

## Joy Everlasting *LCFS Thrift Stores Give Back in Countless Ways*

*"If it brings you joy, keep it. If not, pass it on to others who may find joy in it."*

This is a popular mantra among fans of Marie Kondo's hit TV show about tidying up one's household. Across the country, thrift stores and resale shops are reaping the benefits as people are cleaning out their closets and new waves of customers are seeking out great deals.

Thrift stores and resale shops are nothing new to Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS). In the 1980's, LCFS opened several thrift stores across the state to support the communities where its satellite mental health counseling and adoption offices were located. Stores were established in Berlin, Chilton, Milwaukee, Portage, Rice Lake and Shawano and all, with the exception of the Portage store which closed in 2017, are still serving their communities in four vital ways:

- they offer an outlet where residents can take no longer needed items to be resold, knowing they will be put to good use;
- they offer incredibly affordable prices on essential items for those on a financial budget;
- they donate unsold items such as blankets, jackets and shoes to local women's shelters, veteran groups, nursing homes or homeless shelters;
- they help to maintain essential counseling services in the surrounding areas.

Anyone struggling with a mental health issue such as grief, depression, trauma, abuse or are dealing with an addiction issue are welcomed regardless of age, religion or economic status. Adoption services are provided for those facing an unexpected pregnancy and for couples hoping to adopt.

LCFS places an emphasis on Christian-based counseling services with a goal to strengthen communities, improve individual health and grow family relationships. A majority of funds raised by LCFS's thrift stores are used to offset any payment deficits for clients who are unable to cover costs or co-pays.

Each LCFS thrift store is a treasure trove of unique,

exotic and functional items. There are sections for toys, crafts, seasonal items, books, household goods, shoes and clothing for babies through adults. There are thousands of items rotating through the stores each week. Nothing that is donated to the stores goes to waste. What is not sold or donated to local shelters either goes to organizations like The Orphan Grain Train, which distributes clothing items to relief efforts in the USA and abroad, or is recycled to be used as re-spun natural textiles or shredded and granulated for use in new polyester products.

What is most unique and endearing about LCFS's stores is that they are run 100% by volunteers. Each store is managed, stocked, staffed and serviced by men and women giving freely of their time and talents. Each day volunteers can be found sorting through donations, cleaning, repairing and tagging items with prices, manning the cash registers or setting staffing schedules. Many have formed tight friendships with each other and with customers. Most have no retail experience and some travel a great distance to volunteer. All will say it's the mission of LCFS and giving back to the community which drives them to volunteer.

Volunteers will also be quick to tell you that while customers of LCFS's thrift stores may be paying less, they are actually giving more. They are helping those hurting, struggling or battling an addiction or disease. They are assisting those repairing a relationship or growing a family and are helping to improve the overall well-being of their communities. Each item donated, each hour given and each penny spent is helping someone to heal.

The biggest struggle the LCFS thrift stores face is the need for additional volunteers. Without them the stores simply cannot exist. If you are looking for a life-changing way to spend a few hours and are located near an LCFS store, please consider volunteering. Or remember the stores when you are tidying up and letting go of the items that can bring joy to others.

No matter how you help, your gift will give back.

### **Thank you to the following foundations which generously help to support LCFS:**

Kohl's Hometown Giving Foundation, Batterman Family Foundation, Crawford Family Foundation, Community Fund of Central Wisconsin, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Siebert Lutheran Foundation, Burmester Foundation, Walmart, Shawano Community Fund and hundreds of individuals through private donations. We are making a difference!

***A Message from the CEO  
Deb Rayburn, MS, LPC, CSAC, CSIT***



During my time as CEO, I have had the blessed opportunity to travel to each of LCFS's thrift stores and meet the amazing men and women who keep these stores running. With each visit, I am awestruck at our volunteers' enthusiasm, dedication and devotion not just to store operations, but to the shoppers and families who rely on them.

I have witnessed a store volunteer give a jacket to a man, desperate for warmth but with no money to pay, and later slip her own donation into the till to cover it. I have seen young parents shortly before Christmas buy toys, outfits and a tricycle for under their tree – all for less than \$10. I have learned of volunteers who take public transportation through the worst of weather, to ensure they are at the store and available to the steady stream of shoppers. I have seen our volunteers hug thankful customers and share their love and blessings upon them.

LCFS's mission has always been to help those in greatest need. With our volunteers and our thrift stores, this is evident each day. If you haven't done so yet, please stop in at one of our thrift stores and see the power of love for yourself. It's true, the happiest people are those not getting more, but giving more!

Blessings to you! ~ Deb Rayburn, CEO

***LCFS Thrift Store Locations***

Hours and additional information can be found at [www.lcfswi.org](http://www.lcfswi.org).

**Second Time Around**

102 West Franklin  
Berlin, WI 54923  
(920) 361-0334

**The Shepherd's Attic**

10 West Main Street  
Chilton, WI 53014  
(920) 849-9250

**The Economy Center**

7814 West Burleigh Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53222  
(414) 442-2272

**Yours, Mine & Ours Thrift Shop**

1620 South Main Street  
Rice Lake, WI 54868  
(715) 234-1137

**LCFS Thrift Shop**

2324 E. Richmond Street  
Shawano, WI 54166  
(715) 526-9092



***“Strengthening Families; Strengthening Lives”  
Help Us Support Our Mission***

Join us on **Saturday, October 26th** for a very special evening highlighting LCFS's work in mental health counseling, addiction treatment and adoption services.

**“Strengthening Families; Strengthening Lives”** will be a night of celebration, hope and inspiration.

Keynote speaker **Kimberly Galske, Mrs. Wisconsin 2019**, will speak on the importance of professional mental health counseling for returning troops and LCFS's role in that service. Kim is a former Marine, currently serving in the National Guard and Executive Director of Salute the Troops Wisconsin.

Other speakers will include those whose lives have been positively changed through LCFS's support.

**Strengthening Families  
Strengthening Lives**

*A fundraiser benefitting LCFS*

**Saturday, October 26th, 2019  
6-9 pm**

**Luptak Terrace Room  
Concordia University**

Space is limited! For more information or to reserve a spot, please call us at 414-536-8333 or visit <https://lcfsevent2019.wordpress.com>.



**Contact LCFS at 414-536-8333, FAX—414-536-8348 or EMAIL at [lcfs@lcfswi.org](mailto:lcfs@lcfswi.org)**

# Celebrate Adoption

## *A long lived tradition*

At the turn of the century in Milwaukee, orphanages were full, homeless children wandered the streets, some parents didn't know how to deal with their rambunctious or troubled children. Something needed to be done to protect these children.

A small group of Christian, caring individuals set in motion a mission to care for the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of children. In 1896, the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Kinderfreund Society began. Later renamed the Lutheran Children's Friend Society and renamed again Lutheran Counseling & Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS), this work and mission continues today. Through changing times, the agency remained rooted in caring for the most vulnerable and building upon its care for children, services were added to improve and strengthen family life for all through various types of counseling and support.

Helping to place children into loving Christian homes was a service of LCFS that never wavered. Through statewide adoption services, the agency has placed over 15,000 children. This includes newborns, children with special needs, step children, extended family adoptions and the compassionate, professional counseling that each requires.

Another mainstay of LCFS is an annual **Celebrate Adoption Picnic**. Each year, adoptive families or those wishing to learn more about the process join together for a day of networking, story-telling, support and fun.

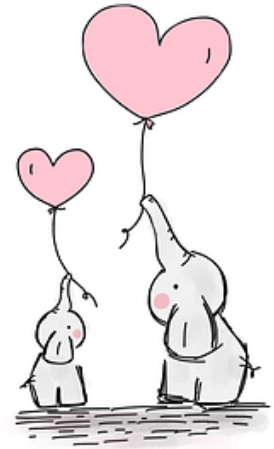
*"Let the little children come unto me, and do not hinder them;  
for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." ~ Matthew 19:14*

## Picnic Fun Through the Decades



## ***Congratulations to the following families on the completion of their adoptions:***

Alexander and Nichole on his adoption of their daughter, Nadia, 8/23/2018  
Ethan and Melissa on their adoption of their son, Joshua 9/14/2018  
Amanda and Peter on their adoption of their son, Charles 9/25/2018  
TJ and Jessica on their adoption of their son, Elijah 12/7/2018  
Crystal and Robert on his adoption of their daughter, Zonta, 3/1/2019  
Alexis and Antoine on her adoption of their daughter, TK, 4/15/2019  
William and Bethany on his adoption of their son, Braxton, 5/22/2019  
Jill on her adoption of her daughter, Brooklynn 5/30/2019



### ***Together We Make A Family***

Whether you are dealing with an unintended pregnancy or are interested in adopting a child into a loving and caring home, we can provide the education, resources and assistance you need. Our professional staff will work personally with you to discuss your situation, dreams and hopes. As a Christian, faith-based organization, we establish that families chosen and approved by us will raise their child in a Christian, loving environment.

For adopting couples, we will conduct a home study in preparation for adoption, work to explain the detailed legal process, provide referrals for qualified attorneys and provide all necessary resources and support to help you grow your family.

#### **PLEASE USE THESE FUNDS TO FURTHER LCFS'S MISSION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Amount: *(please check)*

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other

☐ **I would like to learn more about LCFS's free  
Planned Giving Services.**

☐ **I would like to be added to the LCFS quarterly  
newsletter email list.**

**ONLINE:** Donations can be made through  
PayPal at [www.lcfswi.org](http://www.lcfswi.org)

**CREDIT CARD.** Please enter the following  
information:

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CVV (card verification value): \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECKS** Payable to: LCFS- WI  
3800 N. Mayfair Rd. Wauwatosa, WI 53222

#### **LCFS Contact Information**

**Web Site—**[www.lcfswi.org](http://www.lcfswi.org) ~ Follow us on Facebook!

##### ***Telephone Numbers***

Main Office—414-536-8333

Toll Free (Southern Wisconsin)—800-291-4513

Toll Free (Northern Wisconsin)—888-867-4840

##### ***E-mail Addresses***

General—[lcfswi@lcfswi.org](mailto:lcfswi@lcfswi.org)

CEO—Deb Rayburn, MS, LPC, CSAC, CSIT [drayburn@lcfswi.org](mailto:drayburn@lcfswi.org)