those services over the years, our agency has been a benefit. For people associated with LSSNF's mission – supporters, volunteers, staff, Board members – LSSNF has been a privilege.

LSSNF's mission is to address the unmet social service needs of the low-income residents in our community. The nature of services provided by LSSNF has changed over the years and is still evolving. With the continuing participation of supporting congregations, along with broader community support, this basic purpose remains. Thanks to everyone connected with LSSNF, service continues to be woven into the lives of people in our community.



100 Computers in 100 Days is a Success

CRTA works with college and high school students to refurbish and troubleshoot PCs, create websites, create and manage database systems, create public service announcements, and perform community outreach. These students gain real life, hands on internship experience under the guidance of an IT professional.

Over the last year, thanks to 25 dedicated student interns, 307 PCs and laptops were distributed to low income families, students, veterans, the disabled, and area nonprofit agencies; five computer labs were established for public use; and 22 tons of E-Waste was environmentally and responsibly recycled.



Above: Bradley Prior, left and Jacob Kosberg, right

The *100 Computers in 100 Days* WeRaise crowdfunding campaign utilized social media to raise funds to underwrite the successful distribution of technology to those in need in our community as they attempt to bridge the Digital Divide. LSSNF, on June 15th, launched a crowdfunding campaign that raised funds to refurbish and distribute 100 high quality computers to low-income individuals, families, students, and veterans etc. in need of the technology necessary to overcome the social and economic aspects of the Digital Divide.

“Owning a computer is no longer a luxury, but rather a necessity in this information and technology age. Our *100 Computers in 100 Days* project was designed to allow those community members, like myself, who utilize technology in every aspect of their everyday lives and realize its essential nature, to help our low-income neighbors gain direct access to a high-quality refurbished computer.” Peter Ott, Computer Refurbishing and Technical Assistance (CRTA) Program Administrator.



The CRTA Program Would like to Thank our many Collaborative Partners

Florida State University College of Communication & Information 🖥️
 Tallahassee Community College 🖥️ Godby High School 🖥️ The Florida Department of Health 🖥️ The Florida Department of Children and Families 🖥️ The Florida Department of Elder Affairs 🖥️ The Florida Department of Environmental Protection 🖥️ The Florida Department of Revenue 🖥️ The Florida Department of Education 🖥️ The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs 🖥️ The Leon County School System and its Social Workers and Guidance Counselors 🖥️ Adult & Community Education 🖥️ Lighthouse of the Big Bend 🖥️ Ability 1st 🖥️ Good News Outreach 🖥️ Volunteers of America, Florida 🖥️ ECHO 🖥️ Big Bend Cares 🖥️ Big Bend Homeless Coalition 🖥️ Whole Child Leon 🖥️ Refuge House 🖥️ Boys Town North Florida 🖥️ Living Stones International 🖥️ Chaires Community Life Enrichment Center 🖥️ Lock'D Computer Solutions 🖥️ and so many others

Thank you to all of LSSNF's generous supporters, both recognized and those who are not named here!



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St. Stephan Church
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Church and Student
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Faith Presbyterian Church
Unity of Tallahassee
Killearn United Methodist
Church

**And so many generous
private individuals!**

Success Forward: Providing Support to the InnBetween Program and the Community



Above: Malinda Henderson, left and Amy Crowson, MSW right.

The Success Forward: Advocates for Families program has a new administrator. Amy Crowson has joined Success Forward and, along with Mrs. Malinda Henderson, has already started working with the InnBetween program participants and in the community.

In other news, another family with children who had experienced homelessness has successfully transitioned through the InnBetween program with the thoughtful assistance of Success Forward, staff, and volunteers. This family, a mother and three children, entered the program in the summer of 2014. They actively partnered with the program's volunteers, utilizing the services offered to empower the family and gain stability. The family happily reported that they are settled in their new home and are looking forward to the holidays. The mother said the LSSNF staff and volunteers were patient and supportive; they gave her the time to open up and share, which led to her personal recovery. "It is hard for an independent person to ask for help," she stated. She brightly expressed "Christmas was amazing for the kids," and "the time I spent here was a blessing!"

Advocates are needed! Please consider sharing your talents with families in need. Areas of family need include, but are not limited to: credit/financial, medical/dental (including Medicaid navigation), disabilities, legal/child support, career/education coaching, mental health, living wage employment, mentoring, and assisting children with special needs. Additional information about volunteer advocate descriptions, opportunities, and an application are available on-line at www.lssnf.org or please contact: Amy Crowson, Success Forward Program Administrator at 850-575-4309 or amycrowson@lssnf.org.

Food Deliveries Help Families in Need

Truth Gathers Community Church and Blessed Sacrament in cooperation with Second Harvest deliver food to the InnBetween residents and those who live in The French Quarter. Their generous donation is much appreciated!

Right: Bridget Smith, left and Malinda Henderson, right.



Save the Date!



Tallahassee Young Actor's Theater will be presenting a benefit performance of

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

for the programs of LSSNF on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 7:30pm. Please help Lutheran Social Services by supporting and attending this production. Suggested underwriting levels:

Bronze: \$100 Silver: \$250 Gold: \$500

For more information about attending or underwriting, please call (850) 575-4309 or email info@lssnf.org

The Faithful Servant



A Truck Full of Mattresses

Thank you to Cheryl Keaton for writing a grant for a semi-load of mattresses and Leon County Schools for helping with delivery. These are being utilized by InnBetween families and French Quarter residents, as well as distributed to other nonprofits such as Beauty for Ashes, an organization which helps formally incarcerated women.

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