

The Advocate

"A Christ-centered resource that supports children with learning needs since 1873."



Summer 2012 Volume 82, No. 2

Inside this issue:

From the President	2
Honor & Restore	2
Valued & Loved	3
Resource Center	3
Note of Thanks	3
We Need Partners	4
Check it Out!	4
Golf Outing	4
Facebook & New Address	4

I CAN Learning Center



*Rev. Steven Essenburg, (right) pastor of **Charity Lutheran Church** Detroit, MI during the opening of the I CAN Learning Center program at his church.*

Pictured below is a student during a reading activity at Charity's I CAN summer program.



Through our Programs & Services, we provide children with the resources they need to succeed, along with the creativity and motivation to overcome challenges. Our Programs & Services team continues to actively seek new ways to reach out to children with various learning challenges and needs. Every day we praise God for the opportunity to help so many children.

This year we are excited to tell you about our newest endeavor through our **I CAN Learning Center**. Through the I CAN Learning Center, LSEM is reaching out and partnering with churches and their members in large city communities, and serving children from lower income families who have little or no resources.

Our first program is taking place at **Charity Lutheran Church in Detroit, MI**. The program started with 7 students and has grown to over 20 in just a few short weeks. The students are not only growing academically, they are experiencing the love of **Jesus** that will have a lasting impact!

In order to keep this program going and to start others like it we need support from our ministry partners. Please consider a gift by using the enclosed envelope. Your partnership is vital and very much appreciated. For more information contact one of our Programs & Services Directors, Rev. Jeff Howell or Tim Winterstein at 248-419-3390 or lsem@luthsped.org.

Thank you and God bless you for partnering with us!

From the President/CEO - 15 Teams of Horses



Jim Krone
President/CEO

“As a Christ-centered resource that supports children with learning needs, we take what we have from the past and continue to create quality Christian programs.”

In the hustle and bustle of moving our national office I was reminded that this wasn't our first move. Mr. Larry Uhlig reminded me that his great-grandfather, Herman Uhlig, Director of the ministry moved to the Nevada Street site in 1875 to then Norris, Michigan (now Detroit) from their Royal Oak, MI home. It took a community of smiling volunteers and 15 teams of horses. They moved to accommodate more children to know Jesus. For this same reason we moved to get out of the way so Cornerstone School can serve more children in their new high school.

Our new national office is located in Farmington Hills, MI. During the moving process I prayed about preserving the memory of yesterday and just like in 1875 God gave us a community of volunteers. That community of volunteers needs to grow today. We need help to preserve the past, to care for the over 3,000 children per year being helped in the present and to reach out to the future.

Moving forward and looking to the future, I invite you to be a part of our community. Visit our website for giving and serving opportunities. The only way we have been able to provide quality programs to families, schools, churches, and communities is through your support. Our current operation expenses are higher than our income. Is this bad business or a ministry that reaches to serve first and relies on God to move in the hearts of His people. Our short fall figures out to about \$2,040 per week.

As a Christ-centered resource that supports children with learning needs, we take what we have from the past and continue to create quality Christian programs. One such program is highlighted on the front page. The I CAN Learning Center reaches out to all children with learning needs. We have been reaching out with quality support for children with learning needs one year at a time, for 139 years, with hope and faith in God that we will be reaching out again next year.

I hope you will join us as we continue to move forward trusting in God for all things.

Dance with Jesus
Jim

To Honor and Restore

In preparing for our national office move it was not uncommon to see Patty O'Hara, Director of Finance and Personnel, and now lovingly referred to as our LSEM Historian, sitting in her office with a big pile of historical documents and artifacts.

For almost 25 years Patty has been on staff at LSEM and has seen a lot of changes. Although her first priority is to make sure the financials are in good accounting order, she has a special place for LSEM in her heart and is fascinated by the 139 years of history.

During weekly staff meetings Patty would share historical articles and appeals from the early years. She was having fun going through the old documents but it was also challenging because most of the information was in German. Fortunately, her friend, Elke Kosnick, a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Eastpointe, MI was able to translate some of the historical information for us. We thank Elke for taking the time to translate some of the documents and for helping us honor and restore our history.

Even though we are in our new office space there is still much to do. If you are interested in helping restore historical information and artifacts, contact Patty O'Hara at 248-419-3390 ext. 110. Also, watch for our **Open House** and come check us out!



A poster advertising the 100th annual Lutheran School for the Deaf Festival! 1873-1973

Children are Valued and Loved

Now a middle school student, Nick has always struggled in school. *He was one of those students who we knew had a lot of potential if we could just find the right ways to motivate him and help him learn,*” said his LSEM teacher. It was evident early on that Nick was on his own when it came to school. He didn’t receive a lot of positive reinforcements from home and he was belittled for having to receive extra support at school. He would also get punished for not being able to accomplish work on his own. As is often the case, Nick began to believe that he was hopeless, useless, and stupid, but Nick never gave up!

The school staff never gave up on Nick either. Nick’s LSEM teacher, his classroom teacher, and the principal would meet often to discuss strategies to address his learning challenges. If it worked they would move on to another problem. If it didn’t they would rethink it. They would always remind Nick that he could never give up because they would never give up on him.

It wasn’t easy but after several months of working with Nick his anger began to diminish and late and incomplete assignments became less frequent. He began to ask more questions and volunteering answers. The last semester in school Nick made the honor roll. He was so surprised that he questioned the teacher on how his math score was figured. Once he was convinced that he had actually earned his good grades he could not conceal his happiness!

The LSEM teacher at Nick’s school reminds us that even though Nick is doing well he still has to work really hard to accomplish what many of his classmates do easily. He still comes to the resource room for help but at times he slips back into his “I’m hopeless” mode and needs a boost. We are thankful that God has provided for the LSEM program at Nick’s school through friends like you. Your support helps Nick and students like him grow and know that they are valued and loved.



This is not Nick, but a picture of a boy who could be a student like him.

A Note of Thanks



It was a special day! Karen Russell, LSEM Board of Trustee Secretary pic-
tured below with

Jim Krone, was nominated **Woman of the Year** by LSEM for the Council of the Lutheran Women’s (CLW) annual recognition. All nominees were honored at the CLW Luncheon on March 20, 2012. *“We thank God for Karen’s love and compassion for children,”* said Jim Krone. Karen truly is an advocate for many children. Along with her service on the LSEM Board of Trustees, Karen serves as President on the board for the Compassion Pregnancy Center. Her passion and love speaks volumes as she works diligently for the rights of all God’s children.

LSEM is also blessed to have Karen serve on our board as our legal representative.

We give thanks and praise to our God for Karen and for her 20 plus years of service!



Karen Russell with Jim Krone, President/CEO of LSEM at the CLW Luncheon in March 2012.

Resource Center



Kara Bratton
Resource Center
Assistant Director

We welcome Kara Bratton as the new Assistant Director for the Resource Center. Kara has worked at LSEM as a special educator/consultant for about 10 years. She has a wealth of knowledge with an Undergraduate Degree in Elementary Education, Special Education and a Master’s of Education. In the fall, Kara will start her licensure in Gifted & Talented Education.

Kara is working with Susan Lewis the Resource Center Director. Both are experts in the field of special education and are happy to assist you. For more information about how the Resource Center may support you and/or your ministry please contact Kara at kbratton@luthsped.org or Susan at slewis@luthsped.org.



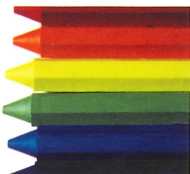
Pray For You

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. Please pray for LSEM too!

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. Keep them coming!

Like Us On Facebook



NEW ADDRESS!

The Advocate

is published two times a year by
Lutheran Special Education Ministries
 30415 W. Thirteen Mile Road
 Farmington Hills, MI 48334-2211
 Phone: 248-419-3390
 Fax: 248-419-3394
 Toll Free: (888) 488-LSEM (5736)
E-mail: LSEM@luthsped.org
Website: www.luthsped.org

We Need Partners

At LSEM we need partners to keep our programs and services going. If you would like to help support LSEM, we invite you to consider one of the following:

Annual Fund: Tax-deductible gifts to our annual fund provide the necessary financial resources for the many school programs and services happening on a day-to-day basis. If you make a gift today, your gift will make a difference in the life of a child tomorrow.

Memorial Gift: A gift to LSEM in memory of someone special is a wonderful way to pay tribute while helping children.

Honor Gift: Honor an individual in celebration of a special occasion or achievement with a gift to LSEM.

Matching Gifts: Many employers offer a program in which they will match your financial donation. You may contact your human resource or your employee benefits department to learn if your gift can be matched.

Endowment Fund: This fund allows the ministry to accomplish our mission by providing income to assist our national and regional programs. Only the income earned from this fund is used so that your gift keeps on giving.

Planned Gifts: Making plans now for continuing your support to LSEM and other ministries is possible through a planned estate gift or bequest.

Volunteers: We value our volunteers. If you are interested in distributing brochures, newsletters or maybe volunteering on a committee to fundraise, just to name a few, we need help from the east coast to the west coast. No matter where you live we have a job for you!

Donations may be mailed or if you prefer go to our website at www.luthsped.org and make a donation online.

Thank you for your support!

Check It Out!

After several months of hard work our new website has launched. Check it out at www.luthsped.org. We also invite you to sign up for our electronic newsletters. To sign up all you have to do is click the link on the “**Sign up for our Newsletter**” located on the “Home Page” of our website. There are options for families, schools, churches and general information. Please help us build awareness and share with your family and friends!

7th Annual Golf Outing - Thank You!



A **BIG** thank you to everyone who made our golf outing a success! We had over 90 golfers and raised over \$14,000 that will benefit children who have learning challenges.

We would also like to thank Greystone Golf Course for their awesome staff and facility and Tom Meissner for agreeing to chair next year's event.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help please contact Tom at 248-892-3924 or email him at tmeissner@nextfinancial.com. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!