Helping families find hope

“The only thing you can do is wake up and say, ‘God has a plan for me, so it has to get better.’”
—Evelyn

When Evelyn’s husband suffered a heart attack last year, she felt overwhelmed and unsure of her family’s future. She was already skipping meals so her kids could eat. Her 20-year-old son also frequently skipped meals so his younger siblings wouldn’t go hungry.

“You feel like you’re drowning. You can’t keep your head above water, you feel like everything is just collapsing,” Evelyn says about her family’s current struggles.

Read about the difference you are making for Evelyn’s family on page 2.

Yes, I want to provide meals, shelter, and care this Easter season to struggling neighbors across Ohio.

I’m enclosing: ☐ $15 ☐ $30 ☐ $50 ☐ $150 ☐ $_________
I’d like to give monthly and join Faithful Friends. My first gift of $________ is enclosed.

To give a gift online, go to lssnetworkofhope.org/EasterNews

DONATIONS

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LSS Network of Hope
500 W. Wilson Bridge Rd., Suite 245, Worthington, OH 43085

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER

☐ YES ☐ NO

Donations can be dropped off every day from 7 to 7 at Dock 1 at the rear of 245 N Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215. For more info, please contact Nick Mullings at nmullings@lssnetworkofhope.org or 614-999-1132.

• Pots and Pans
• Blankets
• Bed sheets
• Toilet paper / paper towels
• Towels / washcloths
• Gallon-size ziplock bags
• Silverware
• Shower curtains / hooks
• Disinfecting wipes
• Cooking / serving utensils
• Dish sets and cups (heavy-duty plastic or metal preferred)

Thank You for your prayers and compassionate support!
Meeting the need of hungry families

Thankfully, your compassion and generosity have been there when Evelyn and her family needed it most. The food they receive at the LSS Food Pantries helps them get through the month and provides nutritious meals that Evelyn can’t always afford at the grocery store.

“If it had not been for the LSS Food Pantries, I don’t know what we would have done,” she says. “You helped me make meals for my kids. I’m so grateful for that.”

You are blessing lives in our community this Easter season

Sadly, thousands of children, families, and seniors across Ohio are struggling just like Evelyn and her family. Often, it can take months or years for a family to fully recover from a health issue or job loss.

It’s during those difficult times when parents begin skipping meals so their children don’t have to. Or when people take on multiple jobs to pay the bills but still can’t afford to buy groceries for their families.

“It’s physically and emotionally draining. It takes a toll on everything,” Evelyn says.

That’s why your continued support is so vital to our neighbors in need. Your generosity provides food to put on the table for their families and gives hope that a fresh start is always possible—what the message of Easter is all about.

“When hunger is not a good feeling for anybody, and because of the donors, we don’t have to feel that feeling as much,” Evelyn says. “Thank you—you make such a difference.”

Continued from the cover

Finding blessing and hope after living on the streets

by Michael

I worked at Buckeye Steel for 14 years before it closed down. After that, I worked for a power washing company but had a serious accident in 2013 that put me out of work indefinitely, followed by a mini stroke while riding a motorcycle. Even though I was riding at a slow speed I broke my neck and have had two major surgeries.

Before coming to LSS Faith Mission, I was on disability and lived on the street for a month. It was difficult to make ends meet and I was miserable living on the streets. Sometimes I had to wait three or four days before I found a place where I could take a shower. When you’ve had two neck surgeries it’s really hard not having a place to sleep.

“My big word for me is ‘blessing.’”

—Michael, LSS Faith Mission client

LSS FAITH MISSION

The Blessing of LSS Faith Mission

Coming to LSS Faith Mission has been a blessing to me. Someone I knew was staying here at the time and they talked me into coming in off the street and doing things the right way. I’m just blessed to be here.

I still have one surgery left, and I’m hopeful that after recovering I can find work again. My case manager has been helpful in finding me housing. Everything I’ve received here was something that I couldn’t do on my own. The big word for me is “blessing.” I’m so grateful for how they’ve helped me and so many other people.

Many of the neighbors we serve are hungry and hurting with nowhere to turn, just like Michael. To help provide more meals, shelter, and care this Easter season, please visit lssnetworkofhope.org/EasterNews. Thank you for your support!

New LSS CHOICES shelter opens its doors

After years of being overcrowded in an outdated building, LSS CHOICES moved into their new facility in January. Thanks to the generosity and compassion of supporters like you, LSS CHOICES can now house double the domestic violence victims and their families, increasing the number of beds from 51 to 120.

“We are now able to provide victims a more welcoming environment that better supports dignity and healing as they leave deeply traumatic situations,” said Sue Villilo, assistant vice president of community-based services for LSS.

“Thank you for all you do for individuals and families in need across Ohio. To have the ability to serve the number of people that come to us for shelter, meals, and care is so hugely important. We couldn’t do it without supporters like you and the compassion in action

Your support helps provide meals and shelter to homeless and hungry neighbors who come to LSS Faith Mission in both Franklin and Fairfield counties. You ensure families struggling with hunger have access to nutritious food at the LSS Food Pantries. And you bless women and men facing domestic violence with a safe, secure place to stay and heal through LSS CHOICES. If you’re able, please use the form on the reverse side to give another kind donation today.

LSS CHOICES

The new 47,000 square foot shelter is laid out as “households,” comprised of small groups of bedrooms, bathrooms, a laundry room, and a sitting room where residents can interact with one another.

The new facility also includes indoor and outdoor play spaces, updated security technology, and even a kennel and exercise area for pets. Victims will often stay in an abusive situation for fear of abuse to a family pet. Now they have a place for furry family members to run and play!

LSS CHOICES could not have opened the doors on this beautiful new facility without the incredible generosity of the central Ohio community. Thank you for helping us build a safe, secure place for domestic abuse victims to heal—and start a new chapter in their lives.

For more information on our new shelter, please visit lssnetworkofhope.org/choices.

A message of hope from Sue Villilo

From all of us at the LSS Network of Hope, we wish you an Easter full of blessings and hope with your loved ones.

When I think of Easter, I think of how there’s a crucifixion before there’s a resurrection—that it’s often darkest before the dawn. I think that’s something we all experience in some way, and is certainly true for the clients who come through our doors.

The hope found in the Easter message is present all the time, whether at LSS Faith Mission, LSS Food Pantries, or LSS CHOICES. Your generosity and compassion blesses each person who comes to us in need and reminds them that hope is never out of reach.

In this issue of LSS Focus, you’ll get a chance to hear from families who have had those dark moments. And while they were waiting for the dawn to appear, your generosity was there to help them through.

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With gratitude,

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LSS FAITH MISSION

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