

February 2018, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, families, and adults!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

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 doesn't have many memories of his father.

When Jaden was 5 years old, his father unexpectedly passed away. Now 14, Jaden has grown up without that loving connection. Through his grief, his connection to his mother became strained, and he struggled to manage his anger at home.

After being placed in LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly, Jaden connected with LSI's Spiritual Life program. The voluntary program connects youth with faith-based art, music, and film. It serves as a safe space for children to open up about their emotions and get the support they need to thrive.

"Jaden is one of the few kids who would actively set up lunch appointments with me," says Pastor Dennis Bauer, who leads the program. "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. Jaden is finding his faith through music, and he's learning how to talk about his trauma and become a role model for other Iowa youth.

Jaden has now been adopted into a loving family. As he finishes up his treatment at Bremwood, his family visits frequently and worships with him, and Jaden is enjoying being a new big brother.