

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

### **God's work. Our hands.**

As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry! Thanks to you, we are able to provide education to parents of young children, empower Iowans with disabilities, and offer critical mental health care to community members of all ages. This month, we would like to give special thanks for those of you who have made LSI a focus on your congregation's "God's work. Our hands." project.

On a planned day in September, each congregation is encouraged to reach outside of the church and do good deeds in the community by participating in a project for "God's work. Our hands." This is a perfect opportunity to combine community projects with a special project for nonprofits like LSI, whether it's raising money or contributing in-kind gifts.

We thank you for your service! If you are interested in supporting the Iowa children and families served by LSI or would like to get involved in a "God's work. Our hands." project with LSI, 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.

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

### **Hali's New Life**

Hali grew up in a home surrounded by addiction. Her own struggle with substance use and trauma continued for more than 20 years but when she learned she was pregnant with her son, Apollo, she knew she needed a change. After giving birth, Hali entered treatment and when she was ready to return home, LSI Early Childhood Services were there to provide support and walk alongside her.

Her LSI worker, Gretchen, provided parenting education and resources, all while empowering Hali and making sure Apollo had a healthy home. Gretchen helped Hali keep track of Apollo's growth to ensure he hit all his important developmental milestones.

More than a year later, Hali is thriving. She is now in college and is also a sponsor to other women who are on the same path to recovery. At home, Hali is busy keeping up with Apollo as he is learning to walk, and she is excited to see him continue to grow.

"Gretchen has given me a lot of hope. She's always had my back," Hali says. "She's my go-to person for any resource and it's nice to have her in my corner."