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November 09 Vol. 2, Is. 11

South Carolina

News from
Lutheran Family Services
in the Carolinas

South Carolina Connections

Love and Fellowship

“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”- 1 John 4:11-12

Veterans who have faithfully served our country are living on the streets and under bridges in the Carolinas everyday. November 11 is Veterans Day and we ask you to join us in honoring the men and women who have sacrificed for our country like Ralph, a resident at Kinard Manor.

Ralph served his country with ten years of service in the Army, including time in Vietnam, after which he worked as a recruiter. Along the way Ralph began to struggle with Bi-Polar Disorder. Without proper medication and support Ralph lost his job at IHOP Corporation and bounced from family member to friend. In July, Ralph exhausted the kindness of his last friend, and was now homeless. He spent two weeks under the steps at Finley Park in Columbia, SC praying for his life. The Veteran’s Administration (VA) gave him medication and put him on a waiting list for housing. While waiting, Ralph visited a local

shelter that insisted he listen to a sermon before he could receive food to take his medication. Ralph felt as if they were putting conditions on his life and left.

In August, after returning to the VA, Ralph was sent to Kinard Manor, our transitional house for homeless male veterans in Greenwood, SC. After a visit from our Program Director, Terry Weeks; IHOP Corporation gave Ralph a second chance. He had a home and a job. He is taking his medication and working hard to get back on his feet. When asked what has been important to him this last month at Kinard Manor, Ralph said, “The fellowship the Lutheran Church gave me. They put no conditions on my life...They said, here - my doors are open. They showed me love. If they serve the same God, I want to be a part of it.”

Ralph is finding peace and self-direction. He is one of 200,000 veterans in our country who call the streets and bridges home every night. Through the work of LFS Carolinas, the Veteran’s Administration and faithful supporters of our ministry he is now on his way to finding healing and wholeness.

Program Spotlight:

Veterans Services

About one-third of all adult homeless people served in the U.S. armed forces. Some may be disabled or may have a diagnosis of post traumatic stress disorder or other combat related illness making it difficult to find consistent work and housing. To address the need for quality housing, LFS Carolinas provides shelter for homeless veterans through transitional facilities in North and South Carolina.

The program includes employment and benefit assistance, transportation to and from medical appointments and job interviews, counseling, re-integration into the community and support from local faith groups. The objective is to transition the veterans to independent living as soon as possible. Follow up services will be given to the veterans by our own trained staff, as well as partner organizations.

Kinard Manor – Greenwood, South Carolina

Ten-bed transitional housing facility for homeless male veterans. Residents are referred through the WJB Dorn VA Hospital in Columbia, SC.

Angels House – Columbia, South Carolina

Six-bed transitional housing facility for homeless female veterans. Residents are referred through the WJB Dorn VA Hospital in Columbia, SC.

Faith Farm – Dallas, North Carolina

Seven-bed transitional housing facility for homeless female veterans. Residents are referred through W. G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, NC.

Upcoming Events

Partners in Hope Fundraising Luncheon

Thursday, November 12, 2009

12 Noon

South Carolina State Museum

Columbia, SC

To RSVP, contact Mitzie Schafer at 803-260-6351 or

Mitzie.Schafer@LFSCarolinas.org

Low Country Foster Parent Christmas Party

Saturday, December 12, 2009

2 to 4 PM

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Summerville, SC

For more information, contact Julie Hood at

843-852-6007

Please reprint this in your bulletin or share with friends. THANKS!

Volunteers Needed to Spend Thanksgiving with Children in Need (or provide a dish)

On Thanksgiving Day the 35 children from the LFS Carolinas Group Homes will gather at Reformation Lutheran Church for a traditional Thanksgiving Meal. We are looking for individuals, families, and church groups to sign up to provide food for the meal. You can bring it the day before ready to be heated and served on Thanksgiving, or you can come and join us for lunch at 1:00 PM. We are looking for: turkeys, gravy, sweet potatoes, green beans, bread, cranberry sauce, tea, and pies. (The dressing is provided.)

Many of us have families to spend thanksgiving with, but for these children – the LFS Staff and Volunteers will be their family for the holidays. If you would like to take an hour or so to help prepare the meal or clean up – or even just come and eat with us as a family in Christ, we invite you to join us on Thanksgiving Day at Reformation Lutheran (1118 Union Street). If you can provide food or if you would like to volunteer please contact Mitzie Schafer at Mitzie.Schafer@LFSCarolinas.org or 803-461-2613.

For more information check us out on Facebook (LFS Carolinas – South Carolina).

Donate Today!

There are many ways you can support LFS Carolinas as we help the vulnerable people in our communities. To learn how your gift can make a difference contact Mitzie Schafer at 803-260-6351.

1118 Union Street • Columbia, SC 29201

1-800-HELPING

www.lfscarolinas.org