



## Grace at Work February 2024

### LSS Youth Pursues Her Dreams

Renee (name changed for privacy) came to LSS after losing her housing and one of her two children. The child was taken out of state by the other parent. After several years of neglect and emotional abuse, she was alienated from her family and entirely on her own. However, she was resourceful and determined. Almost immediately after being housed by LSS, she secured furnishings to make it a home. She began work on her high school equivalency, securing employment and taking legal action to regain her child.

She had a dream of having both of her children with her and becoming an early childhood educator. This brought her to the LSS Youth Education and Employment Initiative, where she quickly completed all the job readiness modules and began working at [A Novel Idea](#) (the LSS online youth managed bookstore). She attended every workshop that LSS held for youth seeking employment. She regained custody of her child whom she enrolled in preschool. All the while, she continued to take classes in early childhood education.

All this was tremendously challenging for her. She missed spending time with her children. She worried about the expense of going to school, working and raising a family. She sometimes believed that her dream was just a pipedream.

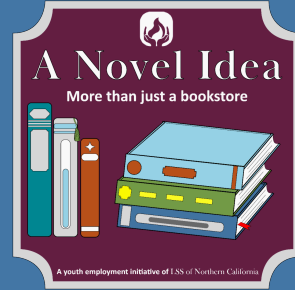


After encouragement from representatives from LSS partner SMUD (Sacramento Municipal Utility District), Renee asked her child's preschool if she could shadow teach there, so she could get valuable teaching experience and be near her child while she continued her education. The preschool agreed. She finished her turn in A Novel Idea during the early part of this, so she had more time for the preschool experience. The preschool was so impressed with her that they offered



her a full-time position while she continued taking classes. Now, she’s working, going to school and spending time with her children. She is building the stable life she dreamed of.

Renee is one of more than 150 transition aged Sacramento-area youth—former foster youth and former homeless youth—who utilize LSS’s Youth Education and Employment initiative every year to build their future. Many of these youth come from backgrounds where education and employment are discouraged or even rejected. Yet all of them have potential. At LSS it is not enough to simply settle them into housing. We want them to have productive, stable futures, which they want, as well. The LSS initiative includes employment and education counseling, job readiness training, work practice via A Novel Idea (the LSS online bookstore:



<https://anovelaide-iss.com/>), job development and job placement with more than 60 employment partners. The initiative is funded by the California Community Reinvestment Act, SMUD, SETA-WIOA and the Walter S. Johnson, Jr. Foundation, A Novel Idea shoppers and other dedicated individuals. In fact, LSS is pleased to share that The Walter S. Johnson, Jr. Foundation just awarded LSS a grant to expand the initiative into Stockton/San Joaquin County, Where LSS serves more than 50 transition aged youth.

To support LSS youth programming, make your donation [here](#).

## Announcing 2024 Board Officers

LSS of Northern California is pleased to announce this year's officers, elected by the Board of Directors.

To contact the Board of Directors of LSS, please email [boardofdirectors@lssnorcal.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@lssnorcal.org).

We are looking for individuals to join the Board, particularly representing San Francisco, Stockton, and/or with experience as a physician, in fundraising or commercial real estate.



**Sandra Hamilton Slane, Chair**



**Kent Campbell, Vice-Chair**



**Susan Taylor, Secretary**



**Brion Beetz, Treasurer**

# LSS Provides Essential Services to Seniors



Clara (name changed for privacy) moved into a San Francisco supportive housing residence for seniors in 2008 after experiencing homelessness for more than a year. At age 79, she was evicted from her housing with nowhere to go. Being homeless negatively affected her cognitive ability and her health. Once she moved into LSS housing, her health improved quickly. She re-connected with family and developed a social network through LSS activities. She did well for more than a decade. As she grew older, her needs changed. Over the past several years, her family took responsibility for her care, but her health deteriorated, she stopped socializing and expressed symptoms of dementia. LSS contacted Adult Protective Services (APS) for assistance, and after extensive conversations with her family, Clara was connected to LSS partner OnLok for senior services that addressed her specific needs. Her mental state improved, and now at age 94, Clara is doing great.

Throughout Northern California, LSS serves more than 1,300 seniors who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. To support individuals like Clara, donate [here](#).

**Save  
the  
Date!**

Please join us in honoring and celebrating our Sacramento participants.

Details to come!

**Big  
Day of  
Giving**  
**MAY 2**

## Our Mission

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

# DONATE



Lutheran Social Services of Northern California | 1465 Civic Court, Suite 810, Concord, CA 94520

[Unsubscribe development@lssnorcal.org](mailto:development@lssnorcal.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by development@lssnorcal.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!