

LSS Faith Mission

LSS Food Pantries

LSS CHOICES

Easter 2023

LSS FAITH MISSION

A Second Chance

Born on Easter, Chester was an all-state high school football player who was on track for a scholarship and dreamed of playing professionally. But as bad decisions piled up, he dropped out of school just two credits shy of graduation.

This is when he began touring the country with various bands, selling merchandise — but the rock ‘n’ roll lifestyle eventually caught up with him.

By his 30s, he was struggling with a cocaine addiction, lost his job, cycled in and out of rehab, and experienced homelessness.

In his words: “I had nothing because my addiction actually bankrupted me. Not just financially, but physically and mentally — I was bankrupt.”

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“Thank you for saving my soul.
I don’t think I would have
made it without you.”

Chester

LSS Faith Mission client



A Message of Hope from Rick Davis



**“You are the
real hero in
every story
you read here.”**

When I think of and hear stories like the ones in this newsletter, I’m awestruck by the resiliency of the people we work with and deeply grateful for our supporters who make this impact possible.

With Easter approaching, I wanted to personally thank each and every one of you for helping your neighbors in their greatest time of need. Our task may be daunting, but the trust you’ve placed in us to be good stewards of your generosity means the world to us — and the men, women, and to children we serve.

Many times, our community comes to us when there’s nowhere else to turn, and it’s harrowing to think what could happen to them without the LSS Network of Hope or your support.

Every gift makes an immediate, life-changing difference for every person we shelter, every victim we protect from domestic violence, and every family we feed. None of this would be possible without you.

I believe we all have a purpose here on this Earth — and that’s service to God and service to those in need. I thank you for being servants of the Lord this Easter season; I can’t imagine anything that would be more pleasing in his eyes.

So, it is with profound appreciation that I thank you for your commitment to making the world a better, kinder place through your support of the LSS Network of Hope.

With gratitude,

Rick Davis
Executive Vice President & COO

LSS FAITH MISSION



CHESTER’S STORY cont.

This went on for nearly 20 years, before he was incarcerated for three years after an altercation. Upon his release, he committed to staying clean. Unfortunately, after five years sober, he relapsed for another two.

It was then that Chester fell to his knees and pleaded “God, help me. Please, please help me. I’ll never do drugs ever again. I will do what you tell me to do. Please help me.”

Soon after, he got clean in San Diego before moving back to Columbus to start over at LSS Faith Mission.

Here, he says he found a safe place to lay his head down and a resourceful team who wanted to help him, telling us, “Just to know that somebody cares about my wellbeing is a wonderful feeling to have, to know somebody actually cares about me.” This made all the difference.

Nowadays, he says “I love who I am today. I’m a son, a brother, a father, a nephew. It means a lot. I’m grateful that there was a place here that I could come to.”

When asked if he had a message for our generous donors, he gratefully said: “Thank you so much. Thank you for saving my soul. Thank you for all the small things you do. I don’t think I would have made it without you.”

**“And he has given us this command:
Anyone who loves God must also love
their brother and sister.” —John 4:21**



LSS CHOICES

Turning a New Leaf

Born and raised in Columbus, Monyca was a young single parent when she first experienced domestic violence.

After moving away from home, she was seeing a man who she eventually confronted for his infidelities. In response, he beat her in front of his friends and warned that he'd hit her every time she brought it up.

He kept that promise for a year before Monyca was able to move out with the help of her best friend.

From there, she had a few relationships over the years — but none that threatened physical violence. Then, when she moved back home to Columbus, she got involved with a man who became violent when he drank.

At first, he would break her things, but soon things got worse.

“He was breaking me. I was abused. I was put in the hospital. I had my lip busted, chin busted, and a black eye.”

Enough was enough, she said, “I had to stand up for myself.” So, after her release from the hospital, she came to LSS CHOICES.

Here, in just two months, she was able to receive the care, resources, and supportive services she needed to get back on her feet. Now, she's found her own place and is thriving — saying, “Life is good right now for me.”

To our donors who made this possible, she expressed deep gratitude, saying, “First I would want to thank them for being there for me because they didn't have to. I can honestly say that I love them. And if anybody was abused or needed help, you need to look up CHOICES. CHOICES would be the place to go get that help that you need.”



Support Our Shelter Residents

At LSS Faith Mission and LSS CHOICES, the healing process begins the moment someone steps in our door. You can help by providing our shelter residents with the following items:

- Men's new athletic crew socks
- Men's new athletic shorts (all sizes)
- Men's deodorant
- Full-sized toothpaste

Donations can be dropped off at 217 N. Grant Ave. at the McKee Alley door (south side of building) Mondays, Fridays and second Saturdays of the month from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For questions, please visit our website at Issnetworkofhope.org/get-involved/giveitems/



LSS FOOD PANTRIES

Mark: “The LSS Food Pantries has been a godsend.”

I used to be a contractor and real estate agent, but when I fell off a roof that pretty much ended my work life. Now, I've been disabled for 15 years and unable to walk for 12.

Since I'm unable to work and disability only covers so much, the LSS Food Pantries have been a Godsend for me. I've relied on the food pantry over the years, and thank God for the donors because there have been pinches I've been in where LSS has been my only resource.



I have the experience of being homeless for several months, so I know how hard it is to scrounge food, but being able to find it in a place like this and being able to have access to it the way we do so a real lifesaver.

If I didn't have it, I'd have to be scrimping someplace else, and worrying that I might not be able to afford paying for things like the electricity bill.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank the donors for their generosity and for giving hope to people like me. Thank you, truly.



GIVE MONTHLY, BECOME A FAITHFUL FRIEND TODAY.

This past year has been devastating for so many people in Central Ohio. With historically high inflation and rapidly rising prices, every day more people are coming to us seeking food, shelter, and the chance to rebuild their lives.



Your monthly support could change lives and create a better world for people in need when you join our Faithful Friends program. As a monthly donor, you'll provide life-changing resources like nutritious meals, emergency shelter, job readiness training, health services, supportive services, veteran services, and more.

By joining this special group of monthly donors, you can make a radical difference in the lives of people in need.

As a Faithful Friend, you will be part of a special group of compassionate women and men, all working together to make a real ongoing difference for people in need each and every month, all year round.

Your gift also offers healing and hope to people in need across Ohio. That means your support will help provide meals and shelter to homeless and hungry neighbors who come to LSS Faith Mission in both Franklin and Fairfield counties. You will ensure families struggling with hunger have access to nutritious food at the LSS Food Pantries. And you will bless women and men facing domestic violence with a safe, secure place to stay and heal through LSS CHOICES.

In the spirit of Easter, we're asking you to please help your neighbors in need.

This spring, hundreds of women and men in Central Ohio will have no place to call home. Others will experience the devastation of abuse. And too many families, including children, will go to bed hungry.

Yet, there's hope. With your compassionate generosity, LSS Faith Mission in Franklin and Fairfield counties, LSS CHOICES, and the LSS Food Pantries offer a helping hand to those who are experiencing abuse, hunger, and homelessness in our community.

At the LSS Network of Hope, we are committed to meeting the physical and emotional needs of every single person who comes through our doors, and thanks to you, every gift offers new hope to those who have lost it — hope for a better life.

Please consider giving a gift today by going online to Issnetworkofhope.org/EasterNews or send the enclosed reply slip with your gift. Thank you!



Cutting Through the Noise of Life

Our world is loud. Quiet and rest don't just happen; we have to make space for them. Here are four ways to create more room for peace in your life:

1. Set limits. Overbooked schedules edge out time for rest.
2. Declutter. and simplify your home to enjoy greater rest.
3. Practice the Sabbath. The Jewish tradition of Sabbath means to denote a particular expanse of time as set apart for rest.
4. Plan for the future. The process of creating or updating a will can be surprisingly simple, and it creates immeasurable peace of mind.

For more information about receiving a full copy of the article "6 Ways to Experience More Peace Today" or setting up an Estate Plan in support of LSS, please contact Michele Cenci at mcenci@Issnetworkofhope.org or (614) 429-5494.

"Volunteering for many years at LSS was eye opening. We had the chance to see firsthand the need in our community and what LSS is doing to help. Through our legacy gift, we can help LSS fulfill its mission, and it offers us the chance to help our neighbors as Jesus taught us." — Janelle and Carl

Thank you to our funders:



Stay connected!

