

TOGETHER

TODAY

STRONGER

TOMORROW

FOUNDATION
CAMPAIGN

www.LCFS.org



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OUR MISSION AND VISION

Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois nurtures and strengthens children and families in need. We envision a world where all of God's children have the opportunity for safe, healthy and meaningful lives.

Called to serve all of God's people, LCFS is a welcoming organization that helps people of all faiths and backgrounds. LCFS impacts thousands of lives each year, guided for almost 150 years by our Christian heritage and commitment to promote mercy, compassion and lasting change. With your partnership, we can continue to strengthen this circle of support for the children and families in our care.

The Need and Our Plan for the Future

LIFE-CHANGING PROGRAMMING

Problem

When families facing adversities aren't supported, more children enter the foster care system. LCFS wants to provide additional preventative programs that keep families together and children in their homes. Current government funding does not support the research and development required to expand and add **preventative programs** that focus on strengthening families before they enter the child welfare system.

Once a child enters foster care, basic needs are covered by state funding, but **special essentials and equipment** are not. LCFS wants to be able to care for these children as we would our own – and offer them the chance to take music lessons, go to sport camps or afford educational essentials like laptops - to help them reach their full potential. Additionally, once a child finds their forever home, government support ends, even though the cost and stress of raising a child do not. LCFS needs to stay connected with these families and offer **on-going support** so they continue to stay strong.

In an ever changing-world, LCFS currently has little capacity to invest in developing **innovative programs** or fund **emergent needs** as they arise. LCFS is already known for its innovative approaches, but we need additional ability to quickly adapt in order to help the children and families we serve, especially during uncertain times.

How will this campaign help?

With the support of the ***Together Today, Stronger Tomorrow Campaign***, we'll invest in preventative programming that strives to keep children from entering the foster care system in the first place. If together we're able to provide this circle of support to families during their times of greatest need, children can be spared the trauma of removal from their families.



LCFS will also be able to support individual needs that help former foster children grow, learn and reach their potential – even after they have found their forever home. We will also spearhead the development of new approaches to working with children and their families, serving individuals others deem too risky. And we'll create new compassionate care services, tools and support resources as emergent needs arise for the children and families we serve.

What does that mean for the children and families we serve?

- Fewer children entering the child welfare system.
- Children able to reach their God given potential through additional, individual support.
- The ability for LCFS to quickly adapt to future needs, which will help families survive and thrive now and in the future.

ATTRACTING AND RETAINING A DYNAMIC TEAM

Problem

The work we do is not easy. It requires special people who have the dedication and heart necessary to support our mission and the children and families we serve. The demand for social work professionals has grown, and the entire nation is struggling with finding qualified employees. Therefore, it is more critical than ever **to attract and retain exceptional** child welfare team members. When professionals in child welfare positions leave the organization, there is a disruption in the care received by children and families. This can lead to children experiencing more trauma and longer stays in care.

How will this campaign help?

We celebrate and appreciate our incredible team who do life-changing work with children and families every single day at LCFS. Through your support of the ***Together Today, Stronger Tomorrow Campaign***, LCFS will strive to become an employer of choice - attracting the most talented child welfare professionals. With your help, LCFS will be able to focus on building a work environment complete with leading compensation, benefits and growth opportunities which will allow excellent employees to stay and live out their calling at LCFS.

What does that mean for the children and families we serve?

- Committed, long-term child welfare professionals.
- More stability for children in our care.
- A constant, positive presence in a child's life, giving strength and hope.



How Will My Gift be Used Now and in the Future?

LCFS already does great work for the people we serve, but we could do so much more! With your participation in this campaign, LCFS will create additional programs that help families before they enter the child welfare system. We also will be able to attract and retain top-tier employees. Your support will help LCFS move forward with a bolstered, improved and sustainable approach in these areas and become the best human service agency for our children and families both now and in the future.

The LCFS Foundation is an investment fund, governed by a board and designed to help with current needs. To ensure the future of the agency, reduce our reliance on government funding and provide resources to support our staff and innovative programs and services, the goal of our **Together Today, Stronger Tomorrow Campaign** is to increase LCFS Foundation assets by \$10 million growing the total to \$18 million. According to Foundation by-laws, LCFS can draw up to 10% of the balance each year for existing needs. That yearly support will be divided between the proposed programming and employee initiatives.

When you build a house, you have to lay a foundation - something solid and strong on which you can build so that the house won't fall down. Your gift to the LCFS Foundation will be a cornerstone gift that provides both long-term stability and yearly support impacting the lives of children and families today and our ability to be adaptive and responsive to their needs in the future.

Why LCFS?

LCFS is one of the few openly faith-based child welfare agencies remaining in Illinois. Through Christ we are called to serve all of God's children, even those who have situations that are the most challenging. We do not believe anyone is beyond help or hope. We believe every child deserves to grow up safe and have the opportunity to reach their God-given potential...and we know you do too.

When you give to LCFS' **Together Today, Stronger Tomorrow Campaign**, you are putting your faith in action. The vision and magnitude of this effort requires dedication and generosity. Your help to strengthen LCFS' capacity and increase the Foundation's assets will enable LCFS to be the best at this important work today and in the future.

Together today we can strive towards *A WORLD WHERE ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SAFE, HEALTHY AND MEANINGFUL LIVES!*

“My hope for our future is to stay clean, grow stronger in the Lord, and keep a relationship with LCFS,”

-Nicki, Former Intact Family Services Client



Eddie and Nicki struggled with addiction and were in jeopardy of losing their children. Thankfully, they were connected to LCFS' Intact Family Services program. With the guidance of their dedicated LCFS worker and the support group they built, Eddie and Nicki were able to do the hard work to complete their treatment and services, while keeping their children with them. Now they are refocused on what is most important to them, which is taking care of their children.