



LSS FOCUS

Winter 2019

News from the Network of Hope

LSS Faith Mission | LSS Food Pantries | LSS CHOICES

LSS FAITH MISSION

Blessing neighbors with care—and hope

“You think,
‘What can I do?
Who can I turn to?’
Not a lot of places
in Columbus
do what Faith
Mission does.”

—Demetreist,
LSS Faith Mission client

After a relationship ended, Demetreist found himself homeless. He had no plans for how to move forward, no family to depend on, and no place to go.

Thanks to your generous support, he was able to come to LSS Faith Mission and work to get his life back on track.

Read more about how your support helps neighbors like Demetreist on page 2

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A message of hope from Sue Villilo



I feel so grateful we are able to do the work we do because of the support we have from people like you, especially at this special time of year.

One of the most humbling things we see at the holidays is

how grateful people are for the meals and small gifts we are able to provide. They really value and appreciate what they receive, and what we provide is only possible thanks to your generosity.

I wanted to share a story with you that beautifully demonstrates how your support is such a blessing to people in our community. We had an elderly man come to our shelter, and he had no family—or maybe he had been disconnected from his family for a very long time.

His gratitude for what he received at Christmas—thanks to your generosity—was so heartfelt. This man was literally beaming. It was the simple act of showing someone they are wanted and valued.

Seeing someone who was completely alone find a family here for the holidays—that is what you are providing for neighbors who are struggling through very difficult circumstances. Thank you for your faithful support that provides the opportunity for neighbors in need to find a loving caring community.

On behalf of all the people we serve and all of us at the LSS Network of Hope, we wish a blessed holiday season to you and your loved ones.

With gratitude,

Sue Villilo

Sue Villilo
Assistant Vice President of
Community-Based Services, LSS



Continued from the cover

“During the holidays, when I don’t have somewhere to go, I can come down here and get a meal—a hot meal. That means a lot.”

—Demetreist,
LSS Faith Mission client

Helping start a new chapter

“Being homeless is one of those situations where you really start to evaluate your life. There’s a lot of depression,” Demetreist says. “You think, ‘What can I do? Who can I turn to?’ Not a lot of places in Columbus do what Faith Mission does.”

Your support helped make it possible for Demetreist to receive the support and stability he needed to start a new chapter in his life. He used Faith Mission’s resource center to find two jobs and an apartment. He now works as a cook at two restaurants in Columbus.

“The services they provide here are awesome. I don’t know if people can fully realize everything they do here. They feed you three times a day and they’ve really helped me get on track,” Demetreist says.

Your support blesses our community during the Christmas season and all year long

For thousands of individuals and families across Ohio, one unforeseen circumstance can lead to homelessness or job loss. Just like Demetreist, it can take months to recover—sometimes it takes years. Facing these difficulties during the holiday season can be especially painful and overwhelming.

Thanks to your generosity to LSS Faith Mission, Demetreist and so many more neighbors in need have somewhere to turn to get back on their feet.

“During the holidays, when I don’t have somewhere to go, I can come down here and get a meal—a hot meal,” Demetreist says. “That means a lot. Not everyone gets that.”

It makes me want to cry that this whole place is run by donations from people who care. It means a lot that someone out there cares that I have somewhere to sleep and something to eat.”

Thank you for blessing neighbors like Demetreist and showing you care. Your compassionate support continues to help the people who are struggling all across Ohio with Christmas meals, vital care, and more. We are deeply grateful for your generosity!

LSS FOOD PANTRIES

When college students struggle—your support is there

Frank is a student at Columbus College of Art & Design and visited the LSS Food Pantries recently. As a full-time student, he's struggling to make ends meet while he finishes his degree. Hunger among college students is high—and is only recently coming to light as a major issue nationally, including in Ohio. We're grateful to Frank for sharing his story with us.

I'm a full-time student at CCAD, and am between jobs while I try to graduate. Previously, I have worked as a server at restaurants and I also try to sell my art. Right now, I'm a starving artist—literally.

There are a lot of feelings you go through when you don't have enough

to eat. I try to be an optimist and think something will come along, but I have to skip meals here and there. Some students at my school have money, but there are definitely a lot in similar situations like me. There's no question that kids are hungry.

I'm so grateful I can come here to the food pantry. I like the fresh stuff—the vegetables and fruit mostly. Canned goods and cereal are always good because they have a long shelf life.

If I could talk to donors personally, I would shake their hands and say thank you. Keep doing what you are doing—there's no shortage of hungry people. Keep giving and helping out—thank you for all you do.



“Right now, I’m a starving artist—literally.”

—Frank, College student and LSS Food Pantries guest

If you'd like to help provide nutritious food to individuals and families facing hunger in Ohio, please visit Issnetworkofhope.org/foodpantries.

LSS FAITH MISSION

Your support is vital to struggling neighbors this Christmas season

For our hungry and homeless neighbors, Christmas isn't a time of celebration and joy. It can be cold and unforgiving on the streets. With no loved ones to spend the holidays with, it's a time of year that feels lonely and, all too often, hopeless.

Thankfully, your support gives them somewhere to turn during one of the most difficult times of the year. A Christmas-season meal can provide the nourishment our neighbors need—and give them a place to belong during the holidays.

That's why I'm hoping we can count on your generosity again today. Starting with gifts of just \$15, you can bless someone's life in our community this Christmas season



and show them the hope found through God's love.

Your compassionate support will help provide meals and shelter this Christmas season for neighbors who come to LSS Faith Mission in both Franklin and Fairfield counties. For people experiencing hunger and homelessness, that first meal can be the start of renewed hope that a new life is possible.

Thank you for providing meals, vital care, and hope to people in need all across Ohio. We are deeply grateful for the compassion, prayers, and support you so generously give to the neighbors who need it most—at Christmas and throughout the year.

Please consider giving a gift today—any amount will help be a blessing to children, families, and seniors in our community this Christmas. To make your donation today, go online to Issnetworkofhope.org/ChristmasNews.

Your 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 FAITH MISSION

Help make Christmas special for families in need

Each year, friends and supporters like you make our Deck the Halls event one of the most special for the individuals and families we serve.

We will be having Deck the Halls celebrations for both LSS Faith Mission and LSS CHOICES. On December 7, from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., volunteers are needed at LSS Faith Mission to help decorate the community kitchen and make decorations for CHOICES. On December 14, from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., volunteers can wrap presents at LSS Faith Mission for the residents who will be with us over the holidays.

We hope to see you there! If you can't come on December 7 or December 14, please consider donating gifts. Thank you.



Gift ideas for men:

- Insulated travel mug
- Single-packet hot chocolate mix
- Insulated winter gloves
- Thermal boot socks
- Lip balm
- Cocoa butter lotion (full size)
- \$5 gift card (Wendy's, McDonalds, Subway, Burger King)

Gift ideas for women:

- Insulated travel mugs
- Single-packet hot chocolate mix
- Journal
- Thermal boot socks
- Lip balm
- Fragrant Lotion/body wash/body spray (full size)
- \$5 gift card (Wendy's, McDonalds, Subway)



Gift ideas for kids:

- Action figures (no weapons)
- Ethnic baby/Barbie dolls
- Cars
- Craft kits/art sets
- Legos



To RSVP or for more information, please contact Mollie Vrable at mvrable@issnetworkofhope.org or call her at 614-224-6617, ext. 2196.

Church spotlight: The impact of serving

Pope Francis says this about the poor: "They have much to teach us. Not only do they share in the *sensus fidei* (sense of faith), but in their difficulties they know the suffering Christ. We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them." Grace of God Lutheran Church has been taking part in feeding the hungry at LSS Faith Mission since our congregation began in 2003.

I have heard many times, "I think I received more than I gave." It is important, whether we are lifelong Lutherans or new to the faith, to be evangelized by more than a sermon or a bible study. We need to be evangelized by the word made flesh.

That opportunity is available at LSS Faith Mission. As you bless others in your serving, you will be amazed at how your life and your congregation will be blessed as well.

Rev. Mark Diemer, Pastor
Grace of God Lutheran Church



Thank you to our funders



Stay connected!



Yes, I want to provide meals, shelter, and care this Christmas 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.

I'd like my gift to help the following program:
 LSS Faith Mission LSS Food Pantries LSS CHOICES
 Please make your check payable to LSS.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send a receipt for your records.



To give a gift online, go to Issnetworkofhope.org/ChristmasNews

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

VISA MASTERCARD AMEX DISCOVER

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____ SECURITY CODE _____ AMOUNT _____

PHONE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Thank You