

UNITY WITH PURPOSE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

“Since we have such a hope, we are very bold.”

2 Corinthians 3:12



In loving memory of Ken Daly



We dedicate our 2021 annual report to Ken Daly, who passed away on June 14, 2021, surrounded by the love of his family, pastors and remarkable caregivers. Ken served the Lutheran Services in America board of directors with great commitment and deep faith in God. For those who had the honor of knowing Ken, he was an extremely generous man with an exceptional gift for recognizing potential in people and organizations.

Ken was particularly passionate in his support for the Lutheran Services in America Results Innovation Lab and our work to achieve equitable outcomes for 20,000 children and youth by 2024. His legacy lives on in our work together and in the transformative impact of Lutheran social ministry.

“““

*Through our passion and commitment,
we are achieving much more as a
network than we ever could individually.
Together, we are an unstoppable force
for change, united in our mission
to achieve a healthier, more equitable
future for all people in America.*

Marian Baldini | President and CEO
KenCrest

*Recipient of The Paragon Award:
The Ken Daly Award for Excellence
in Mentorship*

Dear valued members, friends and supporters,

In 2021, Lutheran social ministry continued its critical role on the front lines of 1,400 communities nationwide. Together we responded to new needs and opportunities while advancing innovative approaches that achieve a healthier, more equitable future for people and communities across the country.

At a time in our country when so many are divided, a shared purpose unites us: to empower all people to lead their best lives. This purpose has inspired us to action since long before the founding of Lutheran Services in America 25 years ago. It is much older even than the founding of Lutheran social ministry in the United States 160 years ago.

We trace our roots all the way back to the establishment of the Common Chest in Wittenberg 500 years ago. This groundbreaking initiative pooled resources not only to support widows and orphans but also to hire a community doctor and provide low-interest loans so the unemployed could receive training and become active members of the community. From the very beginning, Lutheran social ministry was about community and providing opportunities for people to reach their full potential.

Five hundred years later, Lutheran social ministry boldly works to remove barriers that prevent people from achieving equitable outcomes, support families so they can remain together, empower older adults and people with disabilities to live with independence, dignity and respect, and much more. United, we are stronger, and our network, partners and supporters give us added strength to stand together during challenging times.

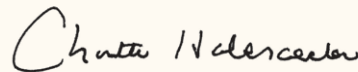
As we look to the future, we remain united—united in our mission to strengthen communities and to ensure that all people can achieve abundant lives. We are profoundly grateful to you, our supporters and partners. Today we are pleased and honored to share the results of what your trust and support have made possible.

Blessings,



Charlotte Haberaecker

President and CEO
Lutheran Services in America, Inc.



Darrell Gordon

President and CEO
Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center

Chairperson of the Board
Lutheran Services in America, Inc.



*Lutheran Services in America
is a national network of
300 health and human
services organizations.
As one of the most impactful
nonprofits in the country,
the network reaches one
in 50 people in America.*



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Innovative Partnerships, Equitable Outcomes

We demonstrate transformative results in the lives of thousands of children while also making a tangible impact on local communities.

Changing the Status Quo

Our **Results Innovation Lab** is a partnership that brings together local and national stakeholders in pursuit of our goal to achieve equitable outcomes for 20,000 children and families in the United States by 2024.

The Lab serves as a catalyst to develop innovative policies and practices addressing the disproportionate number of children of color separated from their families, reducing their length of stay in foster care and improving outcomes for children transitioning out of the child welfare system.

Using a variety of data-driven strategies, we build the capacity of nonprofit leaders to lead broad-scale change at the community level so that all stakeholders may actively contribute to transformative change.

For example, we partnered with The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Harvard University's Leadership for a Networked World and leaders from six Lutheran social ministry organizations to identify opportunities to create better outcomes for young people in group settings, strengthen community-based alternatives to the child welfare system's reliance on congregate care and minimize the displacement of families.



The Results Innovation Lab is a powerful collaboration that fosters ecosystem-driven partnerships and helps create a 'line of sight' that can accelerate a future where all children are safe, nurtured and living in a family home.

Dr. Antonio Oftelie | Executive Director
Leadership for a Networked World
Harvard University

“Our partnership with Lutheran Services in America is a unique and powerful opportunity to integrate a race equity focus with the C.A.R.E.S. Model, an evidence-based, high-fidelity family wraparound model to strengthen families in crisis and prevent children from being removed from the home. Together, we have an opportunity to make a direct impact on the lives of children and families in four communities as well as carry forward this innovative model into other communities across the country.”

Phil Scarpelli | President and CEO
National Center for Innovation & Excellence

Leadership for a Networked World at Harvard University published a white paper on the results of our work in 2021. This important contribution to the body of evidence of the effectiveness of these programs will serve as a blueprint for organizations across the country. From it, they can replicate the strategies that will improve outcomes for children, youth and families—while also recognizing the urgency of the work that remains.

New Paths to Enable Families and Children to Stay Together

We are awarding \$2.9 million in grants to Lutheran social ministry organizations in Alaska, Montana, South Dakota and Washington to expand services in the community that reach families in crisis and address racial inequity.

Footnotes:

¹ “Congregate Care, Residential Treatment and Group Home State Legislative Enactments 2014 – 2019,” National Conference of State Legislatures.

² Elisa Minoff, “Entangled Roots: The Role of Race in Policies that Separate Families,” Center for the Study of Social Policy, October 2018, pp.3-4 and 15-19, available at <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/CSSP-Entangled-Roots.pdf> (accessed on April 9, 2021).



Bias in Placement

Among children placed in a group setting, 30 percent are Black, 40 percent are White and approximately 20 percent are Hispanic¹—yet Black children are 35 percent more likely to be placed in a group setting than White children. This number reflects bias in the child welfare system that contributes to Black children being separated from their families at disproportionately high rates.²



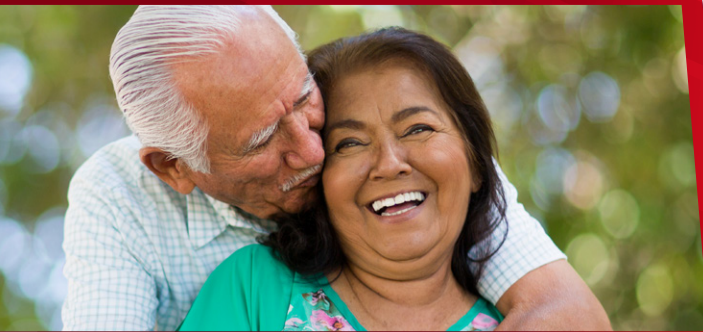
Realizing the Promise of the Family First Prevention Services Act

The landmark bipartisan Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), which became law in February 2018, represents the most significant reform to federal child welfare policy in decades. Through our Results Innovation Lab, we are working with local and state partners to leverage this legislation and create new pathways that increase the number of children who can remain safely at home with their families.



Accelerating the Pace of Change

We led an initiative where 12 Lutheran social ministry leaders developed approaches to address the disparities in permanency for Black children. This collaboration achieved groundbreaking results. We saw a nearly twelvefold increase—from 4 percent to 47 percent—among youth exiting the foster care system to family permanent homes in Illinois Child and Family Services. We also saw a 400 percent rise in attendance at Philadelphia empowerment workshops with families at risk of out-of-home placement.



OLDER ADULTS **A Focus on Community**

We are creating new ways to bridge gaps in care for older adults who are low-income and underserved, ensuring access to services that empower them to age independently with dignity and purpose in the home and community of their choice.



Our work with older adults and caregivers in 2021 addressed the challenges of accessing community-based services and supports, including in rural America where rapidly aging communities, social isolation, lack of financial resources and the need to travel long distances can have compounding effects on their health and well-being.

Community-Based Support in Rural America

In 2021, the Lutheran Services in America **Great Plains Senior Services Collaborative** completed its sixth year of work to expand community-based services for older adults in rural Minnesota, Montana and North Dakota. This project expands proven models of community-based services and supports for older adults who face unique barriers to accessing care. Since its founding, our collaborative has reached more than 4,000 older adults in over 100 rural communities.



Leaders who demonstrate sustained commitment and investment in establishing and implementing enhanced service coordinator programs in housing are critical to the sea change needed to empower older adults to age independently. Our research found true champions in Genacross Lutheran Services and their work with Lutheran Services in America.

Robyn Stone | Senior Vice President of Research at LeadingAge and Co-Director of LeadingAge LTSS Center @ UMass Boston



**Lived Voices:
Aging in Rural America**

Life as an older person in rural America holds real fulfillment and joy. The voices of caregivers and community members living in and around Wilton, North Dakota, paint a picture of the bonds that enrich life in a sparsely populated locale.

Our new video, “Stories of Independence, Community Connections and Vibrant Lives,” takes you there. It complements our in-depth report “Cultivating a Thriving Community of Care,” which explores and shares answers to key challenges facing those who are aging in rural America.

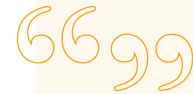
» View our “Lived Voices” video and report at lutheranservices.org

*Advancing Services and Supports
in Affordable Housing*

We partnered with the RRF Foundation for Aging and the LeadingAge LTSS Center @ UMass Boston to advance the implementation of services and supports for older adults at affordable housing sites of Genacross Lutheran Services in Toledo, OH. The findings from this work revealed that these solutions effectively overcome the challenges associated with the social determinants of health among older adults in affordable housing. Importantly, we also learned the approach can be expanded throughout the country.

Bringing Home and Community Together

In conjunction with UnitedHealthcare and our members, Lutheran Services in America developed a high-value partnership model that integrates services in the home and community to better meet complex needs. Recognizing that more than 80 percent of a person’s health is determined outside the doctor’s office, the model is premised on transforming health at its most foundational level.



The Lutheran Services in America collaborative’s efforts to support the sharing of resources and expertise among members received high marks and proved critical to addressing the overall challenge of rural aging in the participating communities.

**Rebecca Sales and
Christin Lindberg** |
Research Scientists
Wilder Research

SOCIAL SECTOR LEADERSHIP

Dynamic Drivers of Change

We create opportunities for Lutheran social ministry leaders to come together with outside experts in collaborative settings to address priority issues and reimagine the future.

Sharing for Success

Lutheran social ministry leaders are driving change in a never-before-seen environment. With record attendance, our keynote speakers and network leaders at our annual signature event—**CEO Summit**—shared insights and strategies to address a wide array of timely issues such as workforce shortages and forging strategic paths forward.

Reimagining Diversity

With leadership support from Darrell Gordon, Lutheran Services in America board chair as well as President and CEO of Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center, and Paul Miles, President and CEO of the We Raise Foundation, we launched our **Reimagining Diversity Collaborative**, which brings together 16 member CEOs and a board representative of each organization into a year-long initiative.

The collaborative provides a unique opportunity to advance diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Its members gain access to a range of DEI experts and opportunities to evaluate their own organizational policies and practices.

At the policymaking level, the newly formed **Race Equity Network** developed a 2021 Advocacy Platform that calls for ensuring equitable health outcomes for all people. The platform calls for meeting this goal by advancing priorities such as maintaining and increasing Medicaid and Medicare funding, decriminalizing homelessness and achieving equitable care in COVID-19 treatment. The network focuses our commitment to strive for greater racial equity and diversity.



LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Lutheran Services in America launched a new tradition in 2021 to recognize distinguished member organizations each year for their exceptional work and for exemplifying our core values. These include The Innovator Award, The Micah Award, and The Paragon Award—The Ken Daly Award for Excellence in Membership.

2021 Micah Award Winner: **Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area**

The Micah Award recognizes members for exhibiting outstanding leadership in addressing justice, mercy and equity. Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) has made a significant difference in its community by supporting and resettling nearly 2,000 Afghan allies in the Maryland, Northern Virginia and Washington, DC region.



I have the privilege of leading a dynamic and servant-leader team of professionals at Lutheran Social Services of Southern California. Annually, we work with thousands of individuals and families offering emergency services, social services, transitional services, education and housing counseling. The CEO Summit and other leadership gatherings that Lutheran Services in America leads throughout the year provide me and my team with meaningful insights, peer networking and tangible opportunities to strengthen our local impact and reach.

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith | President and CEO
Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

2021 Innovator Award Winner:
Samaritas

The Innovator Award recognizes a member organization that is pioneering new solutions, technology or business practices to solve complex issues. Today, a shortage of caregivers compounds a growing need for care for older adults affected by dementia. Samaritas, based in Michigan, developed a novel educational program that improves health outcomes by investing in caregiver education through credentialed dementia care training. The program leverages innovative Google Glass and Vuzix technologies to foster a stronger community of skilled caregivers.

2021 Paragon Award Winner:
Marian Baldini
President and CEO, KenCrest

In honor of former Lutheran Services in America board member Ken Daly, this award recognizes a leader who serves as a tireless ambassador and mentor, generously providing guidance, coaching and experience, and lifting up the next group of leaders. Marian Baldini—a servant-leader in the truest sense of the phrase—has inspired thousands to support the community of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities with PRIDE (Positive approaches, Reaching higher, Inclusion, Discovery and Excellent leadership).

PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY
A Voice at the Table

The collective power of our \$23 billion faith-based voice on Capitol Hill is crucial to advancing policies that improve the health and well-being of the six million people our network cares for each year.

Our advocacy efforts remain a steadfast faith-based voice at tables of influence in Washington, DC. For example, as part of a 14-member Bipartisan Policy Center task force of government representatives, nonprofit leaders, public health professionals and healthcare executives, we contributed to a five-year roadmap for public health leaders and elected officials to build a more just, sustainable and robust public health system.

The Bipartisan Policy Center report, “Public Health Forward: Modernizing the U.S. Public Health System,” frames a practical, responsive agenda for years to come. In its recommendations, the report explicitly recognizes the need to foster partnerships with locally based nonprofit organizations such as our network members. Their deep reach and long-standing relationships of trust with the people in their communities are critical to ensuring that all perspectives enrich the vision of a better health system.

In 2021, the **Lutheran Services in America-Disability Network** carried forward its advocacy for person-centered long-term services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Vision: Public health departments partner with various sectors (e.g., housing, food, transportation) and stakeholders (e.g., business, faith-based organizations, healthcare), toward the shared goal of providing a fair and just opportunity for all to achieve health and well-being.

“Public Health Forward: Modernizing the U.S. Public Health System”
Bipartisan Policy Center,
December 2021



Changing Lives with Your Support

The results highlighted in this report are made possible in part through gifts to our Lasting Change Campaign. Thanks to Thrivent's \$250,000 matching gift, campaign donations in 2021 made double the impact.

With your generous support, we are more than halfway to reaching our campaign's \$1 million goal by June 30, 2023.

Campaign gifts unleash our nationwide network of Lutheran social ministry organizations to drive transformational change for people and families in our country experiencing need.

In Gratitude

We gratefully acknowledge our friends and partners listed below for investing in Lutheran Services in America.

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Treatment Center
Rev. Lawrence and Joy Wohlrahe

RESULTS INNOVATION LAB

Supports our goal to achieve equitable outcomes for 20,000 children in the U.S. by 2024

Kenneth and Donna Daly
Alesia and Stephen Frerichs
Kristen and Rob Gay
Charlotte Haberaecker
Karen Himle
Deborah and Ryan Hoesly
Dang Nguyen
Allison Repke
Kevin Sheetz

NEIGHBOR-TO-NEIGHBOR

Supports our annual fund goal with flexible funding to boldly respond to the needs of our network today

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““““

I truly think it's our mission. We are responsible to lift up our neighbors, and if we're not, we're not living to our full potential...Will you join me and Lutheran Services in America in carrying out this important mission?

Darrell Gordon | President and CEO
Wernle Youth & Family
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