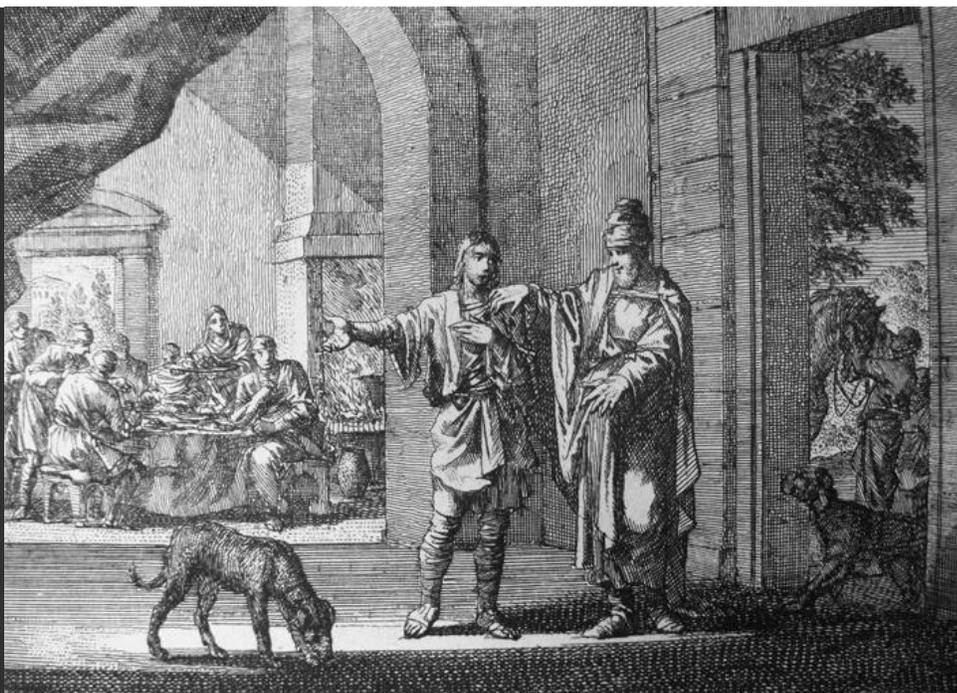


**Lutheran Social Services of
North Florida**



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

November 2013



apud: phillip medhurst

THE FAITHFUL AND WISE SREWARD. LUKE 13:41-48. JAN LUYKEN

excudit: harry kossuth

**2013
Board Members**

The Faithful Servant

Gary Ranzinger- President
Emily Millett- Vice-President
Tiffany Lynn- Treasurer
Mary Hafner- Secretary
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Coordinator
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William Stone- Executive
Director
Peter Ott- CRTA Administrator
Malinda Henderson- Program
Assistant

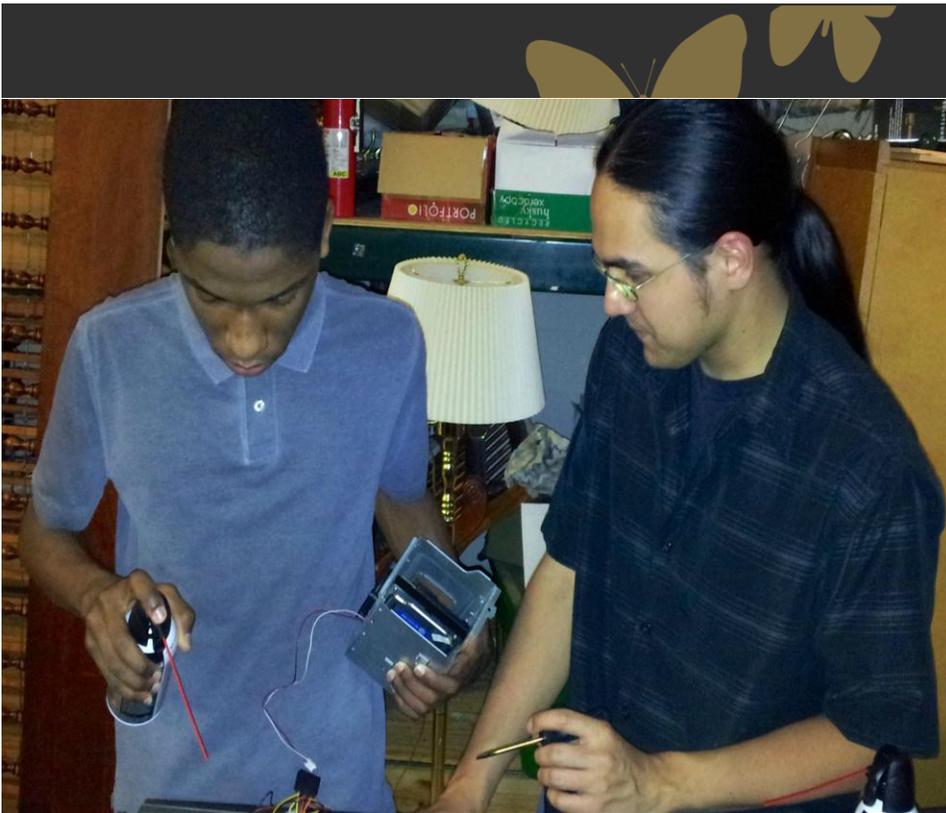
Giselle Marsh Joins Lutheran Social Services Board



The newest Board Member of Lutheran Social Services of North Florida, Giselle Marsh, joined in August. Marsh is originally from Kingston, Jamaica, and moved to Tallahassee to attend Florida State University. She is currently the principal at Raa Middle School. She was encouraged to join by teacher and current LSSNF Board Member Beth McBride. When she attended her first meeting,

Marsh was amazed at how involved and active the Board was. Ms. Marsh explained, "I love that we started with a prayer at the first meeting. I'm strong in my faith and at that moment I knew I needed to be a part of this organization." She feels that being involved with LSSNF inspires her to seek more opportunities to help in the broader community. She looks forward to sharing her gifts with the organization.

"We are fortunate to have Ms. Marsh on the Board of Lutheran Social Services of North Florida. She brings great heart, critical thinking skills, grace, and professionalism to our endeavors." -William Stone, Executive Director



Volunteer Spotlight

Godby High School Junior Gives Back

Loften Wilson, a Godby High School junior, is using his skills to give back to the community. Loftens mother saw he had an affinity for technology as a young child and wanted to make sure he had every opportunity to chase his dreams. She drives Loftens to and from school daily so that he can attend Godbys IT program. One day, when driving to church, Mrs. Wilson heard about the Computer Refurbishing and Technical Assistance program. Peter Ott, who is the CRTA administrator, said he usually works with college students but to bring him by. Peter finds Loftens to be a valuable asset to CRTA. Loftens has received his Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel and Access certifications from the IT program at Godby. Loftens started volunteering at LSSNF in July and was originally drawn to us in order to fulfill his Bright Futures Scholarship requirements. He continues to volunteer two afternoons a week refurbishing and loading software onto computers. He is glad to be making a difference and learning valuable skills at the same time. He doesnt want anyone to "get left behind."



Thank you to our student volunteers from FSU College of Communications and the Center for Leadership and Social Change!

Left: Connor Gray, Sarah Green, and Godfrey Adams



Mary Hafner Granted Lifetime Membership to the Board for her 25 Years of Dedication

Long time Board Secretary Mary Hafner is an original member of Lutheran Social Services of North Florida. The former Pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church, Bernhard Kurzweg, spearheaded the organization. Pastor Kurzweg saw an opportunity to serve unmet social service needs of the low-income residents in our community. Because these needs change constantly, in some ways, so does the mission. Hafner explained this when she told me about a car seat initiative that another organization began to do as well. She said, “We move on to other unmet social service needs if someone else in the community is doing something similar.” Hafner appreciates the way Lutheran Social Services encourages community involvement. For instance, the women’s mission group of University Lutheran Church sponsors a family participating in the InnBetween Transitional Housing Program, providing some of the “extras” such as Christmas gifts. In a unique action of the Board, they granted Ms. Hafner a life-long tenure as a Director. When asked why she has continued to be involved with this organization for over 20 years she said, “It does more for the giver than for the receiver.” Her message is get involved!

“Broadening your vision through this work does more for the giver than for the receiver, and I have been truly blessed.”



Random Acts of Kindness

Thank you to *Ms. Frieda Hutchison* for donating blankets to the residents at the French Quarters. As you can see, the residents appreciate them!

InnBetween Adversity and a Bright Future



There are many beautiful stories of success from the InnBetween program, but in order for us to share the magnitude of what the program can do for a family, we would like to share the story of one family in their own words.

“We are a family of six originally from Ft. Lauderdale, FL, but after my husband finished school we relocated to Colorado Springs, CO where he was hired as a tech for a cleaning service company. One year later their business slowed down and as always, last one hired first one fired. This was the month of

March 2012. One month later we were headed back to Ft. Lauderdale but stopped in Tallahassee to see my In-laws. They gave us all good things about the place but the one thing that stood out was it is a great place to raise a family. Two weeks later I got a job at Cracker Barrel Old Time Country Store, still not enough to take care of a family of six. My husband still hadn't found a job yet so things were getting a little tense.

We were in their three-bedroom house, a family of six and one of seven; it came to a point when you know you're not wanted any more. We started looking for different alternatives and found a place called ECHO and they got us all sorts of help, being the Bethany Apartments that took in families for three months at a time so they can get on their feet. After being there they called us up for an opportunity to get in the InnBetween program Transitional-Homes with Lutheran Social Services.

This has been an amazing journey. They have treated us with such kindness and respect through this whole process. Our first week in, my husband started working with a HVAC company, but unfortunately it didn't last. That's when being in this program comes in hand because it is 18 months long and gives him a chance to find work again. We don't have to worry because they continue to provide helpful services. For Thanksgiving they gave dinner, Christmas we received gifts for the kids and I started a budget plan to manage our money so this type of situation doesn't happen again.

Now we both work for Leon County School Board Nutritional Services, our four amazing kids are doing awesome in school and this is because this program gives you a sense of security, you will not fail. It makes you better in life. We are greatly appreciative for this opportunity and thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.”



Community Human Service Partnership Grant Awarded

The Community Human Service Partnership (CHSP) has awarded Lutheran Social Services of North Florida an award totaling \$17,500. Both the Computer Refurbishing and Technical Assistance and the InnBetween programs were recognized for their efforts in not only providing assistance to those in need, but also for maximizing partnerships with various stakeholders and volunteers. CHSP is a joint funding program through the United Way of the Big Bend, the City of Tallahassee, and Leon County. This additional funding will help us make great strides in maintaining homes and everyday costs such as utilities and office supplies.



Mr. Howard Miller

Thank You Killearn United Methodist!

Killearn United Methodist Church graciously delivers food donations every other week. This is an immense help to our InnBetween residents and we are all grateful for your faithful service and generous donations.



Recent Grants and Gifts

- Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod gave a gift of \$10,000
- Charles A. Frueauff Foundation
- Wells Fargo
- Publix Supermarkets
- Tallahassee Chapter Thrivent for Lutherans
- Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
- Sustainable Tallahassee

Thank You to all of our generous supporters and contributors, of whom there are too many to list here!



Donations

- Florida Education Association
- Horizon Communities
- Infinity Software

If you are interested in donating computers or other items please call (850) 575-4309.

Save the Date



Alternative Christmas Markets

John Wesley United Methodist

Saturday December 7th, 9am-4pm

Sunday December 8th, 1pm-4pm

Christ Presbyterian Church

Friday December 13th, 6pm-9pm

Saturday December 14th, 8am-1pm



**Tallahassee
Young Actor's
Theater
production of
Godspell on
June 22, 2014.**

The Faithful Servant

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