In 2015, Cassandra and Garry’s three children were taken into DCFS care after the couple found themselves facing charges for risk of physical/environmental neglect of their children.

“We were associating with the wrong people and allowing the wrong people to be around our kids,” explained Cassandra. So the couple’s three children were placed in the care of their grandmother, while Cassandra and Garry struggled to figure out what to do next.

When LCFS became involved, a child welfare specialist was assigned to the family’s case, helping make sure the children were safe and their needs were being met. She also worked with Cassandra and Garry to determine what needed to happen for them to get their kids back.

Together with the couple, the child welfare specialist developed a service plan that provided Cassandra and Garry with individual therapy, parenting classes and substance-abuse treatment. Cassandra shared that “the counseling helped a lot and my worker helped me be a better mom. (LCFS) kept me from going crazy,” Cassandra said. “[They were] amazing and made a horrible situation bearable.”

As part of their treatment, Cassandra and Garry voluntarily participated in marriage counseling. They were also subject to random drug screening and both tested negative every time. Cassandra and Garry were able to find hope for the future within the midst of this horrible situation.

Prior to her arrest, Cassandra was a paraprofessional in a local school, but subsequently lost her job. Cassandra refused to allow this setback to break her spirit. She enrolled in a trade school and eventually received her EPA Certification for refrigeration and air conditioning repair. “I would have remained at the school working and never would have pushed myself to do anything else,” explained Cassandra.

After completing all the requirements set forth by DCFS, Cassandra and Garry were able to get their children back. And today, the family is thriving. They have a new appreciation for each other and what it means to be a family.

“Now our relationship with the kids is so much better and even Garry and I get along better, so our marriage is stronger than it was before,” said Cassandra. “I want to thank LCFS for being supportive and helping us through it all. And for always being available for us and the kids.”

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” —Albert Einstein
For nearly forty years, I’ve had the privilege of composing remarks for our annual report. There have been exciting years of new program growth and the implementation of new services to carry out our mission. Together we’ve seen years of balanced budgets and increases in our net assets, bringing enthusiasm and energy to face the future’s challenges and opportunities. But we’ve also experienced years to the contrary, with deficits and reductions in staff and services and freezing of benefits and compensation. The good news about the past year is that we served an increased number of clients, especially in our child-placement programs. These services were provided by a highly-competent, compassionate and committed staff; those who served directly and those who supported the provision of services. In turn this work was monitored by a board of trustees committed to good governance. This past year was also one of financial stress and significant loss, attributable to many causes, most of which were generally associated with the challenges facing Illinois.

Perseverance is a highly-commendable asset. And this year has been one of perseverance and hope for the future. We are facing many opportunities for an improved future. With the support of our board of trustees, subsidiary boards, staff and donors and the purchasers of our services, we face the future with the hope and enthusiasm to truly make the world a better place where God’s endless love can be experienced.

Thank you for your support during the nearly 40 years I’ve been honored to serve as LCFS’ staff leader.

Gene Svebakken, MSW, ACSW
Chief Executive Officer

It is a great privilege and trust to serve as chairman of the Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois board of trustees. In this role, I’ve witnessed the commitment and power of an organization whose members strive every day to bring hope, healing and restoration to a broken world.

What motivates and inspires the staff and partners of LCFS the most is to help children, youth and families realize improvements in their well-being. Often these are transformative changes that can endure for a lifetime. Now imagine the overall impact throughout Illinois by multiplying these outcomes in the lives of thousands every year. Our volunteers, board members, individuals and corporate supporters express the same satisfaction and inspiration of knowing that their efforts and resources will bring hope for the future and make a huge difference to those we are called to serve.

This difference happens through the day-to-day commitment and effort of professional staff and our voluntary supporters. They are talented, experienced and resourceful people who see the opportunity every day to make a difference in the lives of others. This is one of the reasons LCFS is known statewide and beyond for the quality of its services and outcomes.

We are a faith-based organization with a vision for people of faith to express our love of God and our neighbors through service. We invite people of diverse faith backgrounds to engage with us in the opportunity to help the agency make a difference. And with God’s grace, what a difference we make!

Anthony Stephens
Board of Trustees Chair

Looking for an opportunity to support, share or learn more about LCFS? Visit www.lcfs.org/events for a complete list of upcoming events.
How did you give hope for the future?

Thank you for your support, which makes an extraordinary impact on LCFS, our services and most importantly, the children, families and communities we serve. Through your support in fiscal year 2016...

- **16,000** people had their well-being improved by services that nurtured and protected children, strengthened families and enhanced communities.
- **1,723** children were cared for in foster families.
- **346** at-risk families were strengthened through home-based services.
- **278** children found their forever families through adoption.
- **502** families per week were fed through LCFS food pantries.
- **352** individuals and families were supported through counseling services.
- **1,276** summer and day campers were welcomed at Camp Wartburg.
- **700** individuals benefited from intervention and outreach at Chicago Uptown Ministry.
- **280** seniors attended workshops through Senior Care Services.
- **143** youth received residential treatment at either Lutherbrook Child and Adolescent Center or Southern Thirty Adolescent Center.

Are you passionate about advocating on behalf of children, families and communities in need throughout Illinois? Check out [www.lcfs.org/advocacy](http://www.lcfs.org/advocacy) to see how you can help.

Want to learn more about the hope for a future that your support has provided to those served by LCFS? Go to [www.lcfs.org](http://www.lcfs.org) for client stories, videos and more.
How did you support LCFS?
Thanks to the generosity of people like you, LCFS is changing lives. Together in fiscal year 2016...

100% of volunteers committed their time, talent and energy to make a difference

2,983 financial gifts were made by generous people and organizations

65 Circle of Hope members provided sustainable funding through pledges of $1,000 or more every year for five years

5% increase in dollars donated over last fiscal year

571 in-kind donations fulfilled a need and directly impacted clients

87 cents out of every dollar went directly to programs and clients

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President and Chief Operating Officer

Beverly Jones, MSW
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George Vargas, CPA
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VP for Organizational Development and Chief Organizational Development and Support Officer

Honor Roll of Donors
Thank you to all our generous donors who helped provide hope for the future. To view the fiscal year 2016 Honor Roll of Donors, go to www.lcfs.org/PartnersInService.
LCFS Financial Statement
Consolidated statement of activities for fiscal year ended June 30, 2016

**Unrestricted Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, net</td>
<td>$ 442,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacies and bequests</td>
<td>425,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions by associated congregations</td>
<td>19,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way organizations</td>
<td>189,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Kind Contributions from food depositories</td>
<td>576,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees and grants from government agencies</td>
<td>28,893,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program service fees</td>
<td>1,944,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program grants</td>
<td>338,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrift shop income</td>
<td>368,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>(4,579)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release of net assets arising</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from satisfaction of restrictions</td>
<td>535,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNRESTRICTED REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$33,729,577</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Operating Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$31,634,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Services*</td>
<td>4,676,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>3,985,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>555,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrift shop</td>
<td>86,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Fund (Foundation)</td>
<td>48,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$36,311,491</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Decrease in unrestricted net assets         |                 |
| before other changes in net assets         | (2,581,914)     |

**Other Changes In Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net investment income</td>
<td>1,500,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension liability related changes</td>
<td>(254,635)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on sale of property and equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net other changes in net assets</td>
<td>(1,192,543)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>(3,774,457)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Increase in temporarily and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>permanently restricted net assets</td>
<td>726,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in net assets</td>
<td>(3,048,195)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of year</td>
<td>4,226,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,177,889</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Supporting Services are 13.0% percent of total expenses.

This financial statement was abstracted from the Organization’s June 30, 2016 consolidated financial statements, which were audited by RSM US LLP.

Because the information does not include all the disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, it does not purport to present the Organization’s consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

Copies of the audited consolidated financial statements are available upon written request to George Vargas, LCFS Chief Financial Officer, 7620 W. Madison St., River Forest, IL 60305, or available online at www.lcfs.org, within the “About LCFS” section.

**Where does the money come from?**

- Fees and Grants from Government Agencies 84%
- Program Service Fees 6%
- Thrift Shop Income 1%
- Program Grants 1%
- Other Contributions 2%
- In Kind Contributions from Food Depositories 2%
- United Way Organizations 1%

**Where does the money go?**

- Foster Care 54%
- Residential Treatment Centers 19%
- Camp Wartburg 3%
- LifeLink International Adoption 1%
- Camp Wartburg 3%
- Community Services 3%
- Supporting Services 19%
LCFS 2016 Annual Report
Hope for the Future

Nurturing & Protecting Children | Strengthening Families | Enhancing Communities

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.”

Learn how LCFS is helping people do just that.