

LCFS CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN COUNSELING AND FAMILY
SERVICES OF WISCONSIN
DECEMBER 2023



A Letter from our CEO, Carol Flanary- Unwrapping the Gift of Giving

LCFS: Extending a Hand of Compassion

It's heartbreaking to see a child struggling with anxiety or a teenager feeling helpless against mental health challenges. But it's empowering to help God's children find hope and healing. At LCFS, our mission is to offer compassion and support to community members facing such trials. From children and youth and adults battling mental health issues to birth mothers and families seeking adoption services, and individuals fighting addiction, we're here to help.

As the holiday season approaches, we're reminded of the joy and hope that Christmas brings. But we also recognize that this time can be tough for many. That's why we're reaching out to you.

With the increasing pressures and challenges of children today, it's more important than ever to offer mental health support to children and their families. To meet this growing demand, LCFS has expanded its outpatient Child Mental Health therapy services at our Wauwatosa location, seeing an unprecedented increase in youth counseling sessions. We continue to provide essential in-school counseling services and broaden our scope in adoption support services, helping birth mothers and families through newborn, step-parent, and relative adoptions.

But none of this would be possible without your help. Will you consider making a donation towards these vital initiatives? Your contribution, whether financial or prayer, will make a tremendous difference in the lives of those we serve. Your generosity goes directly toward providing much-needed therapy sessions for children, counseling services for people navigating complex journeys, and supporting our adoption program.

Together, we can make this Christmas season a little brighter for those in need. Together, we can do something beautiful and make a difference in the lives of others.

May God bless you this holy Christmas season!

Carol Flanary, CEO

LCFS' Wauwatosa clinic has experienced a surge in child mental health services since opening its expansion in July.

So far this year, LCFS has successfully completed a total of 21 infant, step-parent and relative adoptions.

Throughout 2023, LCFS clients of all ages were provided with over 10,000 therapy sessions.

LCFS therapists have been deployed to three community crises since the start of the 2023-24 school year.



'TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, AS YOU DID IT TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BROTHERS, YOU DID IT TO ME.' MT 25:40



A Christmas Message from Trinity Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI

In 1896, a gathering at Trinity Lutheran Church organized the Evangelical Lutheran Kinderfreund Society to care for orphaned, neglected and dependent children. After 127 years, the care of souls for God's children remains the purpose for Lutheran Counseling and Family Services. As a pastor serving a parish in Milwaukee, I have witnessed first-hand the need for faithful, Christ centered counselors to care for my members dealing with mental health issues and crises. Serving church workers, church members, as well as local Lutheran and public schools, LCFS faithfully cares for those God places in their midst.

I encourage you to pray for LCFS' counselors, CEO and board members as we work our way through the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. Please consider supporting LCFS with gifts that will enable their staff to remain faithful to provide care for mental health, addiction and adoption in Wisconsin. They are certainly a gift to our churches and communities, and we thank God for them!

-Reverend M. Douglas Peters

**Make a Donation Today
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LCFS has made it a priority to ensure that mental health services are readily accessible to people in need. Here are some of the ways we are working to accomplish this:

- **LCFS has 11 outpatient mental health clinic offices located throughout Wisconsin, offering both virtual and in-person sessions. This approach helps us to reach more people while reducing barriers to accessing care.**
- **Our in-school counselors currently serve 18 different school locations, making it easier for students to receive support when they need it.**

We are grateful to have four different volunteer-based thrift stores located throughout Wisconsin

- **The Economy Center in Milwaukee**
- **Second Time Around Shop in Berlin**
- **LCFS Thrift Shop in Shawano**
- **Yours, Mine & Ours Thrift Shop in Rice Lake**

These stores help us to fund our programs and provide much-needed support to local communities.

**We would like to extend our warmest congratulations
to our 21 LCFS families on their recent adoptions!**

Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin

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**Estate Planning: One sentence in your will can make a lifetime of difference!
To leave a gift in your will, simply share this sentence with your attorney or financial planner:
"I bequeath _ or __% of my estate to Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin."**