

# Ignite



**LSS Lutheran Social Services**  
of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.



**Act Compassionately. Serve Humbly. Lead Courageously.**

LSS co-creates with Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin (LPGW) to help develop financial and estate-planning goals that achieve our donor's unique situations and passions. There is no cost or obligation – it is our ministry to be of service.

For more information, please contact:

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## Joseph Has a Cozy Home this Winter Because You Care

Winters in the Midwest can be brutal, especially for someone experiencing homelessness. When that person is also contending with physical disabilities (including difficulty with verbal and written communication) resulting from a stroke, the situation can be life-threatening. Fortunately for Joseph\*, a referral to LSS Gaining Ground helped him find safe, sustainable housing and connected him to resources that foster his independence.

When LSS Gaining Ground colleague Matthew Koski first met Joseph, he admits it was like playing charades. "He is cognitively sharp, but he just can't find words much beyond yes or no," Matthew explains. "He's been dealing with this condition, expressive aphasia, for nearly 10 years, so he's found ways to communicate, but at the beginning there was a lot of trial and error."

Joseph's first goal was to find housing. Matthew helped him navigate the application process and secure an apartment in a local subsidized housing complex. Next, Matthew helped Joseph navigate community resources that connected him with doctors for pain management and to obtain a new

prescription for eyeglasses and a lift chair. "He had a big smile on his face when he realized the difference that chair makes," Matthew said.

Perhaps the most life-changing resource Matthew was able to help Joseph obtain is a communication app on his tablet specifically for people experiencing expressive aphasia. Installed by an occupational therapist, the app helps facilitate conversations between Joseph and other people.

Joseph remains stable and independent. He continues to work with Matthew on achieving new goals.

**Your belief in the infinite worth of every person means that Joseph and thousands of others are treated with respect and compassion and have access to the support and resources they need to thrive! On their behalf, we thank you.**

*\*Name changed for client privacy*



# Harvesting Hope Challenge

Uniting Hearts to Inspire Recovery

## You Met the Challenge! Recovery Journeys Will Be Enhanced by LSS Affinity House Improvements

"We believe in the utilization of our gifts to help others experience a fresh start," said Kim Brunkow, who along with her husband Bob is a long time LSS mission champion. Bob and Kim's hearts were touched by the caring staff and determined residents at LSS Affinity House, an LSS residential substance use disorder treatment facility. They also learned that the facility needed repairs and updates.

With guidance from LSS, they initiated the Harvesting Hope Challenge last fall, to raise funds and raise awareness about the great work taking place at LSS Affinity House. They offered to match gifts to fund the improvements up to \$30,000 by the end of 2023.

You rose to the challenge! LSS Friends and supporters – individuals, corporations and foundations – participated at a level that maximized the full amount of the matching gift!

Thank you!

## LSS Foundation, Inc. Celebrates 50 years of Impact

The late Bela Maroti, a pioneer in philanthropy, recognized the importance of having an impenetrable fund of invested assets which would generate revenue to support human services programs when he established the LSS Foundation 50 years ago.

Today, LSS Foundation, Inc. partners with compassionate people to support the mission work of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS).

With assets totaling more than \$30 million, the Foundation makes quarterly distributions to support the life-changing programs and services of LSS. In addition, the Foundation provides seed funding to launch LSS strategic initiatives including residential treatment programs such as LSS Aspen Center and LSS Deep River Community-based Residential Facility, as well as LSS School Centered Mental Health.

"We are honored to carry on Bela's legacy," says LSS Foundation board chair Pat Wesner, "and we look forward to supporting the transformational work of LSS for generations to come."

Learn more about the significant impact of the LSS Foundation on individuals and communities at its newly refurbished website: [www.lssfoundation.org](http://www.lssfoundation.org).



## Community Leaders Honored at LSS Annual Heroes Celebration

At the Annual Heroes Celebration in November, the LSS Partners Circle joined with fellow business and community leaders in honoring individuals and organizations whose work embodies that same commitment. The 2023 honorees include:

### Kathy Evers, First Lady of Wisconsin - Individual Caregiver Hero Award in Honor of Marty Schreiber

Recognized for her efforts to raise awareness and remove barriers to research on prevention and delaying the progression of Alzheimer's and other dementias, direct services to individuals experiencing dementia, and support for caregivers.



### St. John's on the Lake, Retirement Community - Group Caregiver Hero Award in Honor of Marty Schreiber

Recognized for leadership in offering innovative programming based on the seven dimensions of wellness and in providing person-centered care, resident involvement, and transparent governance.



### Matt Burow, Founder of Catalyst Construction - Civic Hero Award

Recognized for his philanthropy and servant leadership in building not only structures, but relationships with each client, ensuring that their vision is realized with an eye toward the structure's impact to the greater community.

The corporations that comprise the LSS Partners Circle share our commitment to empowering those in our communities who are facing incredible challenges to navigate a path to hope, well-being, and sharing their God-given gifts to serve.

We are grateful for the generosity and compassion of all our friends gathered that evening.



To learn more about the Partners Circle, contact Kelly Nowakowski at [Kelly.nowakowski@lsswis.org](mailto:kelly.nowakowski@lsswis.org) or (414) 617-7608.

