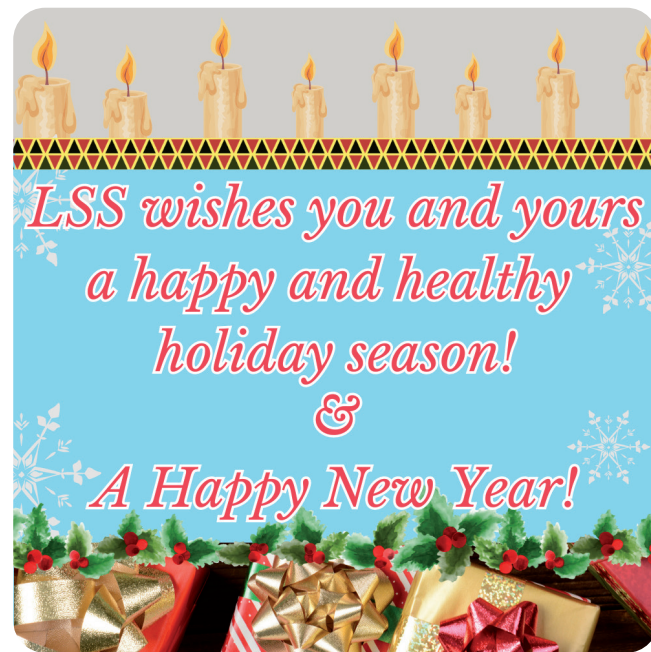


Senate Bill 4 (SB4) *continued from page 2*

This law goes into effect on January 1, 2024.

LSS is grateful to the Lutheran Office of Public Policy-California, Senator Wiener, our supportive legislators and all those who worked tirelessly for the passage of this bill, so we can serve more families and individuals experiencing homelessness in our region. We look forward to the many opportunities to come. ■



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CEO Corner: Thanksgiving and Celebration



Autumn brings many things to mind for me—shorter days, cooler nights, the smell of rain in the air (if not actual rain), the harvest, Halloween, Indigenous Peoples' Day, Diwali, Thanksgiving and then the full-on holidays of light in December (Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa) and the New Year. There is much going on, and yet the cooler temperatures promote reflection.

I have dogs, and I walk with them regularly on the hillside behind my house. I get to think (as much as they let me) and enjoy all this autumn splendor. Such things remind me that this is also a time of gratitude. And I am very thankful for a great many things.

I am thankful for the LSS Board of Directors. Led by Chair Regina Q. Banks, our board is comprised of incredible partners who help grow and strengthen LSS. I am thankful for our new Emeritus Board of former board members and former senior staff who continue to show their dedication to the people we serve.

I am thankful for the LSS executive team and all the amazing staff of LSS who every day do their very best to make the lives of the people we serve and the communities where we serve stable and hopeful. In October, we held our special staff appreciation event to welcome our new colleagues, honor our long-time staff members and celebrate those who with tremendous heart and care treat each of the people we serve as human beings of value. We currently have 113 staff members!

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In This Issue

- CEO Corner
- LSS New Housing Programs
- Senate Bill 4 (SB4)
- Volunteer Opportunities



OUR MISSION: To promote stability and honor the dignity of those we serve by providing supportive housing services that lead to self-sufficiency.

LSS Announces Three New Housing Programs

There are roughly 171,000 individuals experiencing homelessness in California, and LSS is pleased to share with you that through our programs and partnerships we continue to tackle this large number—through our current programs and with new programs. Over the past few months, we have launched three new supportive housing programs.



In October, we opened Crossroads in Vacaville. Crossroads is part of Pony Express Senior Apartments, which provides 59 affordable one-bedroom apartments for low-income seniors and veterans.



Pony Express Senior Housing

continued on page 2

New Residential Housing Opens *continued from page 1*

LSS moved 15 seniors from homelessness into new one-bedroom apartments in this beautiful new building. Crossroads is our third program serving Solano County (after CalAIM and StopPlus). This project is also a new partnership with PEP Housing.



Mutual Housing on the Boulevard

In early December, we began welcoming formerly homeless individuals and families into Mutual Housing on the Boulevard in Sacramento, a combination affordable and supportive housing residence with 127 1, 2 and 3-bedroom apartments across several buildings. This new residence houses families and individuals with 17 units set aside for those exiting homelessness. This is our third residential partnership with Mutual Housing.



Apartment at Crossroads

Both properties are comprised of energy-efficient, green buildings and have community rooms and other recreational areas for events and activities.

We are in the final stages of hiring for our new college initiative at Shasta College in Redding. In January, LSS will start providing housing and supportive services to 30 students each semester on all three Shasta College campuses (Shasta, Tehama and Trinity).



Apartment at Mutual Housing on the Boulevard

These three supportive housing programs are just the tip of the iceberg. Over the past year, LSS has been in conversation with a number of government agencies and program partners to provide more new housing and more programs for the most vulnerable in our region, and we look forward to sharing these projects as they come to fruition. ■



Senate Bill 4 (SB4) Provides More Housing Opportunities

On October 11, 2023, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 4 (SB4) into law. This bill opens up horizons for LSS and our faith partners to construct new critical affordable and permanent supportive housing on church property. This bill also includes independent institutions of higher education.



Sponsored by San Francisco Senator Scott Wiener, the new bill reduces barriers such as local zoning regulations and the state's stringent environmental review process that often prevent faith organizations and college institutions from launching housing projects. The bill supersedes local zoning rules that either prohibit or discourage this development and bars opponents of the housing projects from using the environmental review law to slow down construction through litigation. "California desperately needs to ramp up housing production, and the Governor's action helps put us on a path to achieve that goal," said Senator Wiener.



This law releases more than 171 thousand acres of land strictly for affordable housing production, creating a game changing opportunity to house more families, seniors, youth, veterans, people with disabilities, and other individuals who are experiencing homelessness or who simply cannot afford the high cost of housing in California.

continued on page 4

CEO Corner *continued from page 1*

LSS continues to take advantage of opportunities to serve more of our vulnerable neighbors. In this newsletter, you can read about our two newest supportive housing residences and our new college initiative at Shasta Community College. I am thankful for these opportunities and the additional dozen opportunities currently in process.

I am thankful for our government partners who recognize our work by not only continuing to provide funding for our current programs, but also to fund expanded and new programs, as well as recommend LSS as a valuable partner in the pursuit of addressing homelessness in California.

I am thankful for our community partners who work with us to serve the community. Our community partners frequently recommend LSS for new programs and new partnerships to serve more individuals and families.

I am thankful for our foundation and corporate partners who provide essential funding so that LSS programs can expand from what our government partners provide, which increases our impact and ensures the long-term stability of the people we serve.

I am grateful to the many individuals, families, churches and businesses that support our goal to end homelessness. Thank you for the dollars you invest in our community through LSS, as well as the heartfelt gifts.

You are the backbone of all that LSS does for our neighbors experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Your donations and your hearts make a difference in the lives of families, seniors, former foster youth, college students, adults with disabilities and adults who have been overwhelmed by life challenges but are endeavoring to build stable lives. I cannot thank you enough!

However you spend or celebrate this holiday season, I wish you warmth, joy and fun. I also wish you happiness in the new year. ■

Looking for Volunteer Opportunities?

LSS is looking for Income Tax Preparers for Foster Youth!

Flexible Hours | Volunteer Virtually or In-Person | No Professional Experience Needed

The **VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)** Program offers free tax return preparation for qualified individuals (from Dec 2023 - May 2024).

You can help California's transition-age current and former foster youth save hundreds of dollars by helping them complete their state and federal taxes (virtually or in-person).

Learn more at: lssnorcal.org/vita

For other volunteer opportunities (individual and group) go to: lssnorcal.org/volunteer



Scan to Apply

