

San Francisco Area LCMS Congregations
And
Lutheran Social Services of Northern California
A Plan for Joint Service

Lutheran Social Services of Northern California (LSS) responds when people are vulnerable because of homelessness, mental illness, drug addiction or disaster. Providing support services and compassionate guidance, LSS helps individuals and families to stabilize their lives and become self-sufficient. In San Francisco LSS provides *money management services* for formerly homeless adults living with both physical and mental disabilities and *case management services* for adults, families and seniors living in supportive housing sites. All people currently served by LSS share a common need for maintaining safe, affordable and stable housing.

Supportive services are provided at four diverse housing sites; Bernal Gateway Family Housing, Folsom Dore Apartments, Polk Street Senior Housing and Mosaica Family and Seniors Apartments. The services of LSS at each site are created to respond to the needs of the people living there. LSS has case management personnel at each site to implement the services.

LCMS congregations in the San Francisco area have an opportunity to share with all people the love of God in His Son Jesus. We do this in many different ways. Working with those people who LSS already touches at the supportive housing sites with their compassion ministry now, gives our congregations an opportunity to touch lives of people in a way that LSS currently does not.

I visited each of the four supportive housing sites with Nancy Nielsen from LSS and talked to a case manager at each site to learn what they do and to learn ways that our congregations might help the people living in the apartments. There is much we can do. I am reminded of why we would want to help in this way by the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:38-40, "And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me.'"

I encourage your congregation to see how you can help show the love of Jesus in compassionate witness and ministry to the people LSS currently serves. Each supportive housing site has differing needs. The case managers at each complex are eager to hear from you and your congregations to help determining how you can become involved. Following are some ideas after my visit of each site.



Polk Street Apartments. 990 Polk Street (at Geary). This 110 unit complex provides housing for 54 formerly homeless and 56 very low income seniors. A number of the residents have come to the program from Laguna Honda Hospital. There are a large number of monolingual Chinese speaking residents. Opportunities to become involved in include; community social gatherings in their community hall, food bank helpers, coffee gatherings and game times, providing holiday party and treats, gardening in the rooftop garden, donations of personal care and cleaning supplies and more. Kristi Lambert 415-200-1143 is the Program coordinator and is eager to talk with you about becoming involved as a congregation, a women's group, youth group or individuals.



Mosaica Family Housing. 18th Street and Alabama. A full city block of 117 apartments and 30 condos. Formerly homeless individual and families and low income working families are supported by LSS and can use your help too. Donations of furniture, personal care and cleaning supplies are always welcome. Helping with events for special holiday times and providing small gifts for mothers and families are greatly appreciated by the residents. Leading classes for computers, cooking, sharing movie time and compassionate conversation are other ways you can help. Tina Gonzalez is the Program Coordinator who would love to talk with you about becoming involved. 415-562-3285



Folsom Dore Apartments. 75 Dore Street at Folsom. An 88 unit supportive housing complex serving formerly homeless, many who have struggled with mental health or substance abuse. Help at the weekly food bank along with on site workshops are welcome. Holiday parties and social events are ways to volunteer help as well as donations of personal care items and cleaning supplies. Bianka Malecki is the case manager who can help you find creative ways to show mercy and compassion to the residents of this complex. There is a ground floor community room that can be made available for programs, classes or fellowship time. Contact Bianka to see how you can be of help. 415-252-1077



Bernal Gateway Apartments. 3101 Mission Street. A 55 unit multi family housing project where LSS provides case management and activities coordination. Kathy Guerra is the case manager who will welcome your support and help. There is a special room for students to do homework and work on computers as well as a youth activity director to lead the children in their activities. They would love to send some children to youth camp this summer. Donations to make that happen would be most

appreciated. Sponsoring a Mother's or Father's Day dinner or Fourth of July BBQ event would be a great help. Volunteers to run workshops for English language and or computer classes are needed. There are many Spanish speakers at this complex, and many children. Kathy can be reached at 415-200-1143.

Each of the supportive housing units can benefit from your involvement. Consider ways that your congregation, Bible study group, adult fellowship, young adult fellowship, youth group, choir, Thrivent branch or individuals can help.

I will list all the contact information for the case managers at each supportive housing site on our SFLNP.org web site with a link from LSS on our Community Ministry Programs page. We will also post a list of specific needs at each complex which will be updated periodically as needs arise. Feel free to contact the case managers directly or Nancy Nielsen, Deputy Director LSS Northern California. I will always be happy to assist in coordinating your congregation's efforts to help those who need the love of Jesus at these sites.

Tom

"...as you did to the least of these..."