

LCFS WELCOMES A NEW CEO

During its 125 year history, Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin (LCFS) has had less than a dozen CEOs. Each were tasked with the great responsibility of seeing that the agency's mission was upheld by caring and welcoming those in need, regardless of their rank in life.

In the early years, the leadership position of LCFS was held by Lutheran clergy who were tasked with finding, fostering and placing thousands of children abandoned, orphaned or neglected in the streets of Milwaukee for adoption. During the 1930s and 40s the CEOs navigated the agency through turbulent financial times and the effects of World War II.

From the 50s through the 80s the CEOs oversaw a time of growth and expansion for the agency, acquiring buildings in Milwaukee and Wauwatosa to house and providing counseling services, running a full scale orphanage, establishing satellite offices and operating thrift stores in cities across the state, thus adding programs for family counseling, addiction and mental health issues and implementing an in-school counseling program for children at risk.

For the past four decades LCFS CEOs managed each of these programs, always keeping a finger on the pulse of community needs and seeking opportunities to provide better care and access for all. Buildings and programs were changed, professional services were enhanced and societal issues changed, but throughout its history LCFS never ever waived from its mission to serve.

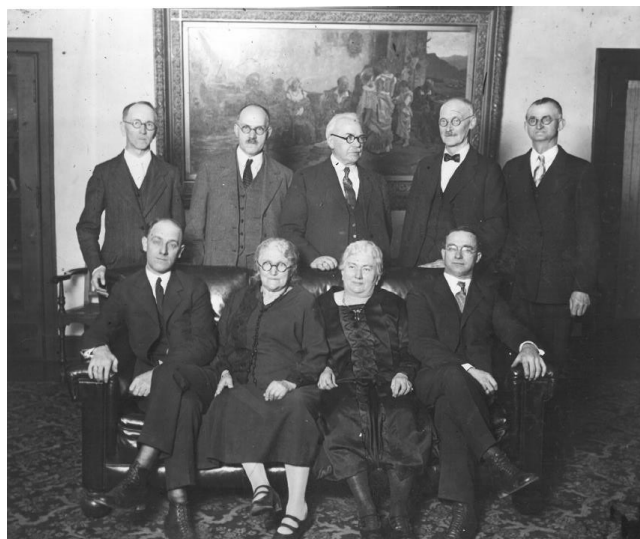
Today that mission continues to shine as LCFS welcomes a new CEO. This September the agency will celebrate the work of outgoing CEO Deborah Rayburn, LPC, CSAC, CSIT and welcome Carol Flanary, MS, LPC into this new leadership role.

Deb Rayburn's shoes will be hard to fill! With 15 years of service to LCFS her impact cannot be ignored. Transitioning from counselor to CEO in 2016, Deb's leadership helped LCFS remain a steadily growing and thriving agency. During her tenure Deb strengthened the adoption program, oversaw the expansion of the

in-school counseling program, renewed relationships, made new connections and grew a staff of qualified professionals devoted to LCFS's mission and purpose. She skillfully navigated the agency through the COVID pandemic, keeping the agency open throughout and ensuring counselors' and clients' safety by implementing virtual sessions for those struggling with unprecedented mental health challenges. She moves into retirement knowing that LCFS is in loving hands with a strong and fruitful future.

As incoming CEO, Carol Flanary brings a wealth of knowledge, including extensive experience in clinical supervision, child therapy, family counseling, conjoint counseling and conducting communication skills training to area organizations. Most recently, she has served as LCFS's in-school counseling coordinator, currently serving in 18 elementary and middle schools across the greater Milwaukee area.

Please continue to keep LCFS, its staff and those we serve in your prayers during this time of transition. Since 1896 this agency has been committed to helping individuals, families and communities to be stronger and healthier. The future promises to be as bright.



The KinderFreund Society's original Board in 1896, with two Haus Frau's (fostering House Mothers)

A Message from the CEO—Deb Rayburn



In my 40 year career as a mental health and addiction counselor, I have worked at many agencies, both nonprofit and for profit. My 15 years at LCFS have by far been the most rewarding years of my life and career. I have had the honor to work with the most dedicated, skilled Christian staff who work relentlessly, even through COVID, to help those around them.

Whether it was the joy of witnessing a child being placed into a loving home through adoption, ensuring the birth mother was content with her decision, counseling a family through a challenge, helping an individual find their way through addiction or hundreds of other real-life situations, my time with LCFS has been nothing short of fulfilling, purposeful and reaffirming.

Leaving a job you love and BELIEVE IN is hard. But I step away knowing LCFS's future is strong. Thank you to all I have met and laughed (or cried) with along the way. Thank you to the Board of LCFS who trusted me with the honor of leading this amazing agency. Thank you to the awesome staff that surrounded me. And thank you to all who have offered support, guidance, prayers, belief and hope on behalf of this agency.

Missions exists for a purpose. LCFS's mission exists because people believe in the good work and ministry it offers. I wholeheartedly do as well. Thank you all!

It is now time for me to move on... I have grand-parenting duties to attend to!

Blessings to you all,

Deb



Meet Carol Flanary—LCFS's Incoming CEO

As I enter the role of CEO at LCFS, I do so with full understanding and gratitude for the trust and support the Board of Directors and staff have granted me. LCFS's legacy of service is awe inspiring and very special to me – not just for its long history of caring for those in need, but also on a very personal note. Over 60 years ago, my husband was adopted through an agency that we knew as Lutheran Children's Friends Society. It wasn't until I learned more of Lutheran Counseling and Family Service's history that I realized it is the one and same agency as we know today, just under a previous title from the 1950s. I believe God's hand has led me, my husband, his birth mother and adoptive parents to this agency...my heart is filled with thanks to be a part of it.

It's with a personal understanding of the people and lives LCFS has touched that I embrace the opportunity to continue LCFS's mission as the agency's next CEO. I will do my best to uphold and honor LCFS, those we serve, and all those who work tirelessly to support our mission."

May grace and blessings always be in your path!

Carol



Carol brings a broad scope of expertise in working with children, adolescents and adults. She holds a BS in Biology from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and a Masters of Science degree in Community Counseling from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, WI. Carol holds additional certifications in Child & Adolescent trauma and is a Center of Adoption Support and Education (CASE) Counselor.

In her previous role as LCFS's in-school counseling coordinator, Carol helped grow and strengthen that program and the agency's relationships with key constituents, teachers, parents and administrators. The essential in-school counseling program at LCFS has never been stronger, now serving of 18 elementary and middle schools across the greater Milwaukee area with future growth planned.

In School Counseling

The Rewarding Work of Helping Students Have Positive Mental Health

Entering the 2021/2022 school year, LCFS's in-school counseling had strategic plans to grow not only the schools it services, but also, more importantly, to increase the number of young students assisted.

Elementary and middle school years can be hard, but add to that instrumental time the challenges of living through the fear, isolation and confusion of the COVID pandemic. Imagine being 6 or 8 or 12 years old and going to school each morning hungry, tired and overwhelmed. How about knowing your parents love you, but you see them struggling to maintain jobs, households and relationships? What about the confusion caused by societal pressures, racial tensions, political lines and school shootings?

Today's youth face a far different world than just a generation ago. An annual study conducted by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) completed in early 2022 concluded that the mental health of children is getting worse as a direct result of the COVID pandemic. During the pandemic, childhood diagnoses of anxiety rose by 27%, and depression rose by 24%. The study also showed that about 1 out of 5 of kids who need mental health services are not getting them.

This is why LCFS is committed to offering free or low-cost professional counseling services in schools throughout the greater Milwaukee area.

Through personalized sessions, students are counseled and taught skills for conflict resolution, problem solving, healthy peer relationships, coping and more. Parents are kept abreast of the sessions and if requested, sessions can also be arranged for parents and siblings to address affiliated mental health issues including stress management, coping and anger management skills and family dynamics. For teachers and administrators, improvement with a troubled student can help to promote a healthier learning environment for all students.

LCFS provided over 3600 individual and group sessions to students this past year, helping them overcome mental health and behavioral issues. Summer counseling opportunities have been increased to maintain momentum and continuity for students in need of counseling services throughout the year. No child is ever turned away based upon ability to pay. We ensure that all children receive uninterrupted care until they reach their therapeutic goals.

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 receive LCFS's newsletter email**

ONLINE: Donations can be made through PayPal at 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 ~ Follow us on Facebook!

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E-mail Addresses

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Carol Flanary, MS, LPC cflanary@lcfswi.org

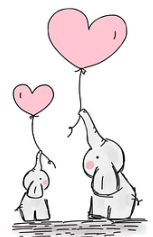
***Adoption is: Life. Hope. Promise. Joy. Contentment.
And above all – LOVE***

Each summer LCFS holds a picnic bringing together families who have adopted, families hoping to adopt and those wishing to learn more about the adoption process. It's a wonderful time to learn, share, support and connect! To learn more about our adoption services, contact us confidentially at 414-536-8333 ext.27 or at adoption@lcfswi.org



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

Tanya and Jack on the adoption of their daughter Raya, 7/22/2022
Kameron and Molly on his adoption of their daughter Adeline 6/10/2022
Kasie and Christopher on his adoption of their son Cameron 3/1/2022
Jeremy and Courtney on her adoption of their daughter Laila 6/14/2022
Shannon and Carter on her adoption of their daughter Caitlynn 6/24/2022
Nicholas and Sara on his adoption of their daughters Peyton and Kailyn 6/24/2022
Benjamin and Ashlee on his adoption of their son Hunter 6/22/2022
Jeffery and Samantha on his adoption of their children Ava and Max 7/21/2022



Contact LCFS at 414-536-8333, FAX—414-536-8348 or EMAIL at lcfs@lcfswi.org