

## **October 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story**

### **Leaving a Legacy**

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) has responded to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service for more than 150 years. We have created a legacy of lifting up and empowering thousands of our Iowa neighbors, thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

Through LSI, Iowans also have the opportunity to leave a legacy of their own. When you include LSI in your will or estate planning, you are making a lasting impact for years to come. By including LSI in your will or living trust, you are ensuring that we can continue our mission and ministry well into the future.

If you would like more information on how you can include LSI in your estate planning, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit [LSIowa.org/church-relations](http://LSIowa.org/church-relations) or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

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

### **One Backpack and a Simple Act of Kindness**

The start of fall classes can be difficult for any child – especially as youth of all ages adjust back to “normal” following a year of virtual classes and Zoom meetings. But for kids who have experienced trauma, back-to-school season can bring additional stress: anxiety about meeting new people; worry that their family may not have enough grocery money for lunch every day; insecurity if they come to school without some of the fun supplies other kids have.

Thanks to donations of backpacks, crayons and pencils, glue, and more, LSI is ensuring Iowa youth have access to the school supplies they need to succeed. And because of this, kids are empowered with the ability to choose their own supplies that show off their own styles and personalities so they can feel confident as they return to classes.

After having a tough day, Marisol was feeling sad and was told she and her guardian would be stopping by the LSI office for some school supplies. She wasn't in the mood for a visit but after arriving at the office, she found a bright spot in her day: her LSI worker was there to help her pick out a new backpack of her own. She was delighted after finding her favorite, and eagerly walked around the office to choose more back-to-school items she could place in her backpack.

Thanks to these contributions, Marisol's day was turned around by a simple act of kindness and a new backpack.