

A BOLD JOURNEY

Made possible by you

Annual Report
2016

 **LUTHERAN**
SOCIAL SERVICES
National Capital Area



NUMBERS IN
 **REVIEW**

Creating
FAMILIES
 Strengthening
LIVES
 Engaging
COMMUNITIES

What are these?

Let's call them tokens of our appreciation. Cut them off, hang them on the fridge, or use them as bookmarks! These side bars highlight the children and families whose journey has been made possible through your compassion.

Reading online? Click on the green heart to learn more about the numbers.

2016 Board of Directors

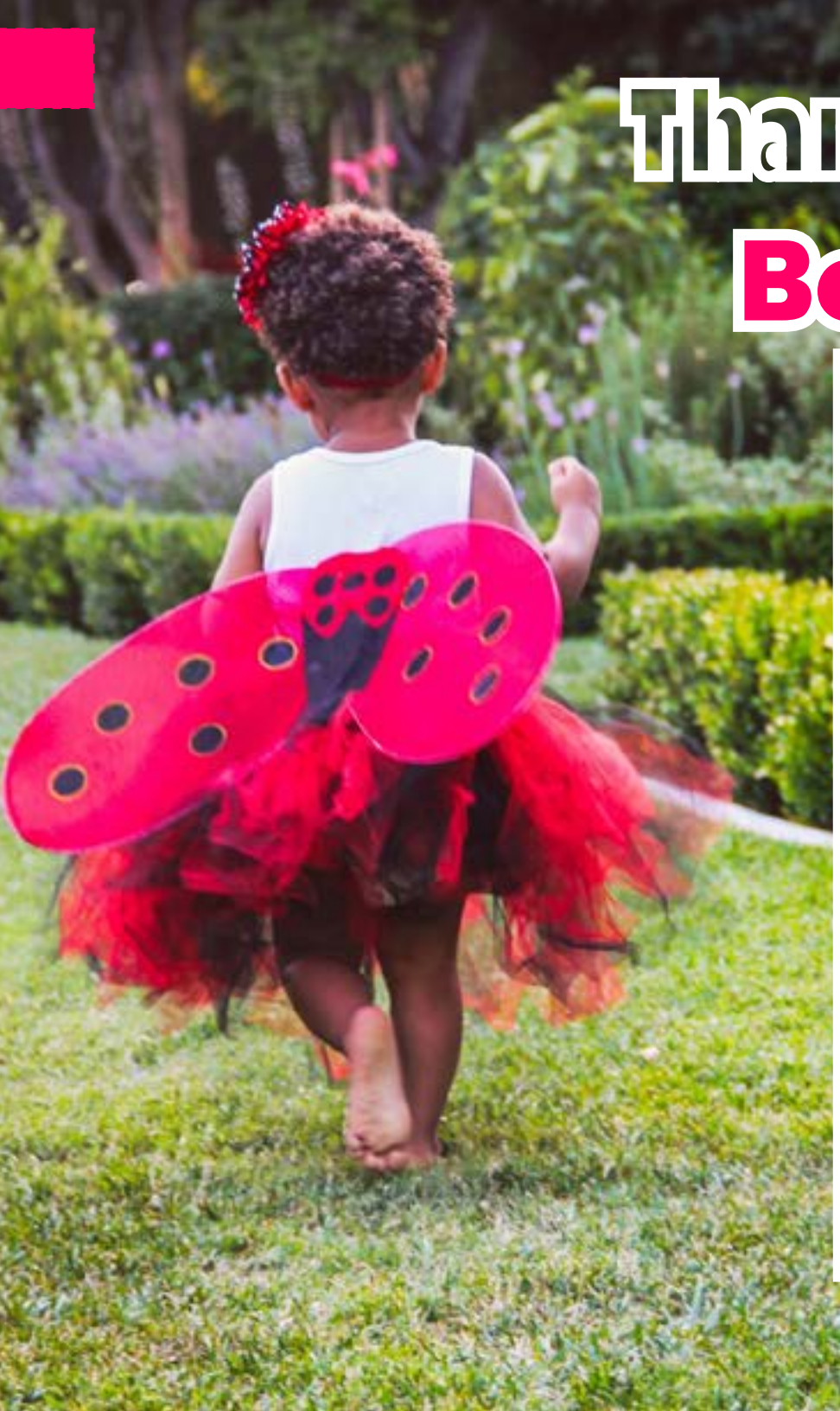
- Nels Hendrickson, Board Chair
- Lynn Tedesco, Vice Chair
- Joe Albrecht, Treasurer
- Toni Killinger, Secretary
- Doug Andre
- Lisa Gaffney
- Rev. Anteneh Grebreselassie
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- Chris Hunter
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- Daniel Mekibib
- Amanda Tran
- Sue Zimmerman

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- The Rev. Dr. John Denninger, President
*Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS),
 Southeastern District Represented by*
- The Rev. Kenneth G. Carlson*
- The Rev. Richard Graham, Bishop
ELCA Metro Washington, D.C., Synod

Special Thanks...

62 Staff



Thank You
Every journey is a new Beginning

A friend shared a favorite quote with me from philosopher Lao Tzu, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." At Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, **YOU** are that first step. Your support provides a hand for a child to hold, a welcoming smile for a refugee family arriving in your community, and a link for someone to call in a youth's darkest hour.

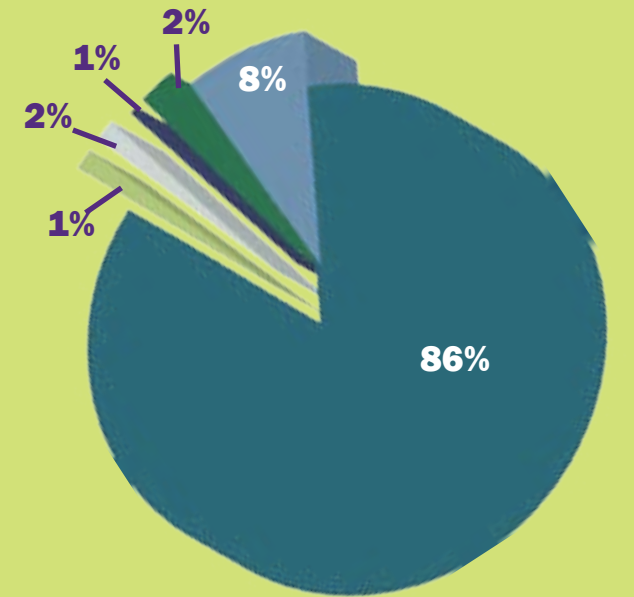
In 2016, over 600 individuals' volunteered and nearly 100 congregations engaged in active service, offering new beginnings to the most vulnerable in our community. Because together we are stronger, more vibrant and more capable than apart!

Where others see only obstacles, we know in our hearts that through selfless service and love, all things are possible. Our 2016 annual report highlights the many lives that have been impacted by your support and love.

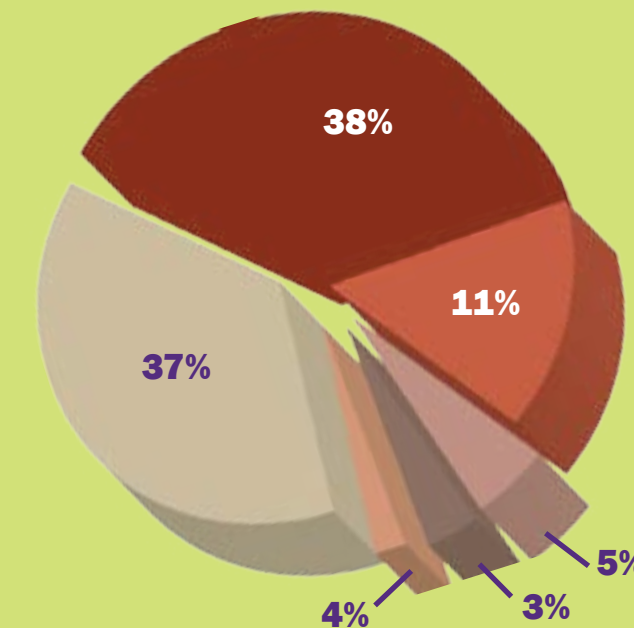
Blessings,

C.P. Connell

Christine P. Connell, DM
 CEO



- Contracts & Grants
- Contributions
- Donated Goods/Services
- Rental Income
- Fees
- Other
- Community Services
- Refugee Services
- Foster Care & Adoption
- Management
- Fundraising
- Facility Improvement



REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION

My DREAM is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best HOPE of earth.

~Abraham Lincoln

♥ **1,071**



Refugees fled thousands of miles from war & persecution to find new beginnings in our community

624

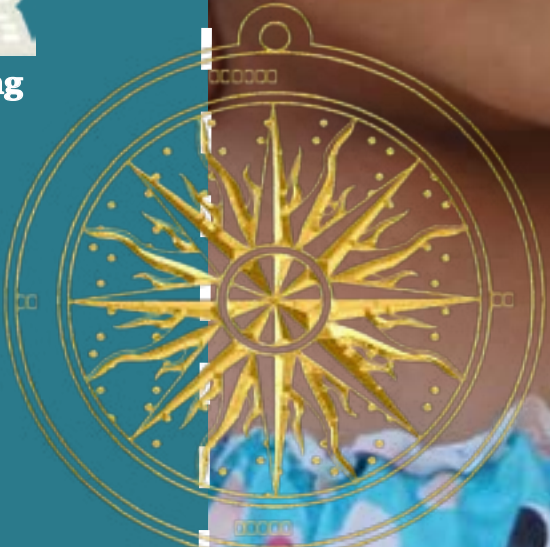


Refugee adults received job training to go the distance in their careers

♥ **234**



Refugees found employment to guide them to self-sufficiency



Five minutes to Change Course

Five minutes. That's the amount time Nina had to decide if she should leave her two small daughters and husband or stay in Iran and risk death because of her support of women's rights and western culture.

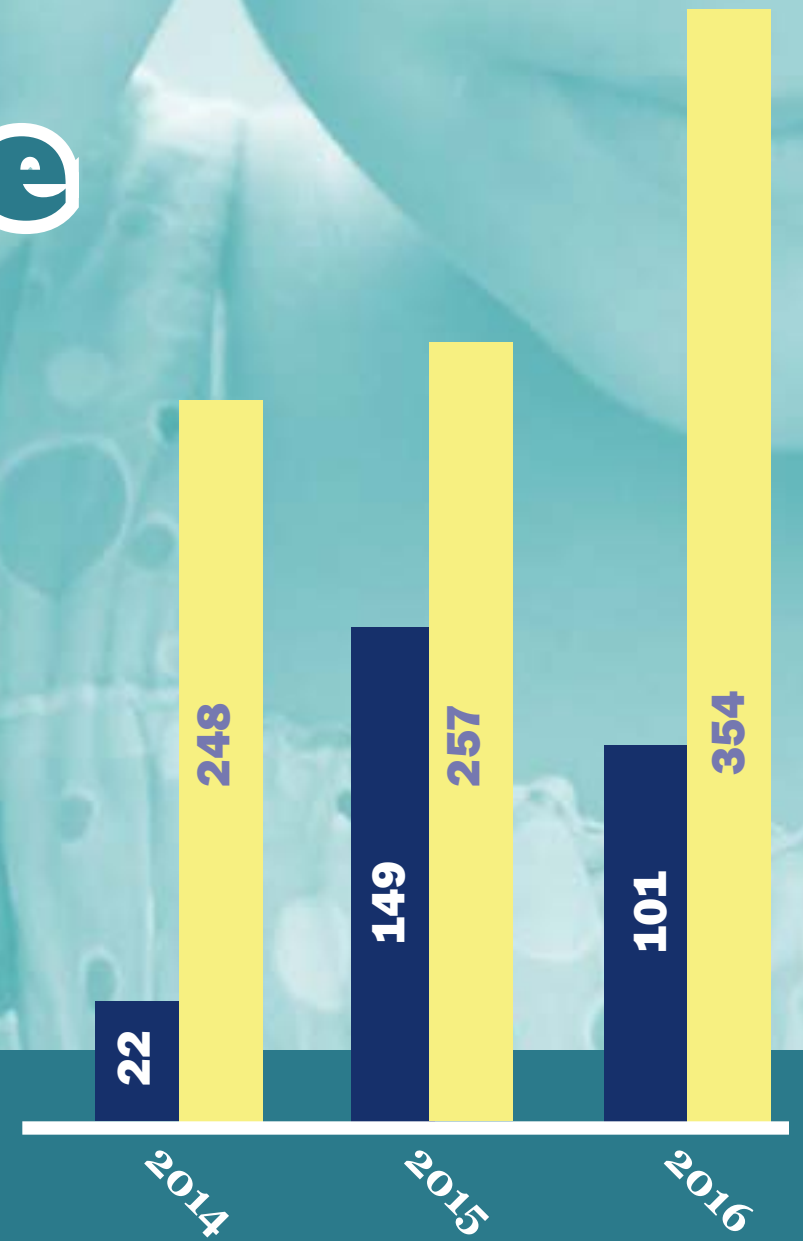
Five minutes.

She barely had time to grab some food and supplies for the journey let alone say good-bye. Nina fled to the hills and registered as a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) refugee to the United States.

Though she was given the opportunity to live and work in America, Nina stepped off the plane full of uncertainty and regret from leaving her family behind.

LSS/NCA worked with Nina to identify employment opportunities, register for vocational training, find affordable housing and gather referrals to other services and financial aid while she searched for a job. Most importantly, LSS/NCA immediately filed paperwork to petition to have her family join her in America. Nina had hope in her future once again.

With determination, Nina started to preapre for a future in Maryland with her family. Nina started working full time as a home care assistant and also started a second job at TJ Maxx so that she could save enough money to support her family when they arrived. After a few months, LSS/NCA was able to reunite Nina with her daughters and husband. This year, the family purchased a new home.



♥ **Number of Refugees Receiving Services**

Immigration & US Citizenship Services including family reunification | Financial Literacy Services

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

99

Children placed in loving, nurturing foster homes

32

Unaccompanied refugee minors found "home" after fleeing violence

19

Children achieved permanency with their birth families or through adoption

THE PROBLEM WITH
OUR WORLD

IS THAT WE DRAW THE
CIRCLE OF FAMILY

TOO SMALL ~Mother Teresa



On the Road To a Family Made Whole

Because Susie and Cindy's mother was unable to financially care for her children, she made the difficult but unselfish decision to place the girls into foster care.

LSS/NCA found a foster home that provided a stable, loving environment while they helped their mother seek employment training. Each week, staff drove Susie and Cindy across town to visit their birth mother. They were always excited on the trip over, bouncing in their seats with anticipation. The return trip was quiet and somber knowing it would be another week before the next visit.

Six months passed and on one particular visit, their mother was able to tell the girls that she had found two jobs and had finished her financial planning classes. Susie and Cindy would be moving home! On the way back, they talked about their future: the cookies they would bake with their mom, the stories they would read before bed, and the dinners they'd have around the kitchen table. Because of LSS/NCA, Susie and Cindy were not only given the highest quality care but their family was made whole.

56

Families opened their homes and their hearts to embrace children seeking safety and acceptance.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, visit LSSNCA.org and click "foster care."

YOUTH HAVEN

Mentoring, retreats, and wellness education for disadvantaged families

The best way to **FIND** yourself is to lose yourself in the **SERVICE** of others... ~Ghandi

12 PARENTS

Given support to improve health, manage stress, and strengthen their families.

58 YOUTH

Received mentoring and retreat experiences that encourage self-esteem and personal growth

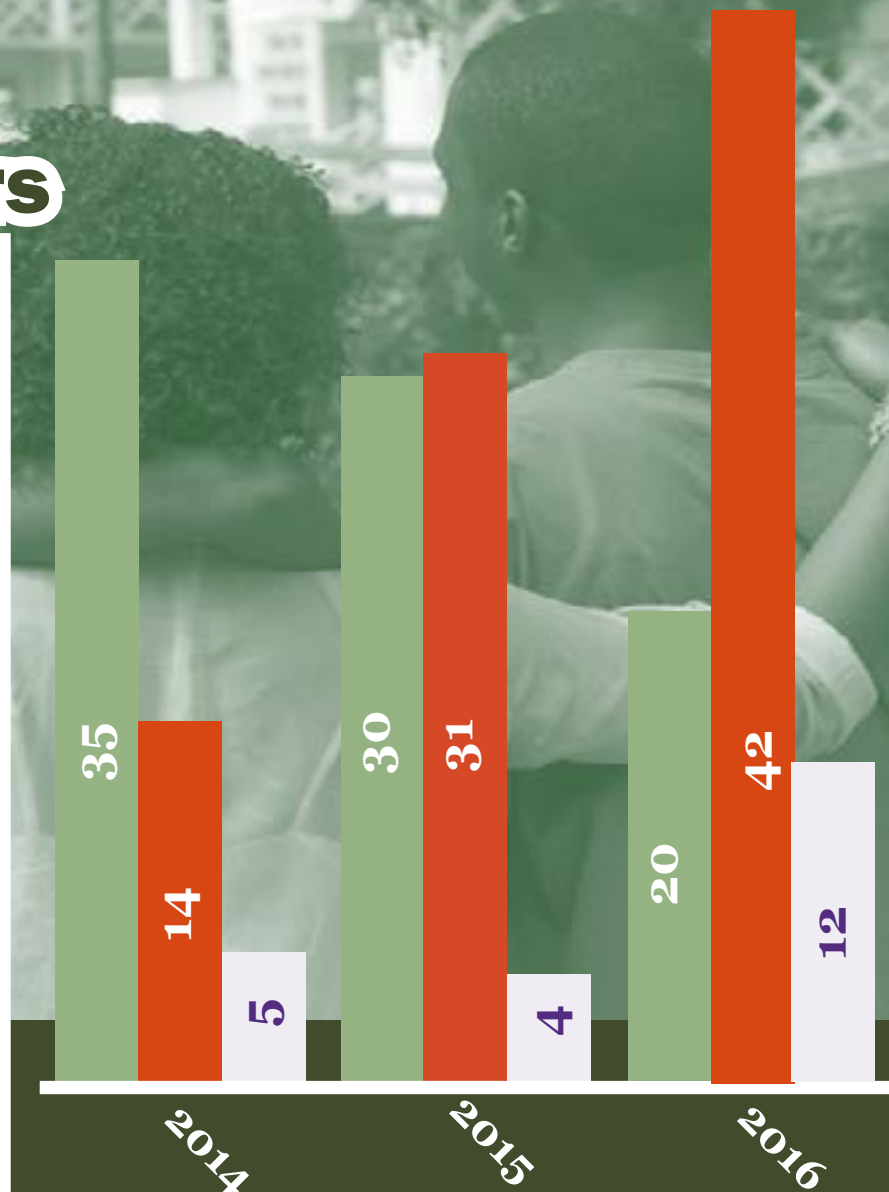
Finding Self in Service to Others

On a sunny day, a van of hesitant high school students ventured to Mar Lu Ridge, a beautiful camp in the Maryland mountains. As Ron sat in the back of the van looking ahead at the other kids, he was skeptical if he had made the right decision.

Following a day of swimming and playing basketball, he realized that for a long time he had lived without friends with whom he could share his deepest secrets and fears: He had HIV/AIDS and lived with the effects every single day.

After that single afternoon at Teen Haven, he decided to serve as a junior counselor at the Kids' Camp later that summer, wishing that he would have been able to attend the camp much earlier in his own life. Ron loved encouraging the younger children, teaching them to rely on their inner strength, and helping them understand that there was no reason to fear the future. Ron came back to volunteer year after year, not only because he could help others but because his own endurance was strengthened by witnessing the courage of his friends.

"[Youth Haven] means a lot to the campers. They look forward to having one week that's all about them. Seeing campers come out of their shells, expressing themselves, and leaving with a bigger smile than when they came is why I continue to volunteer." –Ron



Number of Youth Haven Participants Affected by HIV

Children (<13 years) Teens (15-18 years) Parents



Find more stories and information at:



Website: LSSNCA.org
2016 Snapshot: LSS/NCA By the Numbers



Thank
you FOR
SUPPORTING

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area
