



Life as Greg Knew it was Coming Undone



**YOU'VE GIVEN HIM HOPE FOR
THE HOLIDAYS!**

Greg has seen good times and tough times. But this past year, life for the retired Air Force veteran seemed to be crumbling down around him.

Within a matter of months, Greg had lost three relatives who were dear to him, including his brother. If that wasn't hard enough, his wife filed for divorce and demanded that he move out. After arrangements with friends fell through, Greg was out of options. Devastated and with no money, no car and no place to go, Greg walked to a local park where he slept on an empty bench, the first of many such nights.

Greg never imagined this is how life would turn out. After all, until recently, he'd always had a job and been self-sufficient. As he struggled to figure out his next step, Greg remembered hearing about LSS Faith Mission and

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LSS FAITH MISSION



“I’m so grateful and glad I wound up here.”

Greg
LSS Faith Mission Client



A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL LUSTIG, PRESIDENT AND CEO

This Christmas, because you care, struggling neighbors turning to Lutheran Social Services and our Network of Hope are finding real hope in midst of impossible circumstances.

Some are facing homelessness. Others have escaped domestic violence. Still others are scraping to keep their families fed. Whatever their story, each one of them is receiving life-changing help, wrapped up in the hope and spirit of the season.

That's why I'm so grateful for caring friends like

you. You make it all possible, and lives are being restored through your compassionate generosity. You can read about two of these folks — Greg and Christa — in this newsletter. I urge you to spend a few minutes reading their stories. Then I hope you will open your heart once again with a special gift to our *Hope for the Holidays* campaign.

Thank you for your amazing kindness, compassion and support. And Merry Christmas!



R. Lustig

Rachel Lustig
President and CEO

Deck the Halls and Share the Joy

Shopping for one's child is a highlight of the holiday season. But for the residents of LSS CHOICES, doing so is simply out of reach.

Through your support, these parents will have the opportunity to select toys and other gifts for their kids as part of our annual Deck the Halls event. What's more, the children can also pick out special gifts for their parents.

Thank you for sharing the joy of the season in such a meaningful way!

creating a better world by serving people in need.



LSS FAITH MISSION



Hope for the Holidays

Bring real help and hope to people across the LSS Network of Hope who are facing hunger, homelessness, domestic abuse and other crises this holiday season. Your generous gift today helps provide:

- Hot, nourishing meals and groceries
- Shelter, personal hygiene items and supportive services
- Job preparedness training
- Emotional healing and life restoration
- Hope for the holidays!

Thank you for sharing the blessings of the season!

“ This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. ”
– Luke 2:12, NIV

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the good we're doing in the community. With nothing to lose, he gathered up his few belongings and made his way over to us.

Upon his arrival, Greg was somewhat apprehensive. Asking others for help was new territory for him. But through the support of caring friends like you, we were able to warmly welcome him with nourishing meals and safe shelter, and he was quickly put at ease.

"I didn't have any money, so just having something to eat was a blessing," Greg says. "I'm so grateful and glad I wound up here. I don't know where I would be without Faith Mission."

Our team is now working with the Veteran's Administration to help Greg secure permanent housing. As you can imagine, he's filled with gratitude. But hundreds of more people who are hurting will be turning to Faith Mission for help and hope this holiday season, and we must be ready to meet their urgent needs.

Your generous support of our *Hope for the Holidays* campaign will help reach them with Christmas-season meals, shelter, life-changing care and hope. Thank you for making the season brighter for those in need!



When Christa Felt Trapped, You Provided a Way Out

Christa was in urgent need of a fresh start. A victim of human trafficking, she'd been forcefully moved to California and controlled through addiction for two years, with her captors shutting down her phone and social media to eliminate all outside contact.

Thankfully, after Christa's mother and sister filed a missing person report, police officers spotted her, got her off the streets and provided for transportation back to Ohio. Unfortunately, life didn't get easier. Upon her return, Christa started a relationship with a partner who quickly turned abusive after learning she was pregnant.

When an altercation between them put Christa in the hospital, the staff referred her to LSS CHOICES, our shelter for victims of intimate partner violence. *"I was kind of scared at first, but once I got here, I was relieved,"* Christa says.

Thanks to generous friends like you, CHOICES has been nothing short of a blessing for Christa. Through your support, she's benefitted from nourishing food, safe shelter, a clean environment

and an understanding case manager who helped her secure an apartment of her own.

Today, Christa and her sweet baby are doing great, and Christa is going back to school to become a licensed practical nurse.

"CHOICES has changed my life," Christa says. *"When I walked in, I was depressed and discouraged. But today, I'm happy, healthy and I just keep pressing on — keep accomplishing my goals. I really didn't think I would get this far, and I appreciate all the people who donate time, energy and money."*

Thank you for giving people like Christa a fresh start — and hope!



Your Legacy of Compassion Begins Here

Making a planned gift to LSS can be the start of something wonderful — a legacy of compassion that will impact our community for generations to come. And whether it's through your estate plan or one of the many planned giving options, such a gift can also help you reach your personal financial goals by:

- Providing an income stream for you and your spouse;
- Avoiding or deferring capital gains taxes;
- Taking advantage of immediate tax deductions and other benefits.

Learn more about establishing an estate plan in support of LSS at LSSLegacy.org.

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.

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THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



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