Headlines

Member Spotlight: Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich Discusses the Northshore Merger, Health Care Mission Leaders, and the Lutheran Leadership Summit

Rev. Kathie Bender Schwich is the Senior Vice President of Mission and Spiritual Care at Advocate Health Care, an LSA member that serves three million patients annually through its healthcare system. Kathie is responsible for overseeing the Spiritual Care Services, Clinical Pastoral Education, Music Therapy, Clinical Ethics and Volunteer Services. "Having come to this role from the presiding Bishop's staff at the ELCA, I'm familiar with the importance of networks and coming together for shared learning," Kathie said.

Read the full interview here »

Midwest Disaster Consortium Created Through Partnership of Lutheran Agencies

Lutheran Disaster Response announced the development of a Midwest Disaster Consortium that will be focused on creating sustainability for essential disaster staff at Lutheran Disaster Response affiliate Social Ministry Organizations within a four-state region, including Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Missouri. The Social Ministry Organizations that will be active in the consortium include Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSSMN), Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota (LSSND), Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota (LSSSD) and Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri (LFCS).

Read more »
Just Announced – Keynote Speaker for the Annual Conference

LSA is pleased to announce the first of three plenary speakers for the Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX, April 20-23, 2015! Dan Cardinali is the president of Communities In Schools, Inc., the nation’s largest dropout prevention organization. He will speak on Tuesday, April 21, during our opening keynote session, on the topic of navigating change and his personal experience with scaling a network to achieve greater impact in the communities they serve. Hear how Communities in Schools aligned network members around a common purpose to achieve transformational change, how they leveraged their core strengths, ways they engaged foundations and neighbors, and lessons learned that we can apply to our individual organizations and the LSA network as a whole.

Registration is now open for the 2015 LSA-DN Winter Meeting in Florida

Come join your LSA-DN friends and colleagues for lively discussion, member sharing and fellowship in Safety Harbor, Florida. Meeting topics will include updates on guidance and state transition plans for implementing the HCBS settings regulations, review of the LSA-DN Administrative Cost survey, discussion of the issues and current political climate regarding direct care workforce and minimum wage issues, as well as updates from the Policy & Advocacy Team, Housing group and others. Agenda and speaker suggestions are welcome! Please contact Julie Swanson or Sarah Meek.

Legislative Update

LSA-DN Applauds House Passage of the ABLE Act

On Wednesday, December 3, the U.S House of Representatives passed the Achieving a Better Life

OUTGOING CEOs

John Dickey
The Lutheran Service Society of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, PA

Ken Michaelis
Northland Lutheran Retirement Community, Marinette, WI

Leann Miller
Good Neighbor Home, Manchester, IA

Linda Peters
The Bethany Home Association, Lindsborg, KS

Gordon Peterson
Oaks Indian Mission, Oaks, AR

Lois Pfeiffer
Good Shepherd Lutheran Community, Blair, NE

David Roberts (Jan. 31)
Lutheran Homes Society, Toledo, OH

Brad Roos (Dec. 31)
ZION Development Corporation, Rockford, IL

Robert Sanderson (Jan. 1)
Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota, Fargo, ND

Chris Schulz
St. Mark’s Lutheran Home, Austin, MN

Organizational Changes

Lutheran SeniorLife has assumed operations for The Lutheran Service Society of Western Pennsylvania. Services provided by LSS are continuing.

St. John’s Lutheran Home, Albert Lea, MN, is now doing business as St. John’s Lutheran Community.

Read more »
Experience (ABLE) Act (H.R. 647/S. 313) with a vote of 404-17. Lutheran Services in America Disability Network (LSA-DN) applauds the overwhelming support for this legislation that will allow individuals with disabilities to save for the future without fear of jeopardizing essential long-term services and supports provided through Medicaid and other programs. The Senate is expected to take up the ABLE Act sometime this week.

Read more »

Open Enrollment Season for the Health Insurance Marketplace Ends Feb. 15th

The US Department of Health and Human Services is committed to helping community leaders and consumers understand and navigate the Health Insurance Marketplace that was created through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Whether you are sharing information with your employees or the clients you serve, or if you yourself would like to learn more about your options, there are resources available to help you.

To get the latest, most accurate information about the Marketplace, visit HealthCare.gov. At this website, people can learn how the Marketplace works, who can apply for insurance, how to lower costs, and how to apply and enroll in a health plan. There are helpful checklists and videos.

The Health Insurance Marketplace open enrollment period began November 15, 2014 and ends on February 15, 2015. For people enrolled by December 15th, their coverage will be effective January 1, 2015.

Read more »

Member Resources

Funding and Grant Opportunities

Click here for a list of up-to-date grant announcements of interest to the Lutheran social ministry community including the featured funding opportunity from Seniors Tackling Social Problems: The Purpose Prize, sponsored by Encore.org, awards at least $100,000 each year to people over 60 who are taking on society's biggest challenges.

Read more »

2015 CEO Academy
February 1-4, 2015
Safety Harbor, FL
Register now >>

2015 LSA-DN Winter Meeting
February 5-6, 2015
Safety Harbor, FL
Register now >>

2015 Lutheran Leadership Summit
February 22-25, 2015
Safety Harbor, FL
Register now >>

2015 Annual Conference
April 20-23
San Antonio, TX

Read more »

The Monthly Number

#50%

Young People Who Volunteer do Better in Work and School, Study Finds

Young adults who volunteer are half as likely to drop out of school or have trouble finding a job, according to a report released by Opportunity Nation and paid for by Citibank.

Read more »

Dell Member Purchase Program: December Specials

Employees of organizations that belong to the LSA network are invited to enjoy perks and savings on the latest Dell products and select electronics and...
accessories, as a benefit to your affiliation with LSA! Your friends and family are also welcome to take advantage of these discounts.

Program Benefits:

- Best Price Guarantee on consumer PCs from Dell
- Up to 30% off desktops and laptops
- Discounts on thousands of electronics and accessories
- Exclusive Monthly Offers

Shop online or email Lynette_Reeves@dell.com with the member ID: GS135421282

Shop the December flyer now »

This Season, Support LSA When You Shop AmazonSmile

If you shop at Amazon, you could be supporting LSA! Lutheran Services in America is part of AmazonSmile, a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and on your first visit you'll be prompted to select a charitable organization. Please consider choosing Lutheran Services in America to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

Start shopping now »

Submit Your Story to be Featured in LSA Together

Do you have exciting news to share with the Lutheran social ministry community? Submit your stories to LSA to be featured in the monthly LSA Together e-newsletter or on our social media channels via our #MemberMondays feature. Submit your story alongside any supporting photos or media to nwatson@lutheranservices.org.

Click here to submit your story »

LSA Member News

Father Son Duo Hold Simultaneous Leadership Positions in Major Lutheran Social Ministry Organizations
Luther Manor Profiled in Caring Connections Journal for Innovative TimeSlips Program

PBS Documentary Series Featured Wartburg's Creative Aging & Lifelong Learning Program

Bethel New Life Announced as Part of 1,000 Job Initiative with World Business Chicago

Diakon Youth Services Center Point Day Program Named Juvenile Court Judges' Statewide “Community-based-program-of-the-year”

McHappy Day Raises Over $7,900 for V.I. Charities

Sarpy County Quilters Sewing Lives Together

Lutheran Social Services Program to Help Homeless Vets

COA's Standards for Primary Care Services Released Today

NQF Call for Nominations: Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Measure HCBS Services