

Success Equals Helping Others

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Over six years, foster parents Michelle and Derrick Allen of Pearl City have welcomed children into their home for weeks, months, or years at a time, and in the case of one child they adopted, forever. “I can’t imagine our lives without them,” said Michelle of the children they’ve fostered. “Seeing them grow and witnessing reunification [with their biological parents] is such a miracle.”

The Allens comprise 653 LSSI-supervised licensed foster care homes in Illinois. Foster parents are critical to LSSI’s Foster Care Program that served 2,729 children last year.

LSSI is the largest provider of foster care in the state, with 12 sites serving 42 counties across Illinois. The Foster Care Program supports foster parents and children by providing counseling, training, licensing assistance for relative caregivers, and case management.

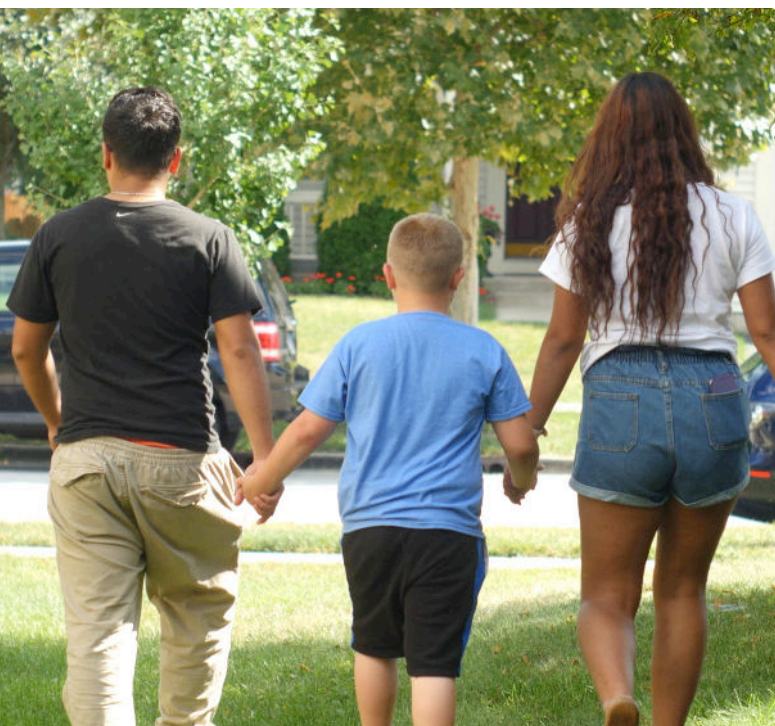
Foster parents support each child’s connection to their families. The program aims to return children to their families, or assist with adoption when children cannot be safely reunited with their families.

“We could not do this work without our foster parents,” said Jere Murry, MSW, Executive Director, Children’s Community Services. “These are folks who care enough to step up and say, ‘I want to help a child.’”

Evelia and Antonio Rivera of Montgomery are therapeutic foster parents who are part of a pilot program started at LSSI in 2017 through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Therapeutic Foster Care addresses the needs of children with severe behavioral challenges who would otherwise be placed in residential care. These foster parents and clinical teams work with an aftercare family while the child is in the program, typically six to

Caring Enough to Say “I Want to Help”



nine months, to ensure a smooth transition of care to their forever home. The program has teams in Aurora, Chicago, and Rockford.

Since its inception, LSSI’s Therapeutic Foster Care Program has enrolled 59 children with 33 youth successfully completing the program.

“One of the greatest gifts we can give [our therapeutic foster children] is not only a safe home, but a whole family who cares for them,” said Evelia. “Therapeutic Foster Care is exactly what these kids need.”

“Success is measured not by what you have, but by whom you help along the way.”

—EVELIA RIVERA, THERAPEUTIC FOSTER PARENT

Amidst the Pandemic, New Opioid Recovery Home Provides a Fresh Start

As the COVID-19 pandemic struck Illinois, LSSI launched a new program addressing issues created by the state's opioid epidemic.

At its current rate, the opioid epidemic will claim more than 2,700 Illinois lives this year, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. Amid this epidemic, LSSI is part of the solution. The Healthy Start West Recovery Home opened in March 2020 for adults receiving treatment for opioid addiction. The program receives funding from the Illinois State Opioid Response Grant.

Located at LSSI's Addiction Treatment Center-Elgin, the recovery home is part of the state's Opioid Action Plan, providing housing for up to 22 residents.

"We're looking at many paths up the mountain



"We're looking at many paths up the mountain for residents in recovery. We support our Healthy Start residents when they're doing well and when they are struggling."

—GEORGE KOLLIAS

for residents in recovery," said George Kollias, CADC, Supervisor of Elgin Outpatient Treatment and Healthy Start West Recovery Home. "We support our residents when they're doing well and when they are struggling."

The Recovery Home provides housing for up to a year while clients receive medication-assisted treatment and gain employment, along with peer support, case management, and on-site outpatient treatment. Case managers help create individual plans to ultimately prepare residents for sober living in the community. Last year, LSSI's full continuum of alcohol and drug treatment served 3,207 clients.

"We offer structure, accountability, and a safe environment," Kollias said. "Clients receive understanding and support from our recovery counselors."



Lutheran Church of the Atonement volunteers before renovations for Healthy Start Recovery Home West, and the "after" results bolstered by funds committed by the church.

The Grand Victoria Foundation is a longtime funder of the Center. The Edwardson Family Foundation provided critical start-up funds for Recovery Home West. In addition, Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Barrington, contributed funding and volunteers with expertise in hands-on renovation to rehab two of the Recovery Home's spaces—the recreation room and the primary meeting rooms.

"It has become a home rather than treatment for our clients," Kollias said.



PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Sharing the Good News of LSSI

Dear Friends:

Annual reports traditionally reflect an organization's past year, with an eye on future planning. It is an opportune moment to celebrate and share the good news about LSSI's impact on the people we serve.

In a year of pandemic, our staff, donors, and volunteers rose to support the people we serve during an unprecedented time. We know further challenges lie ahead. But with the compassion, dedication, and innovation of our staff, and the generous support of our volunteers and donors, LSSI served nearly 44,000 people last year. There have been short-term disruptions to service, yet with safety precautions, telehealth, and remote work, we have continued to be present in our clients' lives. We have provided critical programs that include foster care and services for children at-risk, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, older adult services, residential programs for people with developmental disabilities, and programs that help individuals and families impacted by incarceration.

LSSI's mission involves responding to the Gospel to bring healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities. The programs profiled in this report, and the highlights of services, reflect our commitment to the people we are privileged to serve.

This past year, LSSI's strategic plan was updated to include a focus on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). LSSI as an organization, and each of its employees, individually, is asked commit to an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion journey. Our vision is to build a new path forward where we:

- Ensure the representation of diverse groups and active dismantling of barriers that keep under-represented groups from opportunities for professional advancement, recognition, and full participation.
- Acknowledge, seek, and welcome differences, including but not limited to race, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, class, geographic location, mental or physical ability, language, and learning style. Commit to open-mindedness, to be curious and to learn, share, and celebrate different cultures, beliefs, and experiences.
- Actively identify and remove barriers in an ongoing effort to ensure that diverse individuals fully participate in organizational work and community-building. Engage all voices to encourage diverse thinking. Insist that diverse employees and clients are seen as mutually respected members of LSSI's community who are encouraged to represent themselves in authentic ways.

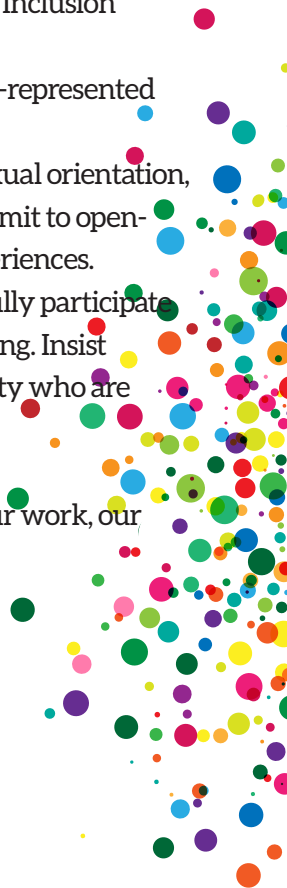
We look forward to sharing the results of this ongoing, important work.

As we reflect on LSSI's accomplishments that you help support, we are grateful for the breadth of our work, our service to God's people, and the commitment of our staff, donors, and volunteers.

In faith and service,

Mark A. Stutrud
President and CEO

John T. Rudy
Chair, LSSI Board of Directors



Financial Summary

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	JUNE 30	
	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Cash and short-term investments	\$20,548,699	\$18,126,376
Other current assets	11,559,709	11,529,848
Investments held for long-term purposes	2,585,576	2,519,171
Net property and equipment	59,858,904	61,656,298
Other noncurrent assets	8,724,246	9,490,865
Total Assets	\$103,277,134	\$103,322,558
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities	\$22,261,206	\$19,780,254
Long-term debt	15,439,105	15,929,040
Conditional agreements	43,141,661	43,141,661
Other long-term liabilities	8,008,462	8,448,437
Total Liabilities	\$88,850,434	\$87,299,392
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	\$8,235,351	\$9,813,906
With donor restrictions	6,191,349	6,209,260
Total Net Assets	14,426,700	16,023,166
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$103,277,134	\$103,322,558

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITY

	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30	
	2020	2019
REVENUE		
Contributions and public support	\$5,509,245	\$4,324,687
Operating revenue	83,729,582	78,634,395
Gain on disposal of property and equipment	117,065	256,837
Miscellaneous	481,813	186,310
Total Revenue	\$ 89,837,705	\$ 83,402,229
EXPENSES		
Program services	\$81,485,054	\$74,843,804
Administration and fundraising	9,159,122	7,890,533
Total Expenses	90,644,176	82,734,337
Change in Net Assets Before Other Items	(806,471)	667,892
Actuarial gain (loss) on annuity obligations	(42,917)	21,240
Increase in actuarial pension costs	(747,078)	(1,181,775)
Change in Net Assets	(1,596,466)	(492,643)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	16,023,166	16,515,809
Net Assets, End of Year	\$14,426,700	\$16,023,166