

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 4 | DECEMBER 2018

VOICES

'Never give up'

*Lippard Lodge offers full lives
to those with traumatic brain injuries*


LUTHERAN
SERVICES
CAROLINAS

Teamwork helps LSC weather Florence

Nothing brings a team together like a disaster. That has never been truer than on Sept. 13, 2018, when Hurricane Florence sauntered ashore at Wilmington, N.C. It turned from a Category 3 to a 1 hurricane, but it turned into a Category 5 rain event! Florence dropped as much as



34 inches of rain in some areas, devastated much of North Carolina and some of South Carolina, and dropped 13 trillion gallons of rain on the Carolinas and Virginia. The hurricane threatened every LSC operation across

both Carolinas, the first time in history that has ever happened. And then Hurricane Michael caused even more problems.

LSC joined all of the Carolinas in a week-long preparation. Foster families and teammates reviewed disaster plans and supplies, group homes and health care communities

laid in more food and supplies, everyone reviewed their disaster plans. LSC's Trinity Grove health care community in Wilmington was right in Florence's sights. When the storm hit, LSC was home to 97 residents, 80 teammates, 147 resident and staff family members, 12 dogs, three cats, and one parakeet. Everyone at Trinity Grove and across the organization worked together to weather the storm. In the end, LSC buildings suffered no issues. We build 'em strong. Teammates and volunteers got to Wilmington soon after the storm with replacement supplies, gas, and other essentials.

Teammates did not fare so well. At last count, 81 teammates in Wilmington, one teammate in Winston-Salem, and four teammates in Lumberton suffered major home damage or loss, or significant damage to their cars. Many of these are people who can least afford it. In the best traditions of our ministry, people have donated to

staff recovery, donated to general hurricane relief, and staff from across LSC went to Trinity Grove to work so Grove staff could go care for their homes and families.

LSC was just concluding over a year and a half of work in North and South Carolina to assist with recovery from previous floods. We are already pivoting to provide additional disaster recovery services in both states. Our national Lutheran Disaster Response has already provided a grant to LSC to begin serving disaster survivors. LSC serves!

It's not a great leap for the wider LSC family when your mission is "Empowered by Christ, we walk together with all we serve." With that mission front and center every day, it's only a small step up to deal with a disaster.

Thank you for your prayers, work, concern, and your donations as LSC continues to recover and serve.

LSC receives ELCA grant to help hurricane survivors

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has awarded Lutheran Services Carolinas a grant of \$200,000 to help with Lutheran Disaster Response efforts in North and South Carolina in the wake of Hurricane Florence. In addition, due to ongoing need, LSC will continue to work with LDR and other organizations to extend long-term recovery services related to previous hurricanes in the Carolinas.

The new grant is funding a full-time disaster response coordinator for North Carolina, Paul Dunn, and a part-time disaster response coordinator for South Carolina, Ashley McKee-Thompson. The grant is also helping fund survivors' immediate needs, such as temporary housing, clothing, and basic necessities.

The coordinators will act as liaisons on behalf of Lutheran Services Carolinas to work closely with the North and South Carolina Synods of the ELCA, congregations, other faith-based partners and community partners to ensure timely and accurate communication of disaster response activities and ensure that donations are coordinated for those who need them.

LSC's hurricane helpline is 919-861-2886.



LSC's Paul Dunn meets with a flood survivor.

Resident profile: Franke Bell of Trinity Ridge

Franke Bell was always a take-charge person who loved children. When she was six, she'd come home after school and teach the younger children in her Gastonia neighborhood what she'd learned that day. Franke (pronounced "Frankie") taught them so well that some of them skipped a grade when they entered school.

"I tell people I'm a Bessy Bossy," says Franke, 86, who lives at Trinity Ridge in Hickory.

When she was 14, Franke dreamed of marrying Ted Williams (the baseball player), having 12 children and living on a farm with chickens. She never married, Ted Williams or anyone else, but she did touch the lives of scores of children during her long and storied career as a swim coach.

"The Lord didn't think I'd be satisfied with 12, so he gave me hundreds," she said.

Like many girls of her era, Franke wanted to do water ballet like the famous Esther Williams. In fact, she was offered a chance to pursue it professionally but declined. "I just didn't want to leave the children I was working with," Franke said.

Franke began her coaching career in the late 1950s as a volunteer at a YMCA in Richmond, Virginia. She later moved to Charlotte and managed the Johnston Memorial YMCA. The children who spent most of their days at the Y, often watching swim teams practice, begged Franke to organize them into a team. She told them no, she didn't know enough about swimming, but they were insistent.

"You can learn with us," they told her.

Six weeks later, her new team competed



Left: Franke (left) coached Melvin Stewart (right), who won two Olympic gold medals. Right: Franke Bell lives at Trinity Ridge and is visited frequently by Cathy and Paul Schiffel. Paul is one of Franke's former swimmers.

against the more privileged youth they had been watching practice — and won. After two years, Franke's team of North Charlotte mill-district kids was tops in the state.

Bell was serious about coaching. She studied track and field books to learn about conditioning, and she even read a book on shipbuilding to learn how swimmers could decrease resistance. A self-described "technique freak," Franke came up with a training drill to help backstrokers that involved putting a soda can half full of water on their foreheads so they couldn't bob their heads up and down. Other coaches began to adopt her methods.

"She was ahead of her time," says Paul Schiffel, head swim coach at Lenoir-Rhyne University, one of Bell's former students. He and his wife, Cathy, consider Franke a member of their family and visit her nearly every day at Trinity Ridge. Paul, who says he came from a dysfunctional family, credits

Franke and the Y for providing a safe haven for him all those years ago.

Franke continued to coach part time into her eighties. She had students who went on to win Olympic medals and earn world records. Many of her students were awarded full college scholarships for swimming, at schools like Duke and Stanford.

Franke was nominated three times to coach in the Pan American games, and she won numerous North Carolina Coach of the Year awards. She was in the first class to be inducted into the International Swim Coaches Hall of Fame.

But Bell was much more than a swim coach. She was an adult who cared about the children she coached, a surrogate parent who made sure to come to practice early so her swimmers could tell her about their days at school.

"She gave so much to underprivileged and unfortunate kids," Paul says.

'Never give up'

A traumatic brain injury changed Kat Sullivan's life.
Lippard Lodge was there to help.

Kat Sullivan's life changed dramatically when she was hit by a drunk driver. She was just 18 years old.

Since 2006, Kat, now 32, has lived at Lippard Lodge, a residential group home in Clemmons for adults with traumatic

brain injury (TBI). The home is operated by Lutheran Services Carolinas.

Those living at Lippard Lodge receive round-the-clock assistance from staff members who

help meet their basic needs and implement therapies designed to reduce TBI symptoms. The goal is to help residents live life as fully and independently as possible.

After the car accident, Kat was in a coma for a few months. When she first moved to Lippard Lodge after having lived in a skilled nursing facility, she was still in a wheelchair and unable to dress herself.

Now, Kat walks on her own, is able to dress herself and do other activities of daily living on her own, although she still requires some assistance.

Kat's mom, Kathleen, says that Lutheran Services Carolinas has been the key to connecting Kat to the resources and services she needs.

Kat takes life skills classes at Forsyth Tech three mornings a week. She has chores to do, including cleaning her room and planning and cooking meals when it's her turn (she likes tacos and spaghetti). Weekend outings include bowling, picnics, and movies. Kat also volunteers at Storehouse for Jesus in Mocksville, sorting donations of clothing that will go to those in need.



Kat gives Cole Lippard, her best friend, a high five in the dining room of Lippard Lodge. "They feel connected as family," says Deborah Tuggle, director of Lippard Lodge in Clemmons.

"She has a very busy, full life at Lippard Lodge," Kathleen says. "I wouldn't be able to provide that at home. It's a safe, clean family environment, and all the staff is caring."

Kat is still improving and making progress, Kathleen says.

Lippard Lodge exists through the efforts of the family of Cole Lippard, who suffered a TBI after a car accident more than 25 years ago. Cole could not get the kind of care he needed at home, so his father, Jim Lippard, made it his mission to open a home in Forsyth County that would focus on the needs of those with TBI.

Cole still lives at Lippard Lodge, which accommodates six residents, and Kat says he's her best friend — "almost like my big

brother," she says.

"Kat has come a long way since arriving at Lippard Lodge," says Deborah Tuggle, the home's program director.

Kat agrees. "But not like Jeannie," she adds, a reference to the TV sitcom "I Dream of Jeannie." Her meaning is clear: Progress doesn't happen magically; it takes time and effort. She knows she's worked hard.

Her advice to others facing traumatic brain injuries?

"Don't give up. Never give up. Take it day by day."

For information about Disability Program Services offered by Lutheran Services Carolinas, call 1-800-HELPING.



'Move in, move up, move out'

LSC Supportive Housing program helps families become homeowners

A single mother with three children, 18, 13, and 11, Tamala Cloud had dreams of owning her own home when she entered LSC's Supportive Housing program five years ago.

Her motto? "Move in, move up, and move out."

And in August, Tamala finally got her home, thanks to the LSC Supportive Housing program, a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, and her own hard work and tenacity.

A certified nursing assistant who worked two jobs for a time until she found one good one, Tamala worked and sacrificed to qualify for a Habitat home, including paying off old debts of more than \$7,000. The process, she said, has been "hard but fair."

Tamala and two of her children came to the home's dedication ceremony Aug. 8. Habitat staff and volunteers were there, including Habitat Charlotte President and CEO Laura Belcher. Also on hand was a contingent from Publix supermarket, who had brought the family \$500 worth of groceries and supplies.

Adam Hunter, the Habitat Charlotte construction site supervisor, said that working alongside Tamala was a tremendous blessing. "I thank her for being a good partner and for being willing to put in blood, sweat, and tears," Adam said.

Also present at the dedication were two LSC staff members who have served as case managers for Tamala: Tameka Belfield and Chaka Mouzon.

"They've both been a pleasure to work with," Tamala said.



Top: Tamala Cloud, right, celebrates the dedication of her new Habitat home in Charlotte with her two daughters, Jamiya Cloud (left) and Jakayla Carter (center). Above: Tamala Cloud worked hard to be able to buy this home through Habitat for Humanity.

"They've kept me on my toes."

"Tamala has worked hard and made great sacrifices to get to where she is," Tameka says.

To help with closing costs on her home, LSC's We Believe fund, which is funded by employee giving, gave Tamala \$500.

Trinity Grove rides it out

Staff, residents in Wilmington braved winds, flooding as Florence moved through

It was a decision that no skilled nursing home ever wants to face. Should we evacuate frail residents knowing that the stress associated with that transition could be life-threatening, or do we make preparations to hunker down and stay put?

Trinity Grove in Wilmington had to make that tough call when it was faced with the inevitable coming of Hurricane Florence.

LSC leadership decided the best course of action was to stay put and ride out the storm, which made landfall Friday, Sept. 14, and stubbornly refused to move on, dumping massive amounts of rain for several days.

Trinity Grove's 100 residents were given the option to leave, but almost all stayed – 97 of them. Eighty staff members also stayed at Trinity Grove during the worst of the storm, as did an extra 147 people, family members of staff members and residents. The home even welcomed pets, which surely eased the minds of their owners. Trinity Grove continued to operate and give quality care while also serving as a shelter for many who needed it.



Skobel

To prepare for the inevitable disruptions the storm would cause, Administrator Bonnie Skobel identified members of an "A-team" made up of those employees who could commit to being at Trinity Grove for the duration of the storm. The "B-team" would serve as relief for the A-team.

Staff members slept on air mattresses in their offices, including Bonnie herself, who shared her space with her 3-year-old daughter, Taylor, and 11-year-old son, Evan, for a week. Bonnie's own home was severely damaged when water came pouring through the roof. At one point she spoke on the phone to her husband, hunkered down at their



Above: Some Wilmington neighborhoods, like this one, were hit hard by Hurricane Florence. **Below:** The children who moved in to Trinity Grove during the storm were kept entertained.



home, who said, "If it doesn't stop raining soon, the ceiling is going to fall in."

Receptionist Shirley Nero had to evacuate

her home in Carolina Beach, spending several nights in the office of her son Peter Nero, the Trinity Grove director of facilities.

ties. Peter worked all night, patrolling and making sure that the generator would be ready if needed.

She considers it a miracle that Trinity Grove felt no ill effects from the storm.



Mosley

she admitted.

Food Services Director Temicia Mosley had a harrowing experience during the storm. Her family was forced to evacuate as water from the Cape Fear River flooded the first floor of their home — and her aunt had to evacuate her home by boat in the middle of the night to find shelter at a high school. Temicia and her family sheltered at a church but had to make other arrangements when the church's roof collapsed. Her family ended up staying at Trinity Grove for about a week, and Temicia continued to work in the kitchen during that time.

The chaos after evacuation was stressful. "I was down on my knees praying," Temicia said. "I'll never forget. I still feel traumatized." Mosley's family is now living with her mother while their home is being repaired. She considers herself fortunate and insists that her problems are small compared to

Bonnie noted that resident care did not suffer at all during the storm or its aftermath, although Sunday morning was pretty stressful,



Trinity Grove CNA Dawn Cromer lost her apartment when it was condemned after the storm. She's standing outside an LSC-owned home near Trinity Grove where she is living for now. (The home escaped damage, although the trees didn't fare so well.)

those of others who survived the hurricane.

CNA Dawn Cromer worked at Trinity Grove for four days during the storm. Her boyfriend was forced to leave their apartment and showed up at Trinity Grove driving a car that had been flooded through the sunroof.

Because her whole apartment complex was condemned in the wake of the flooding, Dawn is now living in a house close to Trinity Grove owned by LSC.

"I was just about in tears when Bonnie

(Skobel) called me and told me I could live there," she said. Dawn considers herself lucky that she found a place to live, since many who had to leave their apartments can't locate any available apartments, particularly ones with reasonable rent.

The storm brought out the best of Lutheran Services Carolinas, as teammates around the company pulled together to help Trinity Grove. Trinity Ridge, Trinity Oaks, Trinity Glen and Trinity Village sent workers willing to give some time off to exhausted Trinity Grove staff. LSA Pharmacy and Trinity Landing staff also pitched in, as did other employees who donated water and supplies.

Thanks to a GoFundMe page, dozens of staff members and friends of LSC have donated thousands of dollars to help many staff members in Wilmington and Lumberton whose homes sustained major damage from the storm, in addition to staff who had to leave their apartments and find new places to live.

Residents from Trinity Oaks in Salisbury even got together and donated more than \$5,000 for staff affected by the flooding, and churches and LSC communities have donated gift cards.

Trinity Grove, and indeed, all of LSC, is grateful to everyone who pitched in to help during this challenging time.



Tina Wicks, Kori Wiley, and Lalesia Johnson of Trinity Glen in Winston-Salem traveled to Wilmington to give staff at Trinity Grove a break.

Survivors helping survivors

Displaced herself because of flooding,
LSC's Wanda Omodunni continued to serve others

After a period of unrestful sleep, the woman knows her worst nightmare has come true the minute her bare feet hit the floor. The stench of water from the Lumber River is in her home — again, just as it was for Hurricane Matthew — and she needs help immediately. She makes a frantic call to Wanda Omodunni, a disaster case manager for Lutheran Services Carolinas, who calls Emergency Services.

Soon, the soft engine hum of a small boat with a small wake behind it approaches the flooded home. Water is rising rapidly.

There is a yellow sign on the front door. “HELP!” it reads.

Workers know they are in the right place.

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Lumberton, N.C. is a tight-knit community where people learn to count on each other. They take care of their own. Many there don't always trust authorities to help them in a time of need. Two years after Hurricane Matthew, some citizens are still waiting for help.

With a new disaster on the horizon, North Carolina Disaster Case Manager Supervisor Wanda Omodunni and her Lutheran Services Carolinas teammates knew they needed to be proactive, as much as possible, to help prevent further tragedy for their area.

Wanda knows firsthand how devastating a flood can be. Having lived her entire life in Robeson County, she survived Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and only recently was she able to move back into her home after repairs were made. Then, a fresh disaster struck in the form of Hurricane Florence, and Wanda was forced to evacuate again, moving to a church shelter.

Because Wanda understands how disasters play out, and knows that many people will remain in their homes even when their property and lives are threatened by an impending hurricane, she and her teammates



Anticipating that rescue workers would need help to determine who was in danger after the storm, case workers handed out these signs before Hurricane Florence hit. At left is Caroline Sumpter, a case manager. Wanda Omodunni is at right.

began preparing their community before Hurricane Florence hit.

Days before the event, LSC's Lumberton team went door to door to distribute 8-by-10-inch yellow sheets of paper, printed in big block letters. Half of the sheets read, “I'M OK” and the other half read, “HELP.” The team knew that if survivors posted the signs on their front doors, rescuers would have the information they needed to be able to make crucial lifesaving decisions.

Wanda and her teammates also took to social media and cell phones to update and educate their community, posting alerts, flood notifications, and lifesaving advice. Wanda's Facebook page became the point-of-contact for many citizens of Lumberton,

and it still is.

“They trust her,” said Paul Dunn, who heads up LSC's Lumberton disaster case management team.

Wanda explained her dedication in a social media post shortly after the hurricane hit: “Someone just asked me why I am out here in this mess. Well, I am a disaster case manager. I'm a proud social worker and a volunteer. I care, and I'm not crazy! It's what I'll be doing until I cannot. Helping is what I do. It's what I love. I'm called to it!”

“Wanda and her teammates are cherished by their community,” Paul said. “They truly live the Lutheran Services Carolinas mission statement.”

By Paul Dunn, as told to Katie Scarvey

Trinity Landing aces the Flo test

When Hurricane Florence hit Wilmington, N.C., Lutheran Services Carolinas knew it would be a huge test for its developing Trinity Landing site. Within 24 hours of the hurricane making landfall, John Frye, Trinity Landing's executive director, put on his rain gear and walked the site on the Intracoastal Waterway where LSC's newest senior living community will be built.

He was thrilled to find only a few downed trees.

"The erosion control worked perfectly, even though one wouldn't necessarily expect it to during an unusually powerful storm," Frye said.

"The storm surge didn't get beyond the flood zone, which is below where the first villas will be built."

"That the property was virtually unscathed during a powerful storm that devastated much of Wilmington gives us confidence that Trinity Landing is in a great position to safely weather any future hurricanes," Frye said.

Trinity Grove, LSC's skilled nursing home in Wilmington, also remained high and dry during the storm.

"Just as we did with Trinity Grove, we will build Trinity Landing under the stringent coastal requirements of the state building code to meet a 147-mile-per-hour sustained wind load," Frye said. "In addition, all residential structures will be constructed outside of the flood zone. As a result, we believe Trinity Landing will escape the kind of damage and flooding that Wilmington experienced with Florence."



Trinity Village celebrates Nancy London's 50 years of service



In this day and age — or perhaps in any day and age — it's hard to imagine a person working at the same place for half a century. But this year, Nancy London did just that, marking the milestone of 50 years of service at Trinity Village in Hickory.

Nancy began her service as a receptionist and has held nearly every office position at Trinity Village, from accounts payable to accounts receivable to payroll and office manager. Much of her career was in human resources. Nancy was known for being

a compassionate advocate for employees, always helping them achieve the most from their benefits.

And now she's come full circle, serving as receptionist again, gracefully juggling phone calls, visitors, vendors, families, residents, staff, doctors, hospice, hospitals, agencies and volunteers. As receptionist, Nancy is truly the face of Trinity Village, setting a positive tone with her cheerfulness and patience.

"I have enjoyed working with families, staff, and especially residents," Nancy says. I feel like I've helped many residents in my years of service, and I hope to continue just that."

Congratulations to Nancy for this rare achievement!



More than a sport

SC soccer team provides opportunities to young refugees



n weekends, you can often find LSC volunteer Heidi Mehlretter chauffeuring players on the Panthers club soccer team to soccer games in a borrowed passenger van.

The kids on this Columbia, S.C. team are a diverse bunch: Heidi's son, Nebeyou, is from Ethiopia, and other players hail from China, Vietnam, and the United States. The volunteer coach, Ty Nguyen, is originally from Vietnam. And recently, the team has welcomed six Columbia-area refugees who have escaped war and persecution in Burma (now Myanmar) and Afghanistan.

Despite their differences, the Panthers are a close-knit bunch of teenagers who are intense on the field and exhibit easy camaraderie off the field.

Heidi's involvement with refugees in South Carolina began when she started volunteering at a church in Columbia to help refugees practice their English after



Heidi Mehlretter, an LSC volunteer, talks to Ali after a match. Ali is a refugee from Afghanistan who plays soccer on a Columbia-area club team called the Panthers.

ESL classes. Her involvement grew after the Columbia flood, when she helped find housing for a displaced refugee family.

Heidi began to get more and more involved as a volunteer, serving as a long-term mentor for a large Congolese family.

And now, though she has a full-time job running a company, she's also kind of a soccer mom, helping refugee teens take part in high-level soccer, which often involves traveling to weekend games and tournaments. She has enlisted friends and family to help the team get to weekly practices and fill in when she isn't available. Other team parents have chipped in for meals at away games and have come to care deeply for all the players on the team, often collecting clothing and other items to help the boys and their families. What began as one person's desire to help quickly became a community of support.

Heidi not only gets the kids to matches, she helps them in other ways, including finding them small jobs to earn tournament fees and a bit of spending money. She started a GoFundMe page to help the players pay club dues and get the equipment and clothing they need. Other parents on the team then organized a greeting card fundraiser that helped pay for out of town meals.



"I think it's really important to help older refugee kids," Heidi says. "The younger kids who come to this country will generally assimilate well, but it's harder for older ones because they come late and are placed in the higher grades in school, where they struggle to excel in English and history classes while simultaneously learning the language and our culture. These kids want to attend college — they truly value education and are smart boys who deserve

a chance."

Organized soccer, Heidi says, is more than a sport, especially for refugee teens.

"I want to help the kids forge meaningful relationships that can help them foster connections with community members that can be sustaining long-term," Heidi says.

If you'd like to support refugee soccer through Heidi's GoFundMe page, go to www.gofundme.com/refugee-competitive-soccer.



The Panthers won the championship in their division at a tournament Sept. 8-9 in Rock Hill, S.C.
In the center is Ty Nguyen, the team's coach.



Keeping Trinity Oaks beautiful

Bea Hall lives in an apartment at Trinity Oaks — on B Hall, appropriately enough. A long-time resident of Rowan County, she brought her love of gardening when she moved in about a year ago.

Bea has taken over the landscaping of the beds outside of the entrance to her hall with the blessing of Mary Picking, a Trinity Oaks resident who started the garden club at Trinity Oaks.

With the help of a few other residents, Bea has taken on the task of keeping the area looking lovely and lush and has even added plantings from her own garden. Bea and her team divide the hostas and other plants that thrive so heartily they threaten to overpower the bed.

Inside her apartment, one of her countertops is full of plants she's rooting — which she will eventually plant in the beds outside.

Thank you, Bea, for helping to keep Trinity Oaks beautiful — through your presence and through your landscaping efforts!

LSC staff members receive scholarship awards

LSC is proud to announce that six staff members have been awarded scholarship grants totaling over \$10,000.

Javier DeJournett of Trinity Glen and Tara Winkelmann and Amanda Handy of Trinity Village were awarded the Bryce and Margie Hollar Scholarship. DeJournett is studying nursing, Winkelmann is pursuing her RN certification, and Handy is studying wound care.

Receiving the Grady Scholarship to study nursing were Brittany Clere and Malik Roberts of Trinity Oaks health and rehab.

Latoya Jones of the LSC Pharmacy received an LSC scholarship to study health care administration.

Congratulations to all of these deserving award recipients, who are furthering their education in ways that will benefit those served by Lutheran Services Carolinas.

Living Saviour supports Supportive Housing



Living Saviour Lutheran Church in Charlotte gave a \$1,000 grant to build a children's library at LSC's Supportive Housing program in Arbor Glen. Thank you, Living Saviour!

'Building Independence' documentary premieres in Raleigh

On September 6, a lucky group of people got to see the premiere of a documentary film called "Building Independence" by Angela Alford, who has been following the Building Independence project in Raleigh for four years. The project is a collaboration between Habitat for Humanity of Wake County, The Serving Cup in Raleigh, and Lutheran Services Carolinas, which operates the homes, created to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Commissioned by The Serving Cup, the 36-minute film follows four of the Building Independence residents and their families as they prepare to move into the new homes and take their first steps toward independence. The screening was followed by a panel discussion and a Q&A session.

If you are interested in scheduling a screening of the film, call The Serving Cup at 919-848-1573 or email info@servingcup.org



Audience members at the premiere of the Building Independence documentary wait for the film to begin.

Building Independence wins housing award

Building Independence in Raleigh was among six developments and neighborhoods in North Carolina to receive the state's top honor for excellence in affordable housing recently. Sponsored by the N.C. Housing Finance Agency, the awards were given Oct. 24 during the N.C. Affordable Housing Conference, which hosted nearly 1,000 housing industry professionals at the Raleigh Convention Center. Properties in Asheville, Asheboro, Greensboro, Hickory, and High Point, as well as Raleigh, were singled out for recognition.



Gail Vaughn of The Serving Cup, Kevin Campbell of Habitat for Humanity of Wake County, Eric Vaughn of The Serving Cup, and LSC's Jeffrey DeMagistris celebrate the affordable housing award given to Building Independence.

Trinity Place hires new administrator



Stephanie Herin-Huneycutt is the new administrator at LSC's Trinity Place in Albemarle, N.C. Prior to coming to Trinity Place

she spent 16 years as the administrator of a nonprofit skilled care nursing home in Stanly County. Her career in long-term care began 24 years ago when she served as a social worker in a rural hospital that provided services to a wing of skilled nursing home residents.

Stephanie's passion for geriatrics was sparked by that experience, which then led her to work as a social worker in a for-profit skilled nursing facility, where she later served as the assistant administrator.

"I feel very blessed and humbled to have had the opportunity to serve seniors throughout my career and look forward to continuing this journey with Lutheran Services Carolinas," Stephanie says.

A lifelong Stanly County resident, Stephanie lives in the New London area with her husband, Tony. They have three children: Carson, Lauren, and William.

Learn more about LSC

- by following Lutheran Services Carolinas on Facebook and Instagram
- by following LSC President Ted Goins on Twitter at [TedGoinsLSCPrez](https://twitter.com/TedGoinsLSCPrez)
- or by visiting the LSC website at www.LSCarolinas.net.



Kinard Manor in Greenwood closes

With its whiteboard chart keeping a running tally of the number of veterans it served, Kinard Manor in Greenwood, S.C., was perhaps not the most high-tech of transitional housing programs. It was, however, a lifeline and a blessing to the 319 veterans who have called it home, temporarily, since 2007.

The home closed Sept. 30, and that closing is a marker of the remarkable progress made in this country over the past 15 years in reducing veteran homelessness. Referrals to Kinard Manor had slowed to a trickle as the Veterans Administration moved toward a voucher model to help veterans who need support in securing housing.

The home has been generously supported by many in the area, including Immanuel Lutheran Church and American Legion Post 20.

In 2011 Kinard Manor was honored as the top-rated transitional home for veterans in South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama.

Participants got a place to stay, meals, clothing and transportation to and from job interviews, school and medical appointments. The Veterans Administration paid for about half the home's operating costs, with Lutheran Services Carolinas covering the rest.

The majority of the men came into the program because of mental health issues ranging from depression to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or substance abuse.

Terry Weeks began directing the pro-



Veterans from American Legion Post 20 in Greenwood, S.C., often visited their fellow veterans at Kinard Manor. Below: Kinard Manor provided transitional housing for veterans from 2007-2018.



gram in January of 2008, shortly after the program began. Although he retired after serving the program for five years, he's been a faithful volunteer since then.

He recalls a veteran named Barry he picked up at the mental health ward at the Dorn VA Medical Center. Barry carried a big bag of medication and wore the only clothing he had – dirty sweatpants and T-shirt. Struggling with depression, Barry, a professional painter by trade, couldn't maintain employment.

"When Barry 'graduated' from Kinard Manor approximately six months later, he had a full-time job painting, clothing, and a vehicle that had been donated to the program," Weeks says. "Barry was able to maintain his independent life until his death from a blood clot several years later."

"Barry was only one of many residents that I'm glad we were able to help. Several of those still reside in Greenwood and I'm glad to call them my friends."

Veterans will continue to be served through other LSC programs, including LSC's homes for adults with traumatic brain injury or programs serving individuals with mental illness. LSC's Love One Another capital campaign also introduced a challenge goal of \$70,000, which will make it possible to fund a part-time staff person to provide two years of case management services to veterans without other resources. LSC continues to welcome veterans into its senior living residences and programs in North Carolina and will seek out additional ways to serve veterans through its programs.

Love One Another congregation phase off to a strong start in SC

LSC's *Love One Another* campaign is now in its congregational phase, and LSC is grateful for the enthusiasm churches are bringing to their efforts.

Grace Lutheran in Rock Hill ran its campaign in three weeks instead of the usual six, with fantastic results. Pastor Ray Mohrmann, who is an LSC development officer, preached and made a presentation on their kick-off Sunday. Committee member Nora Sliney said the committee was impressed by the programs the campaign will support, programs that will help refugees, youth transitioning out of foster care, and services for the disabled. They were also gratified to learn that campaign funds would help those in York County. "We felt like it was really our responsibility to help our neighbors," Nora said.

Getting personal testimony from committee members helped people understand how the programs could affect their lives and the lives of church members, she added. One member spoke of fostering and then later adopting a child through what was then Lutheran Family Services, as well as supporting a refugee family and sustaining a relationship with them for decades.

"If you have passionate people presenting," Nora said, "that is contagious. It moves people."

On Celebration Sunday, the Rev. Mary Finklea, chair of the *Love One Another* campaign, announced that the church had far exceeded its goal.

Also exceeding its goal was St. Michael's Lutheran in Greenville. Its campaign was headed up by David Cooke, with help from Van Matthews. Cooke, who credits LSC with giving them a good playbook to follow, worked closely with Pastor Robert Miles to educate the congregation about LSC and the campaign projects. Pastor Miles supported the campaign vigorously in writing



All Saints Lutheran raised funds for *Love One Another* before the official start of their congregational campaign. Louise Deely and Candace Collins organized the event; Louise's husband, Tony (third from left), organized a team that participated.

and from the pulpit and helped keep LSC visible throughout the campaign. "Without a doubt, Pastor Robert getting behind the program was of paramount importance in the campaign's success," David said.

David stressed that people give willingly and generously if they are giving toward something specific and tangible. "With the *Love One Another* campaign, people know where their money is going," he said. "I think most churches will give if they realize that their dollar is making a difference. And most anybody who's been around the Lutheran Church in the Carolinas knows someone who benefited from Lutheran Family Services."

All Saints Lutheran in Mount Pleasant has not yet begun their formal campaign but has already generated excitement through

a parish golf tournament that drew 60 golfers, with proceeds designated toward the congregation's goal. Louise Deely, the LSC Champion at All Saints, helped organize the tournament at Dunes West in Mount Pleasant along with her co-chair, Candace Collins. LSC foster care staff helped out at the event, which raised more than \$2,800 toward the church's goal.

Deely and her husband, Tony, have a special place in their hearts for foster care and appreciate the new after-care program for children transitioning out of foster care that *Love One Another* will help fund. Louise and Tony fostered three boys years ago when they lived in New York, and Louise's mother and her siblings were foster children.

"I feel very strongly about the responsibility we have to one another," Louise says.



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Lutheran Services Carolinas is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit health and human services organization and a social ministry serving children and families in North and South Carolina and older adults in North Carolina. Comments or questions regarding the information in LSC Voices should be directed to Katie Scarvey, communications specialist, kscarvey@LSCarolinas.net or by calling 704-637-2870.

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