

## With No Family and Little Money, How Would this Retiree Escape an Apartment Bully?

**YOU HELPED DONALD FIND THE PEACE HE DESERVED AT LSS FAITH MISSION.**

Back in his working days, Donald performed an amazing range of jobs. He was a cook, a construction worker, a roofer, a landscaper and an associate minister, just to name a few. So when he reached retirement age, all he really wanted was a peaceful place to live and relax.

Three days after Donald moved into his new apartment, his hopes for a quiet life were dashed. "For some reason," he recalls, "this guy

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“ It’s nice here. I sleep comfortably. ”

**Donald**  
LSS Faith Mission Client



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

*It is so easy to take our peace for granted...* until it is stolen from us. It's stressful enough managing conversations and social media during times of continuous change where new challenges arise every day. But when someone feels unsafe or faces serious threats, the emotional toll can be even more profound. Donald and Tanisha both experienced this firsthand. Often, getting out of a dangerous situation is just the first step toward healing.

Fortunately, your support for Lutheran Social Services helps restore peace in our hurting neighbors' lives.

Something as simple as a meal and a bed for the night brings hope to people who are hungry, homeless or in need of refuge from domestic violence. Longer-term, the services you help provide offer safety, security and lasting life change.

**Thank you for caring.  
Have a safe, relaxing and  
peaceful summer!**



*R. Lustig*  
Rachel Lustig  
LSS President  
and CEO

**“** *In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.* **”**  
– Psalm 4:8

# Our Neighbors Need Your Support This Summer

There is never a good time to be homeless. Summer in Ohio brings its own dangers — dehydration, heat exhaustion, even deadly heat stroke. Many of our vulnerable neighbors need Lutheran Social Services during these months. However, while the need increases, giving often slows down.

Your generous support is critical to keeping the care flowing throughout the summer. Here's who you will reach:

- Families who visit the LSS Food Pantries to help feed their children during the summer when school lunches aren't available.
- Men and women who have lost jobs, savings and homes.
- Victims of domestic violence and their children fleeing abuse or working to recover and rebuild after experiencing trauma.
- People who struggle with poverty, grief or other devastating crises.

Your support will go right to work providing nourishing meals, safe shelter and life-transforming healing services for our neighbors in need.

**Please give today — and again in July and August, if you can. Or consider a larger gift to cover all three months. Give at [lssnetworkofhope.org/SummerNews](https://lssnetworkofhope.org/SummerNews) or use the enclosed reply slip. Thank you!**



## THESE VETERANS SERVED US. THANK YOU FOR SERVING THEM!

Last year, **more than 200 U.S. veterans** received life-changing aid from LSS homeless programs you support.

These programs include emergency shelter, transitional housing and Supportive Services for Veteran Families, a VA-supported program designed to quickly get homeless veterans and their families into permanent housing.

**Thank you for blessing these American heroes!**



# Retirement Didn't Start as Planned, But You're Giving Donald Another Chance.

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*just started bullying me, harassing me, calling me all kinds of nasty names and telling me what he was going to do to me."*

Before long, the encounters happened every day and continued for months. Donald approached the apartment's manager, who told him to call the police. But when police confronted Donald's bully, the man denied any wrongdoing. Without proof, it was Donald's word against his.

Donald not only felt threatened but completely helpless to stop the harassment. He could not go on living in fear, but he had no good options. No family to turn to, no financial resources to find someplace better. In time, he became so miserable that he was nearly suicidal. Finally, the building's owner asked Donald to move. Because Donald lived on a small fixed income, he was unable to find another apartment he could afford.

**Then, someone close to Donald suggested LSS Faith Mission.**

Here, Donald began to recover from the stress of the past months. *"It's nice here,"* he says. *"I sleep comfortably."* He appreciates having three meals a day, along with the medical attention at our LSS Health Center for a previous traumatic brain injury and foot care. And we helped set him up with housing assistance.

By the time you read this, Donald will be living on his own again. He is hopeful that what he suffered at his last residence was an isolated incident. *"I believe in being a friend,"* Donald tells us, and we hope he makes many in his new home.

**Thank you for being a friend to Donald and all the men and women who've taken refuge at Faith Mission.**



Tanisha thought she had found her soulmate. But as the years passed, his true colors were revealed more and more, and they were black and blue. *"I was being hit, punched and slammed,"* she recalls. *"I was steadily in the ER. Once, I had to have my left ear glued back on."* That was the deciding factor for Tanisha.

Leaving her home – and her partner – in New Orleans, Tanisha came to Ohio to live with her grandmother. However, she could only stay a short time due to a clause in her grandmother's lease. Tanisha now had nowhere to live. Even worse, her abusive partner was trying to track her down.

*"I was never homeless before,"* Tanisha says. *"I was like, 'What do I do?'"* A women's shelter referred her to LSS CHOICES, our shelter for victims of domestic violence, to deal with her abuse issues. *"I'm glad I had a support system."* She says she is *"a whole different person"* today because of that.

*"The Tanisha who came into CHOICES was shy, didn't speak to anybody. It took me two months to sit with people in the dining room and socialize,"* Tanisha tells us. Now, she is strong and confident. And she cherishes her freedom from abuse.

*"I don't want to go back to that situation,"* Tanisha says of her past. Thanks to you, she won't have to. And now, as a case manager at the women's shelter that referred her to CHOICES, she helps lead other women to stable, independent lives. None of this would have been possible without your support. Thank you!

## Be a Faithful Friend – Sign up Today!

In times of trial, we all need someone to turn to for a hand up. For our hungry and homeless neighbors, that someone is you. Your gifts to Lutheran Social Services make a big difference. And, you can make an even greater impact as a *Faithful Friend*.

It's a simple but significant commitment to a monthly gift of support. You will provide a steady stream of vital resources like nourishing meals, emergency shelter, employment resources, health services, support for veterans and so much more. By joining this special group of monthly donors, you'll help hurting people get back on their feet all year round.

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



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**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.

### THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



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