

## charles was freezing and felt like giving up

### YOU GAVE HIM A HELPING HAND – AND HOPE!

When Charles' brother passed away, he felt there was nothing left for him in Boston. So, he hopped on a bus headed for Ohio and arrived with \$193 in his pocket.

Charles quickly found a temporary living arrangement, and his landlord even connected him with a job working for a popular restaurateur. But when his housing agreement ended, Charles had nowhere to go and struggled to find a new apartment because of his trouble with the law nearly 25 years ago.

*"I'm a felon and I did federal time," Charles says. "It's my demon I have to live with. But when people see that, they judge you, even though it was in 1999."*

Charles vividly recalls one particular night last Christmas season when he was on the streets and unsure if he would survive the brutal cold – or if he even wanted to. "It

*(Continued On Page 3)*



“ Being in a place like this changes everything.”

**Charles**

LSS Faith Mission Client

**A MESSAGE FROM RACHEL LUSTIG, PRESIDENT AND CEO**

For hundreds of men, women and children at LSS Faith Mission and LSS CHOICES, or for those families turning to LSS Food Pantries to ensure their kids can eat, this Christmas season is truly a season of hope. Hope for nourishment...for safe shelter... for a fresh start toward a new life.

Each person who comes to us for help has a unique story that brought them to this point in their lives. While some are struggling with homelessness, others have had to flee a violent intimate partner, or they may lack access to adequate food. Whatever their story, each one of them is receiving life-changing help they need to build a future filled with promise – thanks to you.

That’s why I’m so grateful for you and our other kindhearted neighbors. Because you care, these folks are experiencing restoration and being transformed inside and out. You can read about two of them – Charles and Marilyn – on the pages of this newsletter.

I encourage you to spend a few minutes reading their stories. Then I hope you will open your heart once again with a special gift to our *Hope for the Holidays* campaign.

Thank you for the hope you give – and Merry Christmas!



*Rachel Lustig*  
Rachel Lustig  
President and  
CEO

# deck the halls and spread some cheer

Every year through our Deck the Halls event, residents of LSS Faith Mission and LSS CHOICES receive wonderful gifts such as blankets, travel mugs, body care gift sets, and of course, toys for the kids.

At LSS CHOICES, not only can parents pick out toys and other gifts for their children, but children can even pick out gifts for their parents, with volunteers doing the wrapping. It’s how we make this time of year special for survivors and their children.

These gift items are giving added joy and comfort to men, women and children who are spending the holidays with us, because everyone deserves to celebrate the holidays.



## you can give...

Your compassion today will offer hope and support for hurting people who long to break free from hunger, homelessness, domestic abuse and other crises. **That's because your holiday gift helps provide:**

- Hot, nourishing meals and groceries
- Shelter, personal care items and counseling
- Employment preparedness
- Emotional healing and life restoration
- A warm refuge for the holidays!



**Thank you for making the season brighter by generously supporting the LSS Network of Hope today!**



The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." – Luke 2:10



## charles was freezing and felt like giving up

*(Continued From Page 1)*

*was like 10 degrees below zero," he says. "You ball up, use two or three hats, a couple of blankets. You're beyond frozen and it's hard to keep your spirits up. Part of you hopes you don't wake up in the morning. It's a crazy thing to hope you freeze to death."*

Thankfully, Charles did survive, and soon after that dreadful night he learned about LSS Faith Mission and walked through our door. Because friends like you care, we were able to provide him with safe shelter, nourishing food, warm clothes and sneakers. And that was just the beginning.

Our compassionate team is working with Charles to identify goals and a plan to secure his own housing. He recently found a new job as the kitchen manager of one of the city's top steak houses. He's saving the vast majority of his earnings to show landlords he'll be a reliable tenant. And he has an appointment to look at a new apartment of his own.

*"All I wanted was a helping hand," Charles says. "Faith Mission is absolutely amazing, a godsend. Being in a place like this changes everything."*

**Your continued support today will help more hurting neighbors find hope for the holidays!**

## LSS FOOD PANTRIES



## the food you provide means more than nourishment to marilyn

Marilyn is retired and lives across the street from her father, who is struggling with dementia. She and her sister take turns staying with him as he can no longer be left alone. But Marilyn takes responsibility for making sure he eats right and receives the nourishment he needs. That's why she is so thankful for LSS Food Pantries, and for caring friends like you.

Living on Social Security, Marilyn must stick to a very tight budget – especially now, in light of inflation and rising costs. After paying for rent, utilities and gas, there's not always enough money left for food. But thanks to you, she knows she can rely on the pantry to supplement her groceries with meat, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables and other nutritious foods. And she says the food you help provide means much more to her than just nourishment.

*"We all eat together," Marilyn says. "The three of us having dinner together all the time, that keeps my dad's mind a little active."*

Without the food pantry, Marilyn fears they would not be able to eat as well – that her small family would have to resort to less healthful foods. Instead, she has peace of mind knowing her elderly father is getting the nourishing food he needs to be at his best.

***Thank you for opening your heart to help Marilyn and her family when they need it the most!***

## begin your legacy

When you include LSS in your estate plan or through a planned gift, you'll begin a legacy of compassionate support that will impact our community for generations to come. And you have many planned giving options to choose from, including charitable gift annuities, donor advised funds, trusts, gifts of securities and more.

Making a planned gift to LSS can also help you reach your personal financial goals by:

- Providing yourself with an income stream for you and your spouse's life;
- Avoiding or deferring capital gains taxes;
- Taking advantage of immediate tax deductions among other benefits.

To learn more about setting up an estate plan in support of LSS, please contact:  
**[lsslegacy@lssnetworkofhope.org](mailto:lsslegacy@lssnetworkofhope.org)**



15-LSSOH-1123-N

**Your gift offers healing and hope to people in need across the LSS Network of Hope. That includes:**



Meals and shelter to homeless and hungry neighbors at LSS Faith Mission in both Franklin and Fairfield counties.



Nutritious food for families struggling with hunger at the LSS Food Pantries.



Safe refuge and healing for victims of domestic violence and their children at LSS CHOICES.

### THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



STAY CONNECTED

