

voices

LUTHERAN
SERVICES
CAROLINAS

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2
JUNE 2016



In 2003, the old Dallas Graded and High School was renovated to create 32 apartments for older adults.



Residents enjoy a sunny afternoon outside of Dallas High School Apartments.

LSC directs affordable housing for seniors in Gaston County

Lutheran Services Carolinas is now co-managing director of the Dallas High School Apartments in Dallas, N.C.

Formerly known as Dallas Graded and High School, the school served both high school and elementary students and was later transformed into a law enforcement training facility before it was closed permanently in the late 1990s. In 2002, the 1925 colonial revival structure was entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2003, the building was repurposed through an extensive renovation to provide affordable housing for older adults in the form of 32 apartments. Residents have access to common space, including sitting areas and a community room. The project was overseen by developer Scott Redinger, who has converted five North Carolina schools to apartments for senior citizens.

LSC plans to continue running the apartments much as they have been, with Gaston Housing Foundation supplementing the rent paid by the residents.

“Part of our involvement will be to help residents find local services to make sure they’re getting the things they need, like Meals on Wheels or access to PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly),” said LSC President Ted W. Goins, Jr.

Goins has an interesting personal connection to the building. His mother, Frances Goins, attended high school there and served as the school’s mascot.

goins on

By Ted W. Goins, Jr. | LSC President



Tour de LSC 2016 is over. For the last three years I have visited each of our senior services communities for a solid day and held regional meetings in both North and South Carolina. The purpose is to spend 80 percent of the time listening, then share a message about the state of LSC with all teammates. It's my at-least-once-a-year effort to reconnect with fellow

teammates and visit with clients/residents, families, and anyone else who happens by.

The Tour takes me 14 days; it's a hefty time commitment, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. The Tour highlights the 1,800 teammates who make LSC. We always and rightly put our residents and clients first, but if it weren't for those 1,800 heroes no one would get served. And I do mean heroes. As you read this,

LSC teammates are meeting every need, laughing and crying and praying with the people we serve.

Part of the Tour is providing the opportunity to hear of the struggles and challenges across our ministry. A theme discussed over and over this year was the recruitment and retention of staff in a booming and competitive Carolinas' economy, which is already a key initiative for LSC.

The Tour de LSC demonstrates the power of LSC. To get up close and see the people of LSC, to see the years of service and the dedication to serving, is overwhelming. LSC serves in so many different ways, from adoptions to foster care, to residential services, to serving those with developmental disabilities and mental illness, to homeless vets, to refugees, to independent living, to assisted living, to nursing homes, to community-based services, and even more!

In the end, LSC is strong, and serving where the need is greatest. Now, as in the beginning, there is great need for LSC's services and growth. And at this great intersection of need and resources, LSC will continue to labor as it has since 1960! Thank you all for your support and prayers and partnership as we continue to fulfill our mission: Empowered by Christ, we walk together with all we serve.

South Carolina students help LSC foster children

We got you covered!

That was the theme of a project at Langston Charter Middle School in Greenville, S.C., that is providing blankets for foster children.

LSC Foster Care recruiter Chase Pennell reached out to the school, which published an LSC request in its weekly newsletter for donations of tie fleece blankets. The blankets are quick and easy to make, Pennell says, and can make a big impact on children in foster care, who often feel afraid and alone.

"There is nothing like knowing that you are making something that a child will cherish for the rest of his or her life," Pennell said in her pitch to students.

Students made 58 blankets for children in the Lutheran Services Carolinas foster care program, with many attaching notes of encouragement. Langston students are also making birthday cakes for children in foster care as part of a separate "Life is Better with Birthday Cake" initiative.

"The Langston kids are making these blankets and birthday cakes all by themselves," Pennell said. "We are so grateful for their compassion and generosity."



Refugee Services manager becomes U.S. Citizen

Haneen Alsafi, a Lutheran Services Carolinas staff member, is now a proud United States citizen. Alsafi works for LSC as area manager for Refugee and Immigrant Services and officially earned her citizenship in March.

Originally from Iraq, Alsafi's ties to the United States go back to 2007.

"I had the honor to serve U.S. troops and the U.S. State Department, working with diplomats to rebuild Iraq into a successful country," Alsafi says. She worked as an interpreter and a local consultant, connecting the U.S. diplomats with local Iraqi government representatives to put together a plan to assist the Iraqis.

"My team and I worked on projects to rebuild schools and provide supplies in the rural areas," Alsafi explains. "We also supported many local NGO's (non-governmental organizations) to establish and maintain educational programs such as ESL (English as a Second Language) and TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). We also assisted the local media in adapting freedom of speech in the press after many years of suppression by Saddam's regime."

Not long after she began this work, Alsafi began receiving threats from the militia groups called Almahdi Army, a religious extremist group that considered the work Alsafi and others were doing as a betrayal of Iraq rather than assistance to the local community. Many local interpreters lost their lives after receiving threats to quit their jobs with the Department of Defense. Others chose to leave their jobs, while some stayed, Alsafi says.

Alsafi learned of an opportunity to immigrate to the U.S. on the Special Immigrant Visa program that was established and approved by the U.S. government in 2008 to ensure the safety of Iraqi nationals who were employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government in Iraq, people who were experiencing an ongoing serious threat as a consequence of that employment.

Alsafi applied and was approved for the visa in 2009.

Although she was sad to leave her family and friends behind, Alsafi says she was happy to find a new home in the U.S. in June 2010. She lived in Fort Worth, Texas, and worked at Pizza Hut and an insurance company. She volunteered at North Richland Hills Hospital and at Catholic Charities, mainly assisting refugees.

Alsafi moved to the Carolinas to join her sister, Dina, in April 2011. She began volunteering with LSC because, she says, she felt a connection and wanted to continue helping refugees. The Refugee Services team was looking for a case manager who spoke Arabic to work with Iraqi clients. They offered Alsafi the job, which she gladly accepted. After joining LSC in October 2011, Alsafi began gaining the experience she needed to prepare her to be a citizen.

Two of Alsafi's siblings and her parents still live in Iraq and are relatively safe, she says, although the threat of ISIS causes concern.

Alsafi says she feels nostalgic when she thinks about Iraq. Still, "having good people in my life has made it easier to cope with being away from home and family," she says.



LSC President Ted Goins was on hand when the Refugee Services staff celebrated the citizenship of co-worker Haneen Alsafi.

Family celebrates adoption by sharing foster care welcome kits

The decision to adopt is an important one, so when Lisa and Tom Proud began their journey to build a family, they explored several different agencies. They chose Lutheran Services Carolinas to facilitate the “foster to adopt” process, working with LSC caseworker Torrie Evans.

Once they had met all the requirements to adopt, including undergoing training and a home study, they worked through AdoptUSKids.org to find a child who would be a good match for them. As an adoption coordinator, Evans serves as a liaison between social services workers and families like the Prouds seeking to adopt.

In January of 2015, Lisa and Tom were drawn to the profile of a boy named Noah who lived in west Texas. After Evans helped them communicate with his social worker, the Prouds flew to Texas to meet 9-year-old Noah, spending the weekend with him. Four days later, Noah joined the Proud family. Evans followed up with the Prouds, assisting with their needs and completing post-placement reports.

Noah’s new life in Charlotte is very different from his life in Texas. As Noah describes it, west Texas is less than inviting, with plenty of sandstorms and not many trees.

If the weather in Texas was unpredictable and chaotic, Noah’s life there was perhaps even more so. Before moving to Charlotte,

Noah had endured 10 placements, moving from foster home to foster home. Even more distressing, he experienced two failed adoptions.

Although the transition to a life of stability with the Prouds has been predictably bumpy at times, Noah is happily settling in with his new parents, who are learning how to nurture a child who has had trauma in his background and isn’t quite convinced yet that he deserves the good things his new life has to offer.

When you meet Noah, any emotional baggage from his past isn’t apparent. He’s friendly and cheerful and acts like any other suburban kid. His new life, he says, is “full of fun” and things like trips to the Whitewater Center. Now 10 and a third-grader at Providence Day School, Noah loves Harry Potter books and sports, including lacrosse, soccer, and martial arts.

When Noah’s adoption was finalized in February of this year, the Prouds wanted to celebrate by planning a big noisy gathering. They realized, however, that Noah wasn’t ready for that, so they came up with another way to mark the occasion, organizing a donation drive to provide foster care welcome kits for Lutheran Services Carolinas. Through social media and a few emails to family members, Lisa and Tom raised \$2,400.

Lisa and Noah went on a shopping spree at Costco and Target to stock the welcome kits, buying toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, diapers, underwear, and socks.

– continued on page 5



Lisa, Noah, and Tom Proud relax at their Charlotte home. Noah’s adoption was finalized this past February.

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When they delivered the gifts, “we were all blown away,” said Megan Bryant, supervisor for LSC’s foster care program in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. Welcome kits went to every foster child in the program, with extras on hand to distribute in the future.

“I am proud of Thomas and Lisa’s unwavering dedication to Noah and for sharing adoption with their families and friends,” Evans said. “They have demonstrated the heart of social work, and I know Noah will be afforded a wonderful, stable, and secure life with the Proud family.”



Noah Proud poses with a van full of supplies purchased to make foster care welcome kits. Noah’s family created the welcome kits to celebrate his adoption.

LSC opens new training homes in South Carolina

Lutheran Services Carolinas has extended its service reach in South Carolina, opening up two new community training homes in Darlington.



Mariquetta Quick is the program director for two new community training homes in South Carolina: Briar Cliff and Briar Gate.

Briar Cliff, which opened Nov. 12, is home to three women, and Briar Gate, which opened Nov. 14, is home to three men. The homes serve adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Mariquetta Quick is program director for both Briar Cliff and Briar Gate. Residential counselors staff the homes 24 hours a day,

providing structure and helping teach residents daily living skills. Staff accompany residents on outings almost daily,

whether it’s a trip to Wal-Mart, a picnic, or a visit to the Florence County Museum.

Residents of Briar Cliff and Briar Gate sometimes get together for game nights, and they also like to stroll around the neighborhood together to look at the new homes in the growing development.

New to LSC, Quick has a background in social work and has worked with special needs individuals for 10 years.

“I love helping people,” says Quick, who worked in the past for the Medical University of South Carolina and also with the Mentor Network in South Carolina as a program director. “The first year I worked with special needs individuals, I didn’t realize how much they touch your heart.”

The residents are like her family, says Quick, who lives in Florence. “I really love being here with them,” she says. “It’s not an easy job. It’s very challenging, but it’s rewarding because of the love they show and the love you give them.”



Photo courtesy of Laura McBryde

LSC foster care manager profiled in She Magazine

Jean Keefe, the regional manager of the Pee Dee region of LSC’s South Carolina foster care program, was featured in a “Working Girl” profile in the recent issue of She Magazine.

If you’d like to read the whole story, please go to:



Adult Day Services

Keith Corriher says he wishes he had known about Trinity Living Center sooner.

Corriher's mother, Virginia, has Lewy body dementia and can no longer safely live on her own. Keith and his brother, Barry, have moved in with Virginia and serve as her co-caregivers. The two brothers also hold down jobs – and that's where Trinity Living Center comes in.

In July, Virginia Corriher began attending Trinity Living Center two days a week. The care she receives there allows her sons to continue working – and enables Virginia to continue living at home.



Open Monday through Friday from 7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., Trinity Living Center, 1416 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. in Salisbury, is a United Way agency operated by Lutheran Services Carolinas that offers day services to adults who need care due to health or mobility issues, including dementia or other disabilities.

At a very basic level, adult day programs meet participants' physical needs, providing hot food and even bathing services when requested. Certified nursing assistants and a registered nurse monitor participants' conditions and administer medication.

But the best adult day programs address much more than physical needs: they take care of the whole person. Trinity Living Center is a place where people can socialize with friends, old and new. It's a place to create art, tell stories, receive hugs, become energized, or to enjoy the fresh air outside but still be in a secure environment. It's a place to engage and interact for people who may otherwise be lonely and isolated.

It's a place where staff members make it a priority for participants to experience moments of joy every day.

"They are not only extremely professional but they also show tremendous love and care," Corriher says. "My mother loves to go there. As soon as she gets to the door and sees the person who greets us, she gets the biggest smile on her face. I can't say enough for the work that they do with my mom. It's truly a mission."



Keith Corriher says that he is able to continue keeping his mother, Virginia Corriher, at home because of the day services that Trinity Living Center provides.

Staff members sometimes describe their work as a calling, and their passion shows. Earlier this year, TLC held its first Wish Upon a Star ball. Participants got to dress up and have their hair and makeup done by volunteers and dance to a live band. Such events provide a compelling glimpse into how passionate staff members are about enhancing the quality of life for the program's participants, and how TLC feels like a family.

Trinity Living Center would not be able to offer the care it does without the United Way, which provides about \$43,000 of the center's annual budget. Those funds are hugely important for TLC, which operates on a shoestring budget and rarely breaks even. But whether it's profitable or not, Lutheran Services Carolinas considers TLC an important part of its mission, says LSC president Ted Goins.

His mother has good and not-so-good days, Corriher says. But since coming to TLC, he adds, "she has more good days."

For more information about Trinity Living Center, call 704-637-3940 or email contactus@trinitylivingcenter.net.

South Carolina church continues generosity to veterans

The Lutheran Church by the Lake in McCormick, S.C., has been a huge supporter of Kinard Manor, giving almost \$20,000 over the past five years to the Lutheran Services Carolinas home that provides transitional housing for veterans in Greenwood, S.C. In December of 2015, the church gave \$2,500 to Kinard Manor and extended their philanthropy with a \$500 gift to Angels House, which provides transitional housing for female veterans in Columbia, S.C. The funds were raised through an annual golf tournament that benefits several different organizations.



Jim Hogan (left) of the Lutheran Church by the Lake gives a check to Randy Lawson, program director at Kinard Manor.

Development team welcomes new member



Rowan County native Ellen Watts recently joined the development team of Lutheran Services Carolinas as its donor relations specialist. She will work closely with Kristen Kitchen, LSC's director of donor relations, in the areas of church relations, special events, development communications, and volunteer management.

Trinity Oaks quilters make cuddle quilts for children in need

People who come to live at Trinity Oaks bring with them a lifetime of skills, including sewing and quilting. A new group at Trinity Oaks lets residents use those skills to help those in need.

Trinity Oaks resident Fran Tannehill started the group, which is made up of former quilters. The women make cuddle quilts for children who come to the local women's shelter. These children are often fleeing a bad situation with their mothers and may leave so quickly they don't have much with them.

The group meets on Monday mornings, and some participants bring their own sewing machines. Although the group is fairly new, at last count they had donated 35 finished quilts to the shelter.



Trinity Oaks quilters make cuddle quilts.

Trinity Elms
(Assisted Living)
3750 Harper Road
Clemmons, NC 27012
336-766-2131

Trinity Elms
(Health & Rehab)
7449 Fair Oaks Drive
Clemmons, NC 27012
336-747-1153

Trinity Glen
849 Waterworks Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
336-595-2166

Trinity Grove
631 Junction Creek Drive
Wilmington, NC 28412
910-442-3000

Trinity Oaks
(Health & Rehab)
820 Klumac Road
Salisbury, NC 28144
704-637-3784

Trinity Oaks
(Independent Living)
728 Klumac Road
Salisbury, NC 28144
704-633-1002

Trinity Place
24724 South Business 52
Albemarle, NC 28001
704-982-8191

Trinity Ridge
2140 Medical Park Drive
Hickory, NC 28602
828-322-6995

Trinity View
2533 Hendersonville Road
Arden, NC 28704
828-687-0068

Trinity Village
1265 21st St., NE
Hickory, NC 28601
828-328-2006

Adult Day Services

Trinity Living Center
1416-A S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave.
Salisbury, NC 28144
704-637-3940

Home Care

Trinity at Home
820 Klumac Road
Salisbury, NC 28144
704-603-2776



Learn more about LSC

by following **Lutheran Services Carolinas** on Facebook,



by following LSC President Ted Goins on Twitter at **TedGoinsLSCPrez**,

or by visiting the LSC website at **LSCarolinas.net**.

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Trinity Village resident Mary Maxwell colors a student's hair during the Spring Fling celebration.

Trinity Village hosts spring break celebration

In partnership with Kid Connection, which provides after-school care to Catawba County students, Trinity Village hosted a Spring Fling celebration March 25. Several hundred students on spring break enjoyed bounce houses, a drum circle, games, face painting, and hair coloring, with Trinity Village staff and residents joining in the fun as well.

Trinity Village hopes to partner with Kid Connection in the fall to serve as an after-school care site five days a week.

LSC Voices is a quarterly publication of Lutheran Services Carolinas, P.O. Box 947, Salisbury, NC, 28145, Mary Ann Johnson, editor, Katie Scarvey, writer and photographer. For more information contact mjohnson@LSCarolinas.net or call 704-754-8224.

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