

## When Her Brother Passed Away, Kathy Suddenly Faced Homelessness

**YOUR KINDNESS GAVE HER A SAFE PLACE TO HEAL AND REBUILD HER LIFE.**

Kathy worked for 25 years as a nursing aide, helping elderly patients in nursing homes. In spite of her many years of hard work, the pay was always minimal, and she struggled to stay afloat, often moving in hopes of greener pastures.

As she aged, it became more and more difficult for Kathy to stay on her feet all day, and she began relying on her family for a place to live. Her brothers were always ready to help, but they were considerably older than Kathy – and

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“ I’m just thankful for a place to stay – a good, safe place to stay that’s not on the streets.”

**Kathy**  
LSS Faith Mission Client

### A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL LUSTIG, PRESIDENT AND CEO

Easter reminds me of the renewal I see every day in the lives of people who turn to any of the LSS Network of Hope programs for help. During this season – when spring brings warmth and new life out of the winter cold – your compassionate giving has such a powerful impact. Neighbors in need come here for basics like shelter and nourishing food. But they find so much more...

Thanks to your compassionate generosity, they can experience renewal through comprehensive, life-transforming, support resources. This Easter season, I'm incredibly grateful to have your kind and generous support. You are lifting up our least fortunate neighbors and ensuring they can *rise, renew and rejoice* for a future filled with hope.



Rachel Lustig  
President and CEO

## This Easter Season, Help People in Desperate Need

The high prices of food, gas, rent and other essentials – along with record evictions and a lack of affordable housing – means more people across Central Ohio are facing hardship this spring. But there's a reason for hope!

# Rise

EASTER 2024

Your support can offer our neighbors in urgent need meals, care and much more. A hot nutritious meal is often one of the first things a person receives when they come to LSS Faith Mission or LSS CHOICES. Likewise, many families depend on LSS Food Pantries for healthy groceries that ensure their children remain well fed. These resources meet the most pressing needs of neighbors who are struggling, opening the door of opportunity for each person to *rise, renew and rejoice* this Easter season.

**Please send your generous donation today!**

“The sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays.”  
– Malachi 4:2

### PLEASE GIVE CLOTHES AND SELF-CARE ITEMS

At LSS Faith Mission, people start to recover the moment they walk through our door. You can help by providing neighbors in need with the following items:



- Men's new athletic crew socks
- Men's new athletic shorts (all sizes)
- Men's deodorant
- Men's new underwear
- 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.

**Questions? Please visit our website at [lssnetworkofhope.org/get-involved/giveitems](https://lssnetworkofhope.org/get-involved/giveitems)**

# You Gave Kathy a Pathway to Healing and Renewal

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when the last one passed away, she had no time to plan her next step. *"His wife threw me out in the dead of winter,"* Kathy recalls. *"I had nowhere to go except my car."*

With tears in her eyes, she remembers the difficulty and trauma of that time: *"I stayed in my car for three nights. I even got the little heat pads you put in your shoe and lined them all up on top of the blanket."*

## Hope Renewed at LSS Faith Mission

Desperate for a decent place to stay, Kathy ended up taking refuge at a different shelter – but it was rough and scary, and she didn't feel safe. Thankfully, someone noticed her very vulnerable state and referred her to LSS Faith Mission.

The difference was incredible. Not only did Kathy feel safe, she felt cared for and encouraged. She was extremely appreciative of the "creature comforts" that

most people take for granted. *"I thank God for a shower, a place to stay and three hot meals,"* she says.

As her life stabilized, we connected Kathy to a job training program for seniors. *"They're retraining me to work with computers,"* she says. This has given her new hope for her future, and she's determined to work again.

For all these reasons, Kathy is full of gratitude this Easter season. *"I'm just thankful for a place to stay – a good, safe place to stay that's not on the streets."* Thanks to your generous support of Faith Mission, she has all that, plus new hope for the future, too.



## LSS CHOICES

## Healing After Years of Abuse

THANKS TO YOU, EARLENE FOUND HEALING AND HOPE AT LSS CHOICES.

Earlene was physically and emotionally abused by her husband for decades. *"I was confused, I was used, I was beaten,"* she says. When the relationship began 30 years ago, Earlene recalls there were no warning signs. *"He just pretended to be somebody he was not."* But the man who said he loved her repeatedly struck her, stalked her, even threw her out of the house. *"I felt unworthy. I felt so low that I attempted to take my own life because I didn't think it was worth living,"* she remembers.

The abuse reached a terrible climax when Earlene's husband held a gun to her head. She managed to escape and fled to a local hospital, where a staff member called the police and referred her to LSS CHOICES.

When she walked through our doors, that was Earlene's first step on the journey towards healing. *"I love CHOICES. I love the staff here,"* she says. *"I love my therapist and the tools she brings to my attention. She's helping me grow in confidence."*

Sadly, domestic violence is still on the rise in Central Ohio, with a 257% increase in homicides in 2023 according to Columbus Division of Police, but thanks to you there's hope for anyone in that terrible situation. For more than four decades, LSS CHOICES has provided the only safe shelter in Franklin County for domestic violence victims and their children. That's just one reason why residents like Earlene are so grateful for your incredible support!

## Everybody Needs Faithful Friends

When times are hard, it's good to know there's a friend or family member you can rely on. But neighbors who are hungry, homeless and victims of abuse don't always have anyone to turn to in their hour of need. Today, you can stand in as their caring *Faithful Friend* by sending a monthly gift to support the LSS Network of Hope.

Your monthly support as a *Faithful Friend* will provide a steady stream of life-changing resources like nourishing meals, emergency shelter, job readiness training, health services, support for veterans and everything else a person may need to get back on their feet. By joining this special group of monthly donors, you'll be making an incredible difference in the lives of people all over our community.

To sign up, visit [lssnetworkofhope.org/donate-monthly](https://lssnetworkofhope.org/donate-monthly) or scan the QR code.



**Your gift offers healing and hope to people in need across the LSS Network of Hope. That includes:**



Meals and shelter to homeless and hungry neighbors at LSS Faith Mission in both Franklin and Fairfield counties.



Nutritious food for families struggling with hunger at the LSS Food Pantries.



Safe refuge and healing for victims of domestic violence and their children at LSS CHOICES.

15-LSSOH-0324-N

### THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



STAY CONNECTED

