





## LSS CHOICES

## A New Purpose

by Willis

“I might be homeless, but I have a purpose,” says Willis, a resident at Faith Mission. “There are lot of people in this world who are lost, and they feel they don’t belong here. I’ve been in their shoes. My purpose is to be a servant and leader to show them they do belong here.”

Willis was born in “the hood,” in Hartford, Connecticut. It was a world of gangs, violence, and abuse—verbal, mental, physical, and sexual. In high school, he was a star track athlete by day, but he ran the streets at night. He felt like he never belonged anywhere. All he wanted was the family he never had.

He went to college on a track scholarship, but he soon gave up. Shortly after, he met a young woman and tried to start a family. Two weeks after his baby daughter was born, his girlfriend left with the baby and moved to another state.

“I thought my purpose was to be a husband and father. It didn’t work out. I take the blame,” Willis says. “I still hadn’t dealt with my past. I needed someplace to heal.”

He moved to Columbus to start over. He struggled, however, and he ended up homeless. Then he came to LSS Faith Mission.

“First and foremost, I have food and shelter here,” Willis says. “But there’s a lot more. I found a job working at Ohio State, and I’m getting ready to move into



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my own housing. Living here has meant a lot. It’s given me a sense of hope.”

Willis is also now in counseling to deal with his past. “It’s giving me the chance to work on myself, and to work on a game plan, not just for today, but for the future. It’s given me a new sense of purpose.”

In the fall, Willis hopes to enroll at OSU to study psychology and criminology, so he can start an organization to help youth get off the streets.

“I’m grateful for the donors,” he says. “Because of them, I’m going to get where I want to go.”

## Help End the Abuse

Thanks to your support, LSS CHOICES provides victims like Jessica with the resources they need to heal and to rebuild their lives. Throughout October, which is National Domestic Violence Awareness month, we are excited to present Choose Hope, a fundraising campaign to support LSS CHOICES and the community we serve.

Be sure to tune in to our 30-minute Choose Hope special airing on September 15 at 8 p.m. on WBNS 10TV to understand more about intimate partner violence, hear stories from survivors, and learn about the shelter and services offered at LSS CHOICES. To donate, please visit [Issnetworkofhope.org/choosehope](https://www.issnetworkofhope.org/choosehope).

*If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, please call our Crisis Hotline at **614-224-4663** or visit [Issnetworkofhope.org/choices](https://www.issnetworkofhope.org/choices).*

LSS CHOICES

CHOOSE  
HOPE

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOGETHER

LSS NETWORK OF HOPE



## Your support is vital to struggling neighbors this Thanksgiving season

This fall, rising costs for food, fuel, and housing are pushing even more of our struggling neighbors over the edge into hunger and homelessness. They need our help.

As we head into the Thanksgiving season, your generosity will provide them with nutritious meals and safe shelter. But even more, you will give them hope, as well as the resources they need to rebuild their lives. Thanks to you, we will be able to meet the physical and emotional needs of every single person who comes through our doors.

Please consider giving a gift today by going online to [Issnetworkofhope.org/donate](https://Issnetworkofhope.org/donate) or send the enclosed reply slip with your gift.

Thank you for your generosity. You are providing care and hope to struggling neighbors all across Ohio. God bless you this Thanksgiving season!

**“Don’t withhold good from someone who deserves it, when it is in your power to do so.” — Proverbs 3:27**

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.

## LSS Food Pantries Need Your Help

As inflation approaches a 40-year high, increasing numbers of individuals, seniors, and families depend on the LSS Food Pantries to put food on their tables. In Franklin County, demand has surged by 28% this year over last.

Meanwhile, food donations, especially from our retail partners, have decreased, with meat donations decreasing as much as 42%. In the current fiscal year, our food pantries paid \$23,000 for meat when before we could rely on donations alone.

LSS is now paying at least 35% or more for foods and products to keep up with demand. Other items such as tuna, peanut butter, and personal care items have also climbed in price.

We expect that our neighbors in need who are already living on the edge will face even greater instability in the weeks and months ahead.

**Your support for the LSS Food Pantries is critical. Please help people threatened with hunger in these challenging times.**

Thank you to our funders



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COLUMBUS



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