



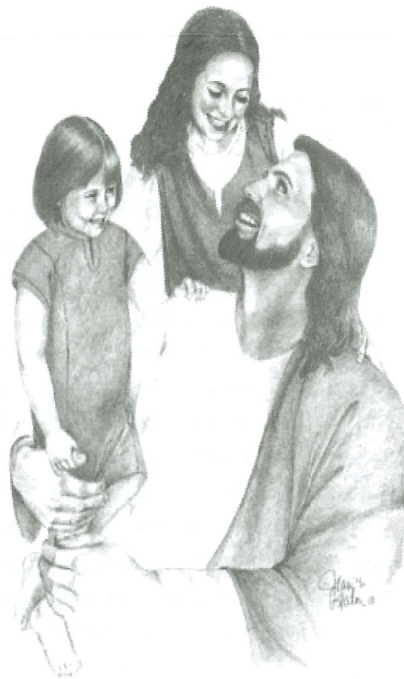
Serving and Praising God...One Child at a Time

JILL'S STORY

Lutheran Special Education Ministries teacher, Arlene Lapsansky reflected back to when she was first introduced to Jill.

Lapsansky shared, "During Jill's primary years, she just kind of trudged along in school. It appeared to her classroom teacher and others that she was attentive, listening and seemed to be catching the information; however, little did anyone know, Jill had fooled them all."

Fortunately, before Jill entered the fourth grade, her parents had her tested through the public school system. The results revealed that she was visually impaired, and due to this impairment she had extreme difficulty organizing visual information. Following the testing, Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) services were called upon and answered in the form of LSEM teacher Arlene Lapsansky. Arlene immediately coordinated to have the Vision Itinerant Services (Pediatric Optometrist) through the public school system and a vision consultant come to Trinity Lutheran School, in order to accommodate for Jill's needs. All those years, Jill had had difficulty seeing the board, words projected by the overhead projector, and she also had difficulty seeing smaller typeface such as captions under photographs. Lapsansky shares, "Our special needs team of professionals instituted such changes as making sure the words projected by the overhead were always in black and the classroom computer screen's font size was enlarged as well. Jill still attends Trinity Lutheran School. She is now a Junior



(students) in Christian schools and churches all across the United States, and the need for our services is on the rise. We know approximately one child out of every five has a special learning need. Our programs and services allow children to develop the skills they need to lead productive lives throughout their academic careers, and the opportunity to develop a life-long relationship with their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Since 1873, when the Lutheran School for the Deaf began ministering to children who were hearing impaired, our ministry has been faithfully meeting our mission: "With the knowledge of God's love and the desire that God's love be revealed through our ministry, Lutheran Special Education Ministries serves to enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education." Today, we continue to honor our commitment by *Serving and Praising God...One Child at a Time*.

Debbi Torbet
Development Operations Specialist

High student and her whole world has opened up to her, thanks to the intervention techniques that were put into place by her LSEM teacher.

This success story is of one child who was helped by our teacher, Arlene, while serving at Trinity Lutheran School. Lutheran Special Education Ministries teacher, Arlene Lapsansky helps approximately twenty special needs children each week on a regular basis with their individual learning needs at Trinity Lutheran School. LSEM serves special learning needs children

Rejoice! I Have Found My Lost Sheep

Have you ever felt lost or wondered does anyone care? I'm sure we have all felt that way at one time or another, but for a child with a special learning need the feeling of being lost, and why doesn't anyone care can be a daily struggle in the classroom. I imagine this is how *Jill* felt before she received the help she needed.

Continued on page 2

Lost Sheep...

continued from page 1

In the book of Luke Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep. He said, "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me, I have found my lost sheep.'"

Can't you just see it? A child, *like Jill*, being carried around on the shoulders of Jesus. Not feeling lost, but safe and secure, with Jesus shouting, "Rejoice with me, I have found my lost child!" That's how I see children with special learning needs that have experienced the love of Jesus through one of our special education teachers. The feelings of loneliness and isolation have disappeared. They are safe and secure in the arms of Jesus.

As I reflect on that parable I believe that many children with special learning needs could potentially be lost if it were not for the work that God has allowed Lutheran Special Education Ministries to continue through the years. It is because of God's grace that our resources have sustained us through the tough times, and I pray will continue to sustain us as we grow and reach out to children, *like Jill*, who may feel lost because of their special learning need.

In our ongoing efforts, however challenging, it is essential that our friends keep us in prayer, and continue to get the word out about our services to family, friends, schools and congregations. In doing so you will be the catalyst to *reaching, serving and enabling* even more children and their families.

Finally, please join us as we **rejoice and give praise to God** for you, our friends and family that have faithfully supported this ministry with your prayers and gifts so that children with special learning needs may discover their full potential in Jesus... **"One Child at a Time!"**

Grace Lorano
Administrative Assistant

Special Notes from the desk of Roger DeMeyer



A Time to Grow Again: And How!

A Time to Grow Again: And How!

That's the title of a paper I wrote recently to serve as a catalyst for change within Lutheran Special Education Ministries. We need to reverse a very troubling (albeit expected) pattern of partnership school attrition during the past several years. The bottom line result is we are helping less children than we did three years ago. That's the bad news!

What's the good news? First, we need to keep the bad news in context. Even with recent service reductions Lutheran Special Education Ministries is still much larger than it was a decade ago. From 1996-2002 Lutheran Special Education Ministries experienced dramatic growth, doubling in size from 50 to 100 partnership schools. (Partnership schools are Lutheran or other Christian schools who have contracted with Lutheran Special Education Ministries to provide special education services to their school.) During those years services expanded beyond Michigan, Illinois and New York to include placement of our special education staff in schools in Fort Wayne, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Dallas and Houston. And as a result we were helping more than 3,000 children a year.

Second, like other organizations Lutheran Special Education Ministries has been forced to downsize. But how can this be good news? Only if we use a scriptural reference point. Branches need to be pruned to bear new fruit. I believe the financial struggles of the past have made us better stewards of our time, talent and treasure. I also believe we are

uniquely positioned for such a time as this to grow again. Positioned to bear new fruit. And I believe we will. Recently the Florida-Georgia District LCMS asked us to bring our special education services to the Lutheran schools in Florida and Georgia. We plan to have our teachers and consultants placed in schools in Orlando this year. Wonderful! And our staff informed me that all current service areas expect to expand to new schools for 2006-07. Exciting!

Although we've had our challenges the future looks bright, perhaps even brighter than before. I wonder if Lutheran Special Education Ministries will double in size again during the next decade? Stay tuned!

Roger DeMeyer
President/CEO

In Memory

Former board members

Jim Hoerberling

and

Carl Middendorf

were called home to be with Jesus. We give praise, honor and glory to God for their faithful service to

Lutheran Special Education Ministries

and for their commitment to children with special learning needs. We look forward with joyful anticipation when we will someday meet again!

Around The Ministry

Great Lakes Region

Kathleen Hodges, Director

The Great Lakes Region has been full of activity during the first half of this year. Twenty-seven teachers have worked with over 500 students in various settings. More students are referred for services each week. It is an honor to work with the students, parents, and classroom teachers.

Our staff has been attending and presenting at conferences. Many teachers have learned new techniques and gained additional skills in identifying students with needs and meeting those needs. Regional director, Kathleen Hodges was able to present three workshops. Over 100 church workers learned about working with struggling students.

LSEM was very honored to receive a grant that allowed one of our partnership schools to increase their program. Thanks to this generous grant, Cornerstone, Iroquois, in Detroit now has a teacher for half a day.

We are looking ahead to the next school year and are very excited to see the hope of more children being served!

Midwest Region

Sue Lewis, Director

Lutheran Special Education Ministries joined with Voice of Care (VOC) Ministry and Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services to host a workshop at St. John Lutheran Church in LaGrange, Illinois.

The workshop was designed to train Christians who want to reach and teach children and adults with developmental disabilities. Workshop participants included teachers (both professional and volunteer), family members and friends of a person with special needs, as well as pastors and other church workers intent on the involvement of people with developmental disabilities in the life of the church. Susan Lewis, director for Lutheran Special Education Ministries' Midwest Region presented "Basics for Christian Special Education."

By the end of the day participants were equipped with steps and strategies to reach and teach God's Word to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Northcentral Region

Dennis Senne, Director

The strength of the LSEM program in Minnesota continues to be the services provided by five very dedicated teachers at the five partnership schools. This past fall direct services have been provided to 95 students with an additional 13 students participating in the consultant program. The psychological assessment program has increased with two student assessments completed and a third one in process of being completed. The services of Concordia University professor and school psychologist Sally Baas have greatly assisted in the success of this achievement.

Interest in the LSEM program continues to grow. A total of 230 individuals have attended or participated in meetings or workshops presented by LSEM staff. An additional 43 school contacts have been made.

Plans are presently being made to have a major fundraiser event in cooperation with the St. Paul Saints baseball team. This is shaping up to be a fun time for families and at the same time support for LSEM.

Southcentral Region

Jim Krone, VP Programs & Services

The Southcentral Region is branching out into new, exciting territory! Juhl Gardiner is running a successful speech and language program at Crown of Life Lutheran School in Colleyville, Texas. Juhl often pulls students out of the classroom to give instruction one-on-one or in small groups. Many times, Juhl works alongside general education teachers and assists students in their self-contained classroom.

Sharon Messmann, our coordinator in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, attended two conferences this fall. These conferences inspired her to start an exciting new initiative of academic competitions. These competitions will motivate students who may struggle in language-based subjects, but shine in math, calculator applications, art, music or drama. In addition, Sharon plans to address the needs of children who are gifted/talented.

Martin Herzog, our coordinator in the Houston area, attended four conferences where he was able to give presentations to numerous principals. Many of these principals had never heard of LSEM before. LSEM regained one new Lutheran school, Memorial Lutheran, Houston. We are currently looking for qualified teachers in this region.

Southeast Region

Roger DeMeyere, President/CEO

This space is reserved for information about Lutheran Special Education Ministries service to the schools and congregations of the Florida - Georgia District LCMS. That's right. Lutheran Special Education Ministries and the Florida-Georgia District are finalizing a consortium agreement that will bring special education programs and services to children with special learning needs in the Southeast.

Over the years Lutheran Special Education Ministries has received inquiries from Lutheran schools in Florida about establishing services there. But before initiating on site services to any area of the country Lutheran Special Education Ministries seeks the partnership of the LCMS district. The Consortium Agreement delineates the responsibilities of the participating organizations. We expect the agreement will be signed in February, 2006. Then, what once was only a dream will be a reality. To God alone be the glory!

Southwest Region

Jim Krone, VP Programs & Services

The Southwest Region is growing! Michelle Finch, our coordinator in the Los Angeles, CA area, attended a professional conference this fall. Two schools that started last year found LSEM to be a positive experience, so they returned this year. Another school increased their participation from once a month to once a week. We are thankful to St. Paul, Garden Grove for donating office space for the LSEM resource library.

Ashley Steele, our coordinator in the Phoenix, AZ area, has seven volunteers who help in the resource program at Shepherd of the Desert in Scottsdale. We are very thankful for those volunteers. She also attended a conference earlier this year. Ashley plans to utilize the new computer lab at her school by incorporating more computer technology into her classroom. This region is experiencing much growth and will have openings for special education teachers for the 2006-2007 school year.



† Christian Estate Planning



We have said it before and we will say it again. We know there are only three possible destinations for your estate. You may leave it to your family and loved ones, you may leave a gift to a ministry which has impacted your life, or you may choose the option of doing nothing and have monies going to the IRS and other taxing and administrative authorities. Our goal at Lutheran Special Education Ministries is simply to make people aware of their options and to assist them in using tools available to them which may eliminate unnecessary taxes and accomplish their family and ministry goals.

The first step is to make a decision to review your personal situation, and the second step is to call and ask for assistance. We can help in step two; number one is up to you.

Debbi Torbet and I together share 30+ years of gift planning experience and have assisted hundreds with their Christian Estate Plans. We are here to help in any way we can. You may call us toll free at: **888-488-LSEM(5736)**. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Gene Kuebler

Vice President Development

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“Well done, good and faithful servant...”

We learn in Jesus' parable from Matthew 25:21 that this is exactly what the servant heard from his master when the servant had doubled the master's money. But as fellow Christians you know the real point of Jesus' parable wasn't the doubling. It was that the servant knew it wasn't his money. It was his master's.

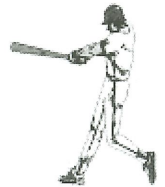
The servant saw the opportunity and took it...just as so many of you (*our ministry friends and supporters*) did these past few months. You took advantage of doubling all or a portion of your gift to Lutheran Special Education Ministries. In fact, so many of you rose to the challenge presented by Lutheran Special Education Ministries' first

Challenge Grant, we met the foundation's maximum dollar amount by the end of January 2006!

On behalf of the many children, teachers and staff Lutheran Special Education Ministries serves each day, we sincerely thank you for your continued prayers and support of our ministry to children.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries would also like to extend a very special thank you to the families and children who shared their LSEM success stories with us.

Our Christmas letters to ministry friends featured these wonderful children, parents, and their LSEM special education teachers. We value their heartfelt sharing of these stories.



LSEM Ministry Events

NORTHCENTRAL REGION BASEBALL GAME

St. Paul Saints
St. Paul, MN (Midway Park)
vs.
Sioux City Explorers

Date: Friday, May 19, 2006
Gametime: 7:05PM
Ticket Cost: \$10

Call: Dennis 651-603-6235

MIDWEST REGION BASEBALL GAME

Kane County Cougars
Geneva, IL
vs.
Swing of the Quad Cities

Date: Friday, April 7, 2006
Gametime: 6:00PM
Ticket Cost: \$10

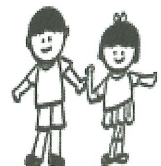
Call: Christina 708-209-3344

GREAT LAKES REGION 1ST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Cracklewood Golf Club
Macomb, MI

Date: Monday, June 26, 2006
Entry Fee: \$125
Early Bird Fee: \$100
(if paid by March 31, 2006)

Call: Debbi 313-368-1220



Proceeds from these events will benefit the
Lutheran Special Education Ministries School Scholarship Fund.