



## August E-News from LSSN

### LSSN's Achievements for 2009/2010



Lutheran Social Services of Nevada finished its 2009/2010 fiscal year at the end of June, and we are now proud to report how much we've been able to expand, and how much more we've been able to serve the needy in our community.

15,172 individuals were served with nutritious food, drinks and pet food for their pets.

206,586 pounds of food were distributed through our pantry, an increase of 26% from last year!

233,670 nutritious meals were provided to people in need, a 63% increase from last year!

1,038 individuals, including seniors and children, received over 14,441 pounds of food through our holiday programs at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

In addition, 206 children received Christmas gifts through our Adopt-a-Family program, while 450 children received Easter Egg Baskets in time for the holiday.

8 homeless families with children were housed, cared for and moved into permanent housing through our supportive housing program.

175 individuals received rental assistance support this year, an increase of 760%!

We literally couldn't have done it without your help, and we're only getting started.

## Back to School Backpack Drive



Through the generosity and hard work of our partner congregations and friends, LSSN was able to provide over 125 children with the school supplies they needed to start the school year right.



We'd especially like to thank the volunteers from the Colorado River Commission of Nevada and members of their families, who were kind enough to take a morning to come to LSSN and help assemble and distribute these backpacks. The CRC is a Nevada state agency whose mission is to serve the communities of the state by responsibly managing and protecting our Colorado River water and power resources.



We would also like to extend a special thank-you to Pastor Mike and the youth of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, who were kind enough to deliver several dozen backpacks and an array of school supplies for the program, as well as spending a morning to help assemble and organize them!



## Peanut Butter Drive: In the Home Stretch



Emergency Services Director Derrick Felder unloads the latest delivery of peanut butter. In this shipment alone, Good Samaritan provided over 1,500 pounds for the needy!

### Contest Update – as of 8/24/10

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church - 2,162 lbs  
New Song Lutheran Church - 1,387 lbs  
St. Andrews Lutheran Church - 523 lbs  
First Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - 351 lbs  
The Lakes Lutheran Church - 292 lbs  
Grace Lutheran Church - 271 lbs  
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church - 263 lbs  
First Presbyterian Church - 247 lbs  
Green Valley Lutheran Church - 211 lbs  
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church - 209 lbs  
Living Springs Lutheran Church - 89 lbs  
Mountain View Lutheran Church - 63 lbs

That's a whopping THREE TONS of peanut butter collected so far to help LSSN feed the needy.

If you notice any errors, please let Tom know immediately at [Thomas@lssnv.org](mailto:Thomas@lssnv.org). Pickups and processing of incoming collections are still underway.

While donations are always appreciated, the drive itself will end on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Final results will be tabulated and reported as soon as possible, followed by the naming of the champion!

(The real winners, after all, are the people who will have full bellies as a result of your thoughtfulness.)

## New Facebook Page is Live – Join LSSN’s Friends List



Like to keep up to speed on the latest news? Curious about what’s going on above and beyond our monthly e-newsletters? Want to know what’s going on at LSSN today?

Then we would like to invite you to join us on Facebook!

Facebook offers us a number of exciting new features, including expanded coverage of our events and daily ministry through our photo albums, up to date information on upcoming events and volunteer activities, instant news updates, discussion boards for questions and answers, and the ability to network to our many friends in the community.

We invite you to check out our new page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lutheran-Social-Services-of-Nevada/117275164979836> , and hope that you will link us to your own page through the “Like” feature.

Thank you again for your generous support. Only with your help can we continue to express the love of Christ by serving and caring for those in need!

## LSSN Teams with LAMN for Hunger 101 Simulation

Hunger 101 is a unique learning experience that provides the opportunity to take on the role of someone in Las Vegas who is at risk of hunger. More specifically, Hunger 101 is an interactive learning experience which challenges participants to come face-to-face with the gritty realities of domestic hunger. It explores the day-to-day complex, intersecting economic and social circumstances that lead to and perpetuate hunger in Southern Nevada. With a limited budget, attendees will attempt to “feed” their family for one day. The simulation attempts to recreate the realities that visiting a grocery store, food pantry, and local food stamp office hold for people at risk of hunger. Moreover, attendees will be able to discuss these issues with other community leaders and discover ways to help.

The Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Nevada (LAMN), along with LSSN and Family Promise, is excited to host Hunger 101 in Southern Nevada. We know that advocating alongside those who are hungry is key to our ministry in this world. The reaction to the Hunger 101 experience is heartfelt and real.

Please join us on October 16 from 9am – 12noon at The Lakes Lutheran Church, located at 8200 W. Sahara. Please register for this event by emailing your name(s), daytime phone number, and congregation or community organization to Program Director Maxine Harju at [maxineharju@yahoo.com](mailto:maxineharju@yahoo.com). We look forward to sharing the Hunger 101 Simulation Event with you.

## Thrivent Choice and Simply Giving Programs Now Active



Thrivent Choice is a new program that lets members help choose where Thrivent Financial gives back. The program will get more members involved in helping determine how Thrivent Financial distributes its charitable funds. The launch of Thrivent Choice continues with the introduction of Choice Dollars. On August 16th, eligible benefit members in southern Nevada received a letter with information on their designated Choice Dollars for 2010 and details on how they can help direct Choice Dollar funds to Lutheran organizations.

As always, LSSN is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member who is eligible to direct Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup>, we ask you to consider LSSN as you help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable funds. To do so, log in at <https://choice.thrivent.com> and follow the prompts, or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and at the prompt, say "Thrivent Choice". If you'd like to make your contributions even more convenient, you can even choose to automatically send Choice Dollars<sup>SM</sup> to LSSN every month using this option! Your letter will contain more instructions and answers.

If you have any questions or encounter any issues with your direction, LSSN Development Director Tom Maatta will be happy to help. He can be reached at 702-807-5707 or [thomas@lssnv.org](mailto:thomas@lssnv.org).



Looking for more convenience in your donations?

LSSN now offers the capability for donors to set up regular automated deductions from their checking or savings accounts to support our ministries in the community through Thrivent's Simply Giving Program. All that you have to do is fill out a simple form and provide a voided check to LSSN, and we can take care of all the details.

If you have any questions or would like to enroll, LSSN Development Director Tom Maatta will be happy to help. He can be reached at 702-807-5707 or [thomas@lssnv.org](mailto:thomas@lssnv.org).

Would you like to join us in expressing the love of Christ by serving and caring for those in need?

Food donations are collected at many congregations or may be delivered to LSSN.

Financial contributions may be mailed to LSSN, PO Box 2079, Las Vegas, NV 89125.

Online secure donations can also be made at [https://www.lssnv.org/secure\\_donate.php](https://www.lssnv.org/secure_donate.php).

Thank you for your support!

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Please note that Derrick Felder, Lead Case Manager, is now the contact for food pick-up scheduling. He can be reached at [derrick@lssnv.org](mailto:derrick@lssnv.org) or 702-639-1730.

Our theme for September is all about the children: "Pink and Blue". Suggested items are anything baby-related: food, formula, bottles, wipes, lotion, soap, and the like. Please do not include diapers, as we are very well stocked with these at the moment.

Our theme for October is "Autumn Harvestfest". Suggested items are potatoes (fresh or canned), canned green beans, corn, peas, beets, sauerkraut, egg noodles, gravy (mixes or in a jar), vienna sausage (or other non-perishable sausage), apple juice, applesauce, and gingerbread.

As we remember the needy at the holiday, our theme for November is "Counting our Blessings". Non-perishable food items appropriate for the feast table are most welcome: canned green beans, corn, yams; gravy, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, boxes of jell-o and pudding, coffee, tea, and canned broths (beef, vegetable, chicken). **WE ESPECIALLY NEED TURKEY DONATIONS FOR OUR MAJOR THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION!**

Updated information on all the above, along with volunteer needs, the opportunity to make secure online donations, and much more, can be found at [www.lssnv.org](http://www.lssnv.org).

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"Expressing the love of Christ by serving and caring for people in need."

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