

October 2017, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Warming Hearts with God's Love and a Good Pair of Mittens

Far too often, there are children who arrive at LSI's Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers with almost nothing in their possession. And for children or youth who have been in the foster care system, it's not uncommon for them to arrive with everything they own in a single garbage bag.

We give thanks for Iowa congregations because you faithfully respond to these needs, year after year! As winter approaches, LSI relies on your loving support to meet the demands for hats, gloves, and mittens for children and youth at Beloit and Bremwood. It's important for us to give children the opportunity to shop for their favorite new winter coat. Because of that, we ask that you please not donate articles of clothing. With your generous financial donation, each child will have the simple joy of buying their new coat, knowing that they are loved and cherished.

Your church has likely received or will soon be receiving a letter inviting you to participate in LSI's hats and mittens appeal. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Healing through Harmony

Jaden's life changed when he was 5 years old. His father unexpectedly passed away, and through his grief, Jaden's connection to his mother became strained and he struggled to manage his anger at home.

He was placed in LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames when he was 10, and he remembers being introduced to Spiritual Life. The voluntary LSI program connects youth in residential treatment with faith-based art, music, and film. It is there to serve as a safe space for children to open up about their emotions and get the support they need to thrive.

"I always knew I loved to sing and I liked music," Jaden says. "Songs made me feel better, and music allowed me to express myself."

Jaden eventually relocated to LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly, where he reconnected with Pastor Dennis Bauer, the director of the Spiritual Life program.

"Jaden is one of the few kids who would actively set up lunch appointments with me," Pastor Dennis says. "He's really benefitted from being able to talk during the day."

Having access to a support network and a trusting relationship with Pastor Dennis has helped Jaden feel empowered to make a positive change during his time at Bremwood. Now 14, Jaden's finding his faith through music, and he's learning how to talk about his trauma and become a role model for other Iowa children in residential treatment.

Jaden has now been adopted into a loving family. As he finishes up his treatment at Bremwood, his family is there to visit and worship with him, and Jaden is enjoying being a new big brother in his family.