

"Enabling children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education since 1873."

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Our Vision

Reach...
across the United States

Serve...
schools & congregations

Enable...
*children with special
learning needs to know Jesus
and lead fulfilling lives*



Straight From The Heart

I began working with Elizabeth in first grade. She had a difficult time learning to read and she was a very busy young lady. Her mother worked with her for hours every night making sure she did all of her homework. Elizabeth was very motivated to work hard and accomplish much but she needed extra help.

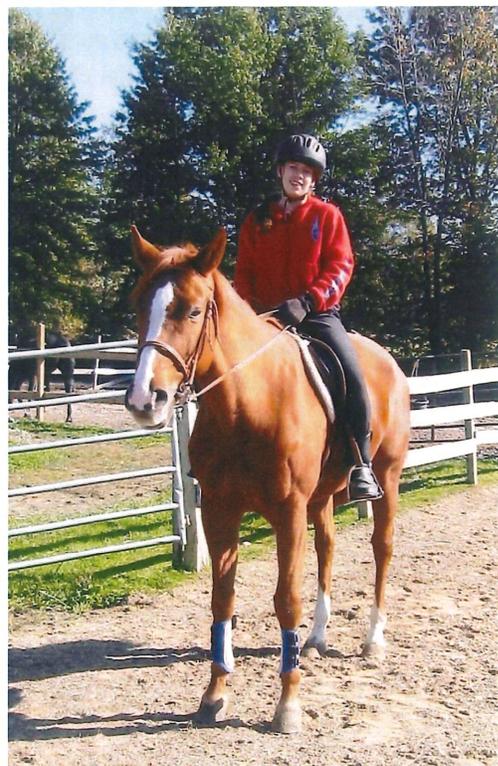
In second grade she became one of my students in the LSEM Resource Room. Through hard work and determination, she is now an honor student and is taking college prep courses.

Recently, she wrote an essay about her love for horses and her pursuit to someday have her own horse like her grandmother who died of cancer. The essay was so moving and so eloquently written that it touched all of our hearts.

In her essay she wrote about Duchess, her horse, and how he helped her through a sad time during her grandmother's illness. Elizabeth writes, *"I funneled all of my pain into my relationship with Duchess."* Elizabeth's grandmother died one month after she was diagnosed with cancer. The loss of her grandmother was very painful but she knew her grandmother wanted her to keep working hard and be all that God intended her to be.

I believe the experience of losing someone she loved gave Elizabeth the courage to endure even more pain when she had to make the decision to end Duchess' life because of a severe leg injury. She writes in her essay, *"During that period in my life I learned how the bond and love between a child and their horse can help them get through tough times."* Elizabeth learned many valuable life lessons during that difficult time and as her LSEM Teacher so did I. There's no doubt that the love she had for her grandmother and her horse was **"straight from the heart!"**

I believe that Elizabeth will do very well as she moves on to high school. However, if not for the LSEM program at her school, Elizabeth may not have received the help she needed early on and would probably not be reading and writing at a level that will help her to succeed in high school. Thank you for supporting LSEM with your prayers and your gifts. Elizabeth, **thanks** you too!



Elizabeth & Duchess

*Serving God's Special Children,
Kay Ramsey, LSEM Teacher
Trinity Lutheran School, Clinton Twp., MI*

From the President/CEO



Jim Krone
President/CEO

“If you have questions that you want to ask me, my door is always open.”



Our mission is to reach out to children that may learn differently than you or I. This difference could manifest itself in hearing, speech, vision, motion or even perception. God continues to prepare LSEM to move forward with timely and appropriate programs and services to children.

Our knowledge base comes from both our history and the years of education and experience of our professional teaching staff. We have the lessons learned from our history of caring for one population of His special children as “The Lutheran School for the Deaf;” we did that well for over 100 years. But as avenues were opened to the Deaf students to live at home, our mission moved to enabling all children that learn differently, to know Jesus.

We have been reaching out beyond Detroit to serve children of this larger population with state of the art education and techniques for over **35 years**, at an average rate of **2000** children per year. I personally pray that God allows me to reach one child at a time...but he gives this ministry 2000 fold. *What a blessing!*

Right now times are difficult, we cannot reach out to as many children because many Christian schools and churches don't have the resources to

partner with us. So please take a moment to talk to God and your friends about LSEM and think about these questions:

- **Do you pray for LSEM?** Above all, please pray.
- **Is your school or church partnering with LSEM?** If so, please consider supporting that program. Most programs do not adequately meet the needs of the children.
- **Does your church have a school?** If your church does not have a school, talk to your Pastor and encourage them to include LSEM as a mission in your church budget.
- **Is your school a partner with LSEM?** If your school is not a partner with LSEM, talk to the principal about starting a program.
- **Can you give a gift?** Consider a personal gift to support our service to children.

Finally, I always look forward to hearing from our friends. If you have questions for me, my door is always open.

Blessings
Jim Krone
President/CEO

Building Awareness



LSEM Teachers Lynn Luetgert (left) one of our Illinois teacher's and Donna Stole, one of our Minnesota teacher's are simulating what it is like to have a learning disability.

It may look as though these two LSEM teachers are not serious, but it is quite the opposite. What they are actually doing in this picture is helping to build disability awareness.

Last March, at the LEA Convocation, LSEM had the opportunity to set up a Disability Awareness Lab with hands on simulations. Those that visited the lab were able to experience the challenges that individuals with disabilities face in everyday life involving reading, writing and basic communication (*listening and speaking*) skills. Many participants, which included pastors, teachers and administrators, were made aware of the challenges individuals with disabilities face by participating in these various hands on activities.

For more information about our services or if you are in need of special education resources or support call **888-488-LSEM (5736)** to speak to one of our special education professionals.

Thank you for your support that is enabling LSEM to build disability awareness in our schools, churches and communities.

Serving God's Special Children,
Programs and Services Team

LSEM Board Chair - Woman of the Year

A Note of Thanks



COUNCIL OF LUTHERAN WOMEN Lutheran Women of the Year 2010

At the 47th Annual Luncheon of the Council of Lutheran Women, Susan Vogt, LSEM's newly elected board chair was one of the women honored as "Women of the Year." "There is no doubt that Susan was the perfect choice," said Jim Krone, President/CEO of LSEM. "Susan began serving on the LSEM Board of Trustees in 2004, but even before that she was volunteering in the classroom at one of our partnership schools," Krone added.

We believe that God prepared Susan for her service at LSEM for such a time as this. Susan not only is a retired special education school teacher, she holds an MA in Learning Disabilities and Diagnostic Testing. Currently, Susan works as a trustee for the Hilda E. Bretzlaff Foundation which also has prepared her for her role as board chair.

Please join us in thanking God for Susan, her gifts, skills, and her leadership at LSEM. But we mostly thank God for her heart and her love for the children we serve.

To God be the glory!

Not Good-Bye



BJ smiling for the camera at her retirement party June 14, 2011.

There's a void at the LSEM National Office these days. For the last **13 years** Barbara Ruzzin, or BJ, as we all knew her was set to retire on July 1, 2011, but instead went home to be with Jesus on June 29, 2011.

BJ held a very special place in her heart for all of our LSEM friends. We believe she would want everyone to know how much she enjoyed her time talking with some of you and how much she appreciated your prayers and your support for the children we serve.

Although, we are sad that BJ is no longer here, we are filled with **joy** because we know it is not good-bye but see you later. Please join us in celebrating BJ's life by keeping the Ruzzin family and LSEM in your prayers. **See you later BJ!**

This year marks another milestone at LSEM as we say thank you to two very special LSEM Teachers as they retire. **Noel Gregory**, began teaching in **1965** when LSEM was a deaf school and **Judy Hawkins** began teaching at LSEM in **1994**.

Both ladies have made a tremendous impact on the lives of countless children who have special learning needs, and there's no doubt in their retirement years they will continue to make an impact.

If anyone, former students, parents, teachers, principals, or others, have any memories and/or stories to share about Noel and Judy, send them to lsem@luthsped.org. We would love to hear them.

Please join us in thanking and praising God for these very special teachers. We are grateful for their years at LSEM and pray that God will continue to bless them as they have blessed us!



Noel (left) & Judy at the 2009 LSEM SPED Conference. These ladies never tired of learning new and improved teaching techniques through the years. In this picture they were checking out all the latest teaching techniques that the LSEM Programs & Services Department were developing on-line to assist them in their work.



Pray For You

Are you in need of prayer? Do you have any requests? Our national office staff meets daily Mon-Fri at 9:00am to pray. You may email your prayer requests to lsem@luthsped.org or call our national office toll free at 888-488-LSEM(5736) and we will include your request with our daily prayers.

Campbell's

**Labels
for
Education**

Free Supplies!



Thank you to everyone for sending in your Campbell Soup labels. We are redeeming them for classroom equipment & supplies.

Estate Planning

For information on how to include LSEM in your **Estate Planning** contact the national office at **888-488-LSEM (5736) ext. 108**.

Also, to learn more about how we may serve you, or if you would like to donate online, visit us on the web at www.luthsped.org

Thank You!

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How Do We Do It

How do we do it? I get that question a lot. Of course, the question is usually financially motivated. I respond by telling those who ask how LSEM does it based on our philosophy for development which is:

- **We rely on God.** We ask God to meet our needs.
- **We communicate with others.** We communicate to others the vision and God's blessings upon our work.
- **We serve others.** We pray believing that everything depends on God but work as if everything depends on us.
- **We thank others.** We edify our friends for using their gifts. Remembering that the widow's mite is as God pleasing as a proportionate gift from a wealthy person.
- **We practice wise stewardship.** God expects us to be good stewards and we respond by trying to manage all his gifts wisely.

More often than not that response raises skepticism. Yes, LSEM has challenges but we believe that resource development is the process of growing and strengthening our relationships to one another and ultimately it involves a relationship with Jesus, the Lord and giver of all we have. If we hold true to that believe God will certainly take care of the rest. In fact, he has for more than 138 years through friends like you. Thank you friends. We couldn't do it without you.

E-News for Families, Schools & Churches

In our effort to help build awareness for LSEM and provide families, schools and churches with helpful information on homework tips, support groups, resources, etc., an **E-Newsletter** will be available through our website at www.luthsped.org. To subscribe, all you need to do is go to a link on our home page and select the **E-Newsletter** of your choice. Once registered, a copy will be delivered to your email each month. The newsletters will be available sometime in September.

Furthermore, in our ongoing effort to be good stewards of our resources, we would like to begin building an email database for The Advocate Newsletter. If you are interested, send your email address to lsem@luthsped.org and in the subject line put "**The Advocate E-News**" and we will add your email to our database. The Advocate is also available on our website. Just click **Publications** from the **Homepage** to view and/or to print current and past newsletters.

A Soggy Start - All For A Good Cause

Our **6th Annual Golf Outing** got off to a soggy start but that didn't stop everyone from having a great time and all for a good cause.

With the help of our friends we raised over **\$12,500** for our programs and services for children with special learning needs. Special thanks to all of our 71 golfers, volunteers, sponsors and to Golden Hawk Golf Club in Casco, MI for once again helping LSEM make the day a huge success.

Plans will begin soon for our **7th Annual Golf Event**. If you are interested in volunteering on the golf committee call the national office at 888-488-LSEM(5736) ext. 108. Rain or shine, we hope to see everyone again next year. **Thank you for your support!** LSEM Golf Committee



*Pastor Jon Trinklein
Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Twp., MI
Having a good time and all for a good cause!*