



**LUTHERAN  
SOCIAL SERVICES**

National Capital Area

July 2017

Dear Friends in Service,

I'm writing to share some exciting yet bittersweet news. Earlier this year I shared with our Board of Directors that I am planning to leave my position as CEO of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area. After nearly 15 years with LSS/NCA (9 of them as CEO!), it is time for me to turn the reigns over to our amazing senior leadership team, and for a new CEO to continue LSS/NCA's legacy of service and compassion.

Since the time I came to LSS/NCA, I have grown both personally and professionally, and I feel blessed to be part of a wonderfully caring community that serves more than 2,000 of our most vulnerable neighbors each year. I have dedicated my heart and soul to this incredible and rewarding work, and my goal now is to support the Board in finding someone with equal passion. I am ready to take on some new challenges, and I know I am leaving LSS/NCA in good hands.

The Board of Directors and our leadership team have created a bold five-year strategic plan that will take this organization to even new heights, and we have been thoughtfully planning for this transition to ensure it is smooth and successful. Our Board is working with Diversified Search, a firm familiar with faith-based human services organizations to conduct a national search for my replacement. I will remain at LSS/NCA through the end of 2015.

I would not be able to take this leap without knowing that everything we—you, me, our staff, our community—have worked so hard to achieve would be secure. As Ralph Abernathy said, "I may not know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future." It has been a joy and an honor to do this work in partnership with you. My heart warms knowing that thousands of people have been touched by the care and compassion of this community. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and for your wonderful support over the years.

In Peace and Service,

Melissa K. Graves

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