

# The ADVOCATE

LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES  
6861 E. NEVADA, DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
(313) 368-1220

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Partners In Ministry Edition

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## Special Child Gives Extra Love

by Jan Moles (Chicago Lutheran Special Ed. Services)



Martha, giver of love.

Martha is an independent 12 year old with special needs being met by Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries (LSDSEM). Martha is a blue-eyed girl with her hair cut in a shag who has Down's Syndrome.

Martha has been involved in many school programs to help her develop mentally, physically and spiritually. Martha entered a regular Lutheran elementary school at the age of seven. She has been helped by the regular classroom teacher and the LSDSEM staff. She has progressed with the dedication of fine teachers, parents who would like to see the best Christian education for her, and the LSDSEM staff who have tried to develop a program to meet this special child's needs. Martha's progress has been slow, but she has grown at a steady rate. The program that has been developed for her has a high degree of reinforcement. The skills she works on need to be repeated many times for comprehension to take place. But once the skill is learned, "She's like a computer," said her brother Ray. "Once it's there, she'll never forget it." Yes, she's developed skills and has learned about Jesus.

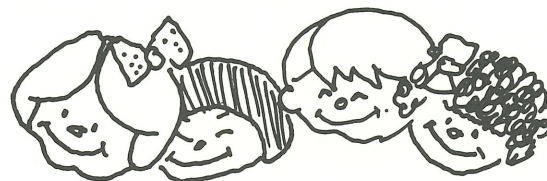
Like other kids, Martha goes to camp, likes to shop, bake cookies, sing in the school choir, and once had a bigger part in the school play than her brother, Ray.

Martha is a special child and we have all enjoyed working with her. We have all given to her, but all who have worked with Martha have received much more from her in return. Children with Down's Syndrome are known to have one extra chromosome, which is believed to be its cause. But her father has a different explanation of the problem. "They say when you meet Down's children and if you're nice to them, they'll never forget you," he said. "That extra chromosome is for the extra love they give to you."

By helping Martha, we have all been blessed with her love and her love for her Lord.



# Thanks For your support!



Your partnership helps our school  
serve over 320 children with special  
needs with Christ's love.



## A Letter to Partners in Ministry



Dear Parents:

Greetings to you from Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries (LSDSEM). Although I want others to read this letter, I am writing specifically to parents of children receiving special education help from LSDSEM teachers. I'm happy to report that this letter is directed to 328 of you. That's how many children we're helping in Metropolitan Detroit and Chicago satellites, and our main campus in Detroit. An all-time high.

I'm writing to ask for your help, not for your money. At a recent meeting a parent asked me why we don't try to get parents more involved in our ministry. That's why I'm writing you. I want you to become ambassadors for LSDSEM.

Did you know that our cost is \$5,732.00 for each child in our various ministries. I came up with this figure by dividing our \$1,880,000 budget by 328. Although some of your children may only receive our help a half hour a day, other children spend their entire day in our special education programs. We don't ask any of you to pay \$5,732 but we do ask you to pay part of the cost. That's what partnerships are all about.

If we evaluated your child this year, we charged you \$75.00, and we asked all of you to give us \$85.00 for registration and materials. Seventy three of your children attend our campus program in Detroit. Since it's a full-time program, we asked most of you for \$1,400 towards the educational costs. If we add all the tuition and fees from parents together, does it equal \$5,732.00 per child? Not even close.

Even if we add the fee we charged to the satellite school for having one of our teachers in their building, we still don't even come close to collecting \$5,732.00. If we take all the fees you pay us, and all the fees the satellite schools pay us, it only represents 14% of our budget. That's phenomenal. It is truly a blessing from God that we can continue helping your child receive a Christian education.

So when we ask you for annual fees or tuition, please don't complain. This is no get-rich-quick scheme. Try to understand that we have a partnership. If you don't have the money to pay us, we have always tried to help with that, too. I understand the frustration of families trying to make ends meet. I have felt the pain of a parent whose child's learning needs are not being met in school, and I know about family turmoil caused by a child's frustrations. I've seen children with deflated egos, battered by daily academic failures. And I've seen Lutheran schools turn away children because they weren't able to give them the help they needed.

With your help, and the help of hundreds of others, LSDSEM is trying to turn this all around. I love this ministry. I want to see it not only continue but expand to the many others who have requested our services.

Here's where I need your help. Since 86% of our financial support comes from others, I want you to spread the good news about this ministry to more of those "others." I ask you to be advocates for Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries. Tell your congregations, church groups, friends, relatives, and employers. Tell anyone, and everyone who might be able to help us. The Holy Spirit will do the rest. He will move people to give just as He recently moved an individual to give us funding for a new position we created. Isn't that amazing! It happened because someone took the time to share the good news. I can help, too. If you want to give me names and addresses of people to write to, give them to me. I will be happy to write to them and tell them the story of our ministry.

Please think about what I've said, and then be an *advocate* for your child and hundreds of other children. God bless all of you.

Yours in Christ,

*Roger De Meyere*

Roger DeMeyere  
Executive Director

## "Spirit of Success"

by Dennis Pieper (Teacher-Detroit Campus)

"Do You See What I See?" While this is a line from a famous Christmas Carol, I would like to use it to direct our thoughts to the children that took part in our most recent Christmas Program. Sometimes the benefits of Christmas programs are hard to determine. But I would like to share with you some of the successes I saw at our recent program at Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries (LSDSEM). Certainly, the children shared the joy of the Christmas story with the audience. But it was more than that. It was a learning experience. Learning took place with singing, following the music director and being able to cue the songs at the right time. I know the students improved their reading skills, because they did an outstanding job in narrating their part. They read with expression, and even reading the words of the songs helped to develop their reading skills.

The students learned to act, to tell a story. They were able to develop public speaking skills, and work on their behavior in public. One of the greatest joys was to see these children work together to produce a very worthwhile Christmas program. I saw these children taking risks at LSDSEM. The risk is not just to act or sing. They are taking a chance that

they could fail. For children with learning disabilities, this is an experience that they know all too well. It doesn't matter how well they do in practice. The bottom line is the real performance, and failure there is a real possibility.

I see a spark of a spirit that continues to try and try again. It is in the face of failure that they receive the Savior Jesus' greatest blessing, His promise to work for the good to those who trust and believe in Him. I see children who have trouble with reading, trying their best. It is not perfect, yet this spirit adds warmth and feeling to the reading. The words are coming from their heart, words with strong feeling. I see singers, not just singing, but young people expressing the moods and messages of the songs they sing. I see young men who are very peer conscious, asking if they did a good job.

I see children with special needs taking a fearful step, and winning. Will this turn everything around for these children? Probably not. But it does keep them headed in the right direction. This is what we work at here at Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries, to teach children to keep trying, and that with Christ, you are a success.

## Discovering Learning Strengths

by Darlene Swoveland (Ephphatha Institute)

Psychological testing services are available through the Ephphatha Institute in Detroit and Chicago. These are needed to help parents who are searching for answers when their children are encountering the anxiety and frustration of learning difficulties. Within our evaluation process, the child meets with a school psychologist to work on a variety of tasks designed to more completely understand how the child learns. Once testing is completed, parents are counseled regarding techniques that will provide a positive approach in dealing with the learning dilemma.

Consultations with the child's parents, teachers, and principal frequently follow an evaluation in order to provide learning strategies tailored to the child and classroom. Our goal is to offer a better understanding of each child's strengths and weaknesses. This understanding includes a knowledge of individualized instructional approaches, and, if needed, providing special education services. We feel that the evaluation/consultation services are vital to our ministry, to enable children with special learning needs to have a Christian education.

Our consultants are also available to answer education questions for parents and schools. For further information, call Ephphatha Institute at LSDSEM, (313) 368-1220.

## Will . . . The Lord's and Our's

The Lord controls our life in every way. We ask for His help and guidance so that we can live our life to His glory. His will shapes our lives.

You can shape your final Will and Testament. Seventy percent of the people in the United States do not write a Will. The state has a Will written for everyone without a Will. The state Will does not consider your choice of guardian for minor children, special consideration for loved ones, or for the Lord's work.

Write your Will with the help of a competent attorney. This guarantees that your wishes are carried out, not the state's.

The Lord's work can be remembered in a Will. Our ministries have received gifts through Estate planning. Your gifts help us shape the lives of special needs children with Christ. If you have any concerns or questions in Estate Planning, please feel free to contact the Development Office at LSDSEM.

### FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Lutheran School for the Deaf, 6861 Nevada Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48234, a duly organized and incorporated, non-profit corporation, the sum of \$..... and/or the following described real estate and/or stocks and bonds.

The receipt of the Treasurer or Executive Director of said corporation shall be sufficient discharge to my executor for same.

Pictured is Darlene Swoveland evaluating a student at our campus setting in Detroit.



With the knowledge of God's love and desire that God's love be revealed through our ministry, the Lutheran School For The Deaf Special Education Ministries serves to enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian Education.

## STATEMENT OF MINISTRY

**S L C H O O L**  
**LUTHERAN**  
 FOR THE DEAF • SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES  
 FOUNDED 1873

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## Campbell's® Labels and You

by Peter Heinicke (Teacher-Detroit)

Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries is again involved this year in the Campbell's Labels for Education Program. This valuable program allows us to turn in soup labels for much needed equipment for our school. Last year we sent in 503,000 labels and received over \$5,000 worth of school equipment such as an Apple computer and software, language masters, tape recorders, head phones, sports equipment, etc. This year our goal is to send in 600,000 soup labels and we need your help to reach our goal. With your help we can obtain the equipment that we need as we continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to special needs children. Thank you for your support!

## Shannon Attends Disney World Birthday Party

Shannon Mossop, a student at our campus school was selected by the City of Detroit to attend Mickey Mouse's 60th birthday party at Disney World in Orlando, Florida.



Shannon Mossop

## Ephphatha Award

As in past years, we are now accepting nominations for the Ephphatha Award. In recognition of the many dedicated people throughout the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod who have given time and talent to enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education, the Board of Directors of LSDSEM established the Ephphatha Award. It is to be presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the Christian education of special needs children in their congregation, community, or the church at large.

Nominations accompanied by a record of service should be made by March 31, 1989 and directed to:

Mr. Roger DeMeyere, Executive Director  
 Lutheran School for the Deaf  
 6861 East Nevada  
 Detroit, Michigan 48234



## Dates to Remember

1. Annual Meeting  
May 10, 1989
2. School Closing,  
Graduation  
June 9, 1989
3. Harvest Festival  
October 14, 1989