

April 2018, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the Iowa Department of Human Services, 8,892 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2016. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health treatment.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI's Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2017, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 15,000 in-home visits to families.

LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. Thank you!

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 LSIowa.org and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

Building a Stronger Family

Stacy's daughter, Danikah, was a happy and playful toddler. But things began to change when her baby brother, Parker, was born. She was happy to see him in the hospital at first, but she struggled to adjust to a new child at home, especially when it came to sharing a room with Parker.

Stacy found LSI's New Parent Program shortly after Parker was born, and she hoped it could help her daughter adjust to the changes at home. The free, voluntary program provides support and education to families during and after pregnancy. Through the program, Stacy gets to meet other families in her community, and Danikah gets to interact with other children who have siblings.

Danikah is learning how other siblings share their toys and interact. Meanwhile, Stacy is learning to adjust to her children's developmental stages. Through the program, she has learned to potty train Danikah and manage her daughter's temper tantrums.

At home, Stacy and her children receive regular visits from their LSI team. Each week, the team brings creative new crafts Stacy can make from materials around the house. Danikah, now 5, is always eager to learn a new activity from her LSI worker during each visit. She's even starting to share her homemade toys with Parker.

"The program is fun for the kids, but you can also do things as a family," Stacy says. "You get that time with your child, and you're building a better relationship in the process."