

Lutheran Social Services of Montana



Ministry On Your Behalf

Rev. David W. Peters
Executive
Director



Once in a while I'll be talking with a pastor or church member who will say to me, "Our community is far from any of your offices, we really don't have much to do with LSS!" It frustrates me to hear those words because though an LSS-MT office may be miles and miles away, I am certain that the presence of LSS-MT is in that person's church or community. While people might not always "see" LSS-MT in their midst, LSS-MT is in their midst!

I spend a number of Sundays with congregations throughout Montana (I'm waiting for an invitation to N. Wyoming!). Wherever I've been, someone has come up to me and said, "We adopted our son or daughter through LSS," or "I was adopted through LSS" or "I placed a child through LSS!"

Our third "Spiritual Accompaniment In Disaster" training was at the College of Great Falls. During the training

a college employee pulled me aside and said, "LSS means a lot to me...I was adopted through LSS!" Our board of directors was eating supper together at a restaurant near Polson last August. The owner asked me, "What is this group?" I told him and he said, "LSS means a lot to me, my two nephews were adopted through LSS." I was in a store the other day making



Janell, James, Zachary & Nicholas...Finalization Day for Nicholas!

a purchase when someone saw the words, Lutheran Social Services of Montana in my billfold. She said, "LSS means a lot to me, when I was pregnant one of your counselors helped me!"

It's about a ministry on your behalf! Ministry on behalf of people who believe helping a birthmother sort through the issues of an unplanned

pregnancy, or helping a child find a place in a forever home, or helping an elder eat with dignity (see the Care Team Ministry article on page 2), or helping pastors and others better respond to trauma and disaster (see about SAID on page 4) is the work of Christ.

While our ministry is supported through benevolence dollars and through service fees, over 25% of our budget depends upon the generosity of individuals and groups - people who value ministry on their behalf; people who say aloud and in their hearts, "LSS means a lot to me!" Thanks to all of you!

Inside....

- Care Team Ministry 2
- Adoption Journey 2
- Hearts Joined... Adoptive Placements July-Sept 2
- Prayer Shawl Ministry 3
- Meet Our Staff...Gloria Satterfield 3
- Upcoming Events 4
- Packaged With Care 4

Visit us on the web at
www.lssmt.org

"Joining Hearts in Hope!"



Increase Your Support!

Over the years, Lutheran Social Services has been blessed with many generous donors who demonstrate their support for our ministry.

Several of their financial gifts have been supplemented through a wonderful gifting program from

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans called the GivingPlus Program.

Through the GivingPlus Program, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans contributes \$1 for every \$2 that a Thrivent Financial member donates. (*Certain minimum and maximum limits apply.*)

Through the GivingPlus Program, you can help Lutheran Social Services meet important needs in a way that increases the impact of your gift. For more information on how you can be a partner in our ministry and participate in the GivingPlus

program, please see the enclosed GivingPlus Gift form or call us at (406) 761-4341 for questions or more information.

We encourage you to make the most of your financial gift to our ministry through the GivingPlus program!

Golf Challenge 3...A Great Success!

Thanks to all who participated in this year's Golf Challenge 3 on

August 28th! This year we raised close to \$8,000! Congratulations

to Faith Lutheran in Hamilton for being the first winner of the

"Church Champs" Traveling Trophy!

Care Team Ministry

Libby Artley,
Statewide
Care Team Coordinator



Recently a handful of trained Care Team volunteers in Billings have taken part in the St. John's Lutheran Ministry's Twice Fed program, feeding those who need a little help. I am both a Care Team and a Twice Fed volunteer. When volunteering in the Twice Fed program, I often feed a woman I'll call Rose. Rose is unable to speak, so conversation isn't possible. The first time I fed Rose, I noticed that she ate well and seemed to like everything. However, at one point she began to cough and sneeze, causing food and saliva to run down her chin. I felt badly for her, imagining how I would feel in her place, if I had food on my face and couldn't wipe it. Nearly without thought, I walked around the table and,

using her napkin, gently cleaned Rose's chin and mouth. I continued to feed Rose, but noticed that Rose followed my every move with her eyes from that time on. I was very moved! I still often help Rose and love my time with her. There is no doubt that she knows me and communicates with me through her eyes. She reminded me of two important lessons: that respect is very powerful and that non-verbal communication can be highly significant.

Care Team Ministry provides practical, emotional and spiritual support to people with needs. The story of Rose is an example of Care Team Ministry in action. Care Team Ministry is:



Rev. Tom Schlotterback and residents of St. John's

People caring for people...Creation of prayer shawls for those who are ill, shoveling snow, repairing a back porch, rides to the doctor, providing a meal, laughing and crying over memories...

If you want to get involved or want more information, please call me at Lutheran Social Services in Billings. The number is 245-9949.

"Care Team Ministry is a partnership between LSS-MT and Lutheran and Non-Lutheran congregations in Montana providing intentional, practical, emotional and spiritual care for persons in need."

Adoption Journey

Sheila Howe,
Director of
Adoption Services



The statement, "adoption is a journey" is one that is often written and often relayed in conversation among those familiar with adoption. The idea conveys images of planning, traveling, learning, excitement, surprises and commitment. To me, a journey has a beginning and an end. However, in my experience, it seems as though the planning, traveling, learning, excitement, surprises, and commitment never ends.

As caseworkers, much of our "adoption journey" is the learning that never ends.

Professionally, we make commitments to keep abreast of the current studies and volumes of new literature in the changing world of adoption. However, it is in the personal, interactive parts of decision-making counseling that our most important learning takes place. Take for instance, some of the "aha" moments we experience because of our birthparents. The birthparent's thoughtfulness in selecting a family helps us understand and appreciate the depth and selflessness that our parents exhibit in making an adoption plan. Common comments are: "I wanted to pick a family that had a birthfather who I

thought had the same qualities that I would choose for a perfect husband and daddy,"; "I chose this family as both the husband and wife are so respectful of each other. Won't that be good for my child?"; and "This is a family that has a supportive, large, extended family and they are all close. This is what I always wanted as a kid." All of these statements help us, as caseworkers, to focus on what is really important for our birthparents. Through this knowledge we can better serve our adoptive couples and insure each child has a wonderful family.

Thank God for journeys that offer life long learning!

Hearts Joined...

Adoptive Placements July-September 2004

- Elle Lynn
with Bryan & Kerry
- Emanuel Vincent
with Ed & Marce
- Colter John
with Mike & Liz
- William David
with Jason & Ann

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Ardie Fraley,
Missoula Area
Care Team Coordinator



"Thank you for the prayers and prayer shawl. When moments get tough, I wrap myself in its warmth. It soaks up the tears, and I feel the prayers of my friends." These are the words of a recipient of a prayer shawl, the creation of which is a component of the Care Team Ministry at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Missoula.

Prayer shawls have been in existence for centuries, but started a year ago at St. Paul's. One of St. Paul's Care Team volunteers received her late mother-in-law's shawl after her death from cancer. Feeling touched by the remembrance of her mother-in-law, this volunteer organized and coordinated this ministry with the support and assistance from me, as Care Team Coordinator and St. Paul's staff. As of the middle of this June, seventy-five prayer shawls have been presented to members of St Paul's, as well as to friends and family. There are approximately

thirty members of this church who have volunteered to serve in this ministry. Some persons who have received these shawls are now knitting them for others.

The shawls are made from a special yarn, knitted to wrap around the shoulders. As a shawl is being made, the knitter prays for the recipient. The completed shawl is then blessed with a prayer. The persons receiving this gift of love and comfort have experienced a variety of life problems including serious illness, surgery, hospitalization, nursing home or assisted living placement, or the death of a loved one. Upon presentation of the prayer shawl, which is draped across the recipient's shoulders, a prayer of healing is spoken. A card with this healing prayer and the knitter's name is given to the person.

These shawls have grown to mean many things to the recipient. Many say they get a sense of being comforted and wrapped in prayer. One individual stated, "I know the prayer shawl will comfort me in

many ways. I also pray for all the wonderful ladies who have knitted the shawls." Many sleep with their shawls. Some take them to chemotherapy treatments. Others have the shawls wrapped around them during worship services.

Of note, there have been two mothers and sons who have received prayer shawls from St. Paul. One mother wrote these words, "What a comfort the prayer shawl has been to me, and I'm just as comforted knowing my son has one too! Keep up the Lord's work." The second mother wrote, "The weight of the shawl around our shoulders is God's arms around us."

The prayer shawl ministry at St. Paul Lutheran Church is a demonstration of love and concern for one another. Each shawl made and received is an affirmation of Christ's love and healing. As one recipient said, "The prayer shawl is just a way to feel that continuing presence of God in a world that sometimes feels like a cold place."



Nancy Flood receives prayer shawl

Meet Our Staff...Gloria Satterfield



Gloria Satterfield

Gloria Satterfield is the LSS-MT Care Team Ministry Coordinator in Glasgow, Montana. Several years ago with the help of LSS-MT, the Glasgow Ministerial Association, Valley View Nursing Home and Francis Mahon Deaconess Hospital a Faith in Action Grant was procured from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Under the direction of LSS-MT, Gloria has introduced the Care Team Ministry concept to Glasgow congregations and it has been warmly received. Gloria states, "I am very fortunate to have a job where I see people at their best, reaching out to those in need. I like working for LSS because it helps us bring out the best in others." Gloria is married and

has two children. The Satterfield family has lived in Glasgow for five years. Glasgow is a typical Montana town where neighbor helps neighbor. Care Team Ministry has allowed area churches to not only take better care of their members but reach out to those in their community who may not be a part of any church.



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Our Mission

"Lutheran Social Services of Montana is a ministry of caring people and congregations responding to God's love in Jesus Christ by serving children, families, and individuals through counseling, education, adoption and specialized ministries."

"Joining Hearts in Hope!"

Upcoming Events!

Page 4

"Joining Hearts in Hope!"

ADOPTION CELEBRATIONS!

Date: November 19
Location: Great Falls
Time: To be determined



Date: November 20
Location: Billings,
Mansfield Center
Time: 10:00 am

Date: November 23
Location: Helena,
Capital Rotunda
Time: 2:00 pm

Watch for further information on pending adoption plans in Missoula!

S.A.I.D CONFERENCE

Date: Friday, November 12, 2004
Location: Billings
St. Vincent Healthcare Mansfield
Health Education Center

*Let it be
SAID . . .
God's people care!*

Join us for this unique information and training event to help you as a spiritual leader in your community better respond to natural and human-caused disaster. Registration Fee \$20.00. For more information call (406) 761-4341.

Packaged With Care...

The goal of the "Package With Care" campaign is to show foster children that they are cared for by the larger community. Often when children are removed from a parent's care because of abuse or neglect, they leave with simply what they have on. Backpacks and duffel bags offer items that can provide comfort on the very first night of their placement into foster care. Can you help?



Here is the list of the items needed to be included in a backpack or duffel bag. Toiletries, hair brushes, blankets, t-shirts, underwear, pajamas, stuffed animals, crayons, markers, coloring

books, children's travel games, picture frames, disposable cameras, small address books, one change of clothes. All sizes are needed from infant through teen years.

In the Billings area, you can drop off your items at KTVQ at 3203 Third Avenues North from 8-5. If you live outside the Billings area, you may drop off your backpacks to your closest LSS-MT office. We will make sure Child and Family Services receive these items to give to the foster children in your community. These items remain the child's property and provide something clean and new for the child to call his or her very own.