



LUTHERAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
National Capital Area



2024 IMPACT REPORT



LSSNCA: Serving Our Neighbors since 1917

For over one hundred years, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) has evolved to meet the needs of its community while staying true to its mission:

Accompanying those in need to foster resiliency, self-sufficiency, and access to opportunities by creating, connecting with, and engaging welcoming communities.

LSSNCA leads with innovation, from serving as the region's resettlement headquarters for refugees fleeing post-war Europe, launching the region's first camp for children impacted by HIV/AIDS, establishing pro se asylum workshops for Afghan Allies, and opening the Resource Center to serve as a community hub, providing a dignified shopping experience for new neighbors in need.

Today, LSSNCA provides comprehensive services, including case management for refugees and asylum seekers, workforce development, housing assistance, family support services, foster care, trauma-informed mental health programs, wellness services, and legal assistance. This holistic approach creates welcoming spaces where individuals can heal, grow, and thrive.

**In Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24),
LSSNCA served
over 4,300 individuals
from over 48 countries living
across the Washington, D.C.
metropolitan area.**



Meet Our Leadership

Kristyn Peck
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Mamadou Sy
Chief Operating Officer

Raymond R. Rawlins
Chief Financial Officer

Nikki Salzman
Chief Development Officer

Nadya Andrusik
Executive Director, Children,
Youth, and Family Services

Hameed Girowal
Executive Director, Refugee
and Immigrant Services

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Patrice Gancie
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Melanie Armstrong
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Metro DC Synod

Sally Hiller
The Lutheran Church Missouri
Synod (LCMS)



A Letter from the CEO: Kristyn Peck

Since our founding in 1917, we have continuously evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, and 2024 was no exception.

Dear Friends,

I'm honored to share with you the 2024 Impact Report of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA). Since 1917, we've adapted to meet the evolving needs of our community—and 2024 was no exception.

While welcoming the stranger has become a defining part of our mission, this work is deeply rooted in our history. In 1941, then known as the Lutheran Inner Mission Society (LIMS), we began supporting families fleeing Nazi Germany. By 1949, we were the regional resettlement headquarters for refugees arriving from war-torn Europe—serving 212 individuals that year alone.

Throughout the decades, we've expanded our services in response to community needs: launching daycare and reentry programs in the 1940s, adoption and foster care in the 1950s and '60s, and mental health, domestic violence, and HIV/AIDS support in the decades that followed.

In 1974, we welcomed our first unaccompanied child—10-year-old Khoan Ngeik, a Cambodian boy in need of life-saving heart surgery. When the operation was canceled due to lack of funds, LSSNCA stepped in and guaranteed payment, ensuring he received the care he needed.

In the early 2000s, alongside growth of programs for refugees and unaccompanied children, we launched a program to promote the building of urban green spaces, pairing congregations and schools in this effort. LSSNCA also established the Disaster Response and Preparedness Program and provided services to families impacted by Hurricane Katrina in 2006 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

In Fiscal Year 2024, we celebrated 83 years of refugee resettlement and 50 years of serving unaccompanied children. We supported more than 4,300 individuals from 48 countries, offering case management, workforce development, mental health and wellness services, educational support, legal assistance, and foster care for 43 unaccompanied children.

As I reflect on our legacy, I'm inspired by our unwavering mission and our ability to respond with compassion and agility—no matter the circumstances. With your continued support, LSSNCA will remain a place where individuals and families can heal, thrive, and give back to their communities.

Thank you for your steadfast partnership and belief in our work.

With gratitude,

Kristyn Peck, CEO, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area

Dear Friends,

I am grateful and honored to have served on the Board of Directors of LSSNCA for the past four years and to witness this remarkable team continue to do the important work of welcoming the stranger to the national capital area. Whether resettling those who have been forced to flee from their homes, supporting unaccompanied children in their journeys to safety, or providing vital legal assistance and educational services, LSSNCA has worked for over a century to help foster bright new beginnings and strong communities.

2024 has brought remarkable organizational milestones—including over 4,000 individuals served through an array of comprehensive programs, from case management and mental health services to workforce development and housing services. We saw significant growth in the Resource Center, founded in 2023, with 3,475 individuals served and \$1.4 million of in-kind donations received and processed by over 600 wonderful volunteers. LSSNCA's Good Neighbors Partners and Champions Program, which involves volunteers and congregations in the work of providing home set-ups and housing support for newly arrived families, gave support to 1,616 individuals in need. The TEA Club, which began as a small program in 2021 for about 60 Afghan refugee women, now has almost 200 program participants engaging in ESL classes, women's health education, financial literacy, employment readiness, and other workshops. Importantly, it also provides a warm and welcoming space where Afghan women can establish social networks and gain the cultural fluency to navigate life in the United States. I have greatly enjoyed volunteering as an ESL tutor for TEA Club and have found great fulfillment and joy in connecting with the students over our lessons and cultural exchange.

I have been continually inspired by the commitment, skill, and gifts of the LSSNCA team. The team remains unwaveringly steadfast in its belief in the inherent dignity of the individuals we serve and focused on the mission of creating welcoming communities. Now more than ever, we need your help to continue to serve those most in need of assistance. I invite you to join us in this important work at this most crucial time by volunteering your time and talents or by making a donation to support our work.

With sincere thanks for your partnership,



Marie Martinez Israelite
Board Chair



A Letter from the Board Chair: Marie Martinez Israelite

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HOW WE SERVE

Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS)

Prioritizing safety and well-being, LSSNCA provides **transitional and long-term foster care for unaccompanied children and youth** seeking humanitarian protection. Eligible minors receive a comprehensive range of services, including health and wellness care, educational and vocational enrollment assistance, and preparation for independent living. LSSNCA also provides **foster care for Spanish-speaking families in the custody of the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency**. In partnership with the District of Columbia Family Court, the **Break the Seal program provides comprehensive post-adoption search services** for individuals who made and finalized their adoption plan with LSSNCA. The agency also offers evidence-based healthy relationships education for youth transitioning to adulthood.

Foster Care

Top five countries of origin:
Mexico, Venezuela, Guinea, Honduras, Guatemala, and Afghanistan

33
children and youth served in transitional foster care or the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program

10
Spanish-speaking youth served in D.C. foster care

25
foster families recruited

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) programs had:
Five high school graduates, three enrolled in post-secondary education, one enrolled in trade school, 15 employed, and seven age out of care with stable employment and housing.

Youth Development & Wellness

23
youth enrolled in Healthy Relationship Curriculum

Break the Seal

22
individuals served

Refugee and Immigrant Services (RIS)

Focused on holistic support, LSSNCA offers resettlement, health and well-being, employment, housing, educational, vocational, and mentoring services to people fleeing war and persecution.

1,842 people resettled

55% in Maryland

45% in Virginia

50% Female

50% Male

54% Adults

46% Children

Top five countries of origin:
Afghanistan, Syria, Guatemala, Venezuela, and El Salvador

Health and Wellness

programs provide mental health counseling to individuals and families, support navigating the U.S. healthcare system, and help finding culturally appropriate care.

1,111

individuals received health appointments and connections

693

clinical sessions held

Employment Services

include resume writing, interview practice, and job fairs to connect with potential employers.

2,456

people provided employment services

2,477

job placements secured

LSSNCA'S Good Neighbor Partners and Champions Program

partners volunteers and congregations to provide home set-ups, rental assistance, and general support to newly arrived families adjusting to their new community.

500+

homes identified for
1,616 people

33

new partnerships
established

58

evictions
prevented

Vocational and Educational Programs

include recertification and entrepreneur programs, youth mentoring to help students thrive in school, and TEA Club for women overcoming workforce barriers.

97

people enrolled in recertification programs, with a 32% completion rate

IT, Health, Medical, Engineering, and Building Maintenance are the top recertification fields.

111

youth mentored

196

women participated in TEA Club

Services for New Americans

Trauma-informed mental health and wellness services for vulnerable individuals, including people seeking asylum and survivors of human trafficking.

267
asylum-seekers supported

14
trafficking survivors served

Top five countries of origin: **Honduras, El Salvador, Peru, Guatemala, and Bolivia**

Legal Services

LSSNCA’s legal services include immigration consultations, “Know Your Rights” presentations, and representation and support for a variety of immigration applications.

176
legal consultations and “Know Your Rights” presentations

91
asylum applications

241
adjustments of status (i.e., green cards) and related applications

81
naturalization applications

1,427
other immigration-related services, including family reunifications

The Resource Center

Opened in January 2023, the Resource Center provides a dignified “shopping” experience for new neighbors who can access donated household supplies, baby essentials, nonperishable foods, and clothing. It also serves as a community hub for programs, workshops, and events, including financial literacy, English as a second language (ESL), and cultural orientation. Many volunteer hours make the Resource Center a success.

3,475
individuals served

60+
events and programs hosted

11
major distribution events for essentials, including backpacks, winter coats, and nonperishable foods

\$1.4 million
in in-kind donations

3,910
volunteer hours donated to the Resource Center

The value of FY2024 in-kind donations increased approximately \$200,000 from FY2023.

Partnerships and Volunteers

LSSNCA's partners and volunteers
make our work possible.

79
community
partners

632
individuals
volunteered

21,654
volunteer hours
served

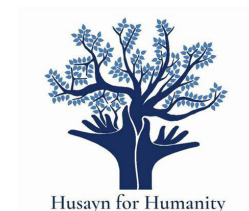
Volunteers support various LSSNCA programs and services, from mentorship to the Good Neighbor Partners and Champions program, which welcomes and supports new families in Maryland and Virginia.



**Scan the QR code to learn
more about LSSNCA's
volunteer opportunities.**

Partners

This is a small representation of partners that supported LSSNCA throughout the fiscal year.



Financial Impact

LSSNCA is so grateful for the ongoing support from donors and funders.

\$675,186

in total (unaudited) support, revenue, and private funding.

\$506,863

unrestricted funds

\$168,323

restricted funds

Notable Donors

The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

Leslie L. Alexander Foundation, Inc.

ELCA Foundation Mission Funding

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

George Mason University Foundation

Alexander Brady Foundation

Scan the QR code to donate and contribute to building a community of well-being where people thrive.





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