



A student said, “So did I pass? Am I going to get to go work with you now?” I just smiled at the thought... Here was a student who was looking forward to getting extra help!

This exchange is a snapshot of what one might hear on a typical day between an LSEM teacher and one of their students. This is only one of many encouraging stories that we’ve shared over the years. These snippets reassure us that God is working through the collaboration of LSEM staff, teachers, families, and students. Together, we are building brighter futures here on earth and for eternity in Heaven. Like the student who was excited to get the extra assistance in the classroom, we too,

are thrilled to see where the future takes this ministry which has helped so many and is poised to help so many more!

Please continue to follow us on this journey. We would be honored if you would consider how you can help instill enthusiasm into the educational experience of every child served by LSEM. Together, we can help these students achieve, thrive, and succeed in a loving, Christ-centered educational environment.



A message from
Stacy McGhee,
President/CEO of LSEM

The Future Starts Now



When we started thinking about the 150th anniversary of Lutheran Special Education Ministries, it was hard to imagine how we could adequately celebrate such a major milestone. We are proud of how far we've come and had a strong desire to honor all the accomplishments of the past. After all, it was the blessings of the past that got us to where we are today. Without the talents and gifts of the servants who have gone before us we certainly wouldn't be here now. Our mission has never changed –we've always worked to give students of all learning abilities an opportunity to have an excellent education AND learn about Jesus in the same setting. Today is no different. The mission remains the same. The foundation has been laid and we stand ready to continue to serve today and into the future.

The future starts now. Today is the beginning of the next 150 years of blessings and you play a big role. I invite you to leave your Legacy of Love for future generations.

Can you be a prayer warrior for our students and teachers? Would you be willing to volunteer at one of our events or in one of our classrooms? Are you able to donate – maybe even start a recurring gift or establish an estate gift? Can you help us spread the word of how we can be a blessing in a school that doesn't know about us? Maybe you have an idea of something that could help us, and we want to hear about it! Whatever you can do, no matter how small or insignificant you think it may be, God will use it to do mighty things. Thank you for your continued support of our ministry. Without you we wouldn't be here today and you're essential to our future.

Boldly step into the future – a future that is unknown to us but is held by the One who already knows what who already knows what lies ahead. We can be assured not only by a track record of 150 years, but most importantly, by a God who has promised to never leave us and walks with us into the future. Let's take that walk together and leave a Legacy of Love for ALL God's children!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stacy McGhee'.

“When can we have another lunch with you?” Yes, I helped them academically, and they will be successful in their future academic endeavors. But the relationships and memories of our time together are just as valuable.



A LEGACY OF LOVE

LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES

On June 15, 2023 we celebrated the incredible blessing of 150 years of God's work in the lives of His children. While it was dreary and rainy outside, our hearts were full of warmth and joy as we gathered together with you. Fifty-seven of our teachers were able to join us from classrooms across the country and share the impact of your support and be recognized for their service. John Beilein, Senior Player Development Advisor for the Detroit Pistons, spoke to us about the importance of faith, legacy, and building character. It was a fun and memorable evening. We are so excited to see the future God has in store for this ministry, for you, and for His amazing children.

TRY DIFFERENTLY

instead of TRY HARDER

A donor story

by MARLENE HERZOG

My journey with LSEM began after 25 years of teaching in Lutheran elementary schools in both Illinois and Michigan. This journey takes me back to the beginning of LSEM transitioning to pursue the idea of having a “special ed” teacher in the many Lutheran Schools of the area.

I was a principal/teacher at a Lutheran elementary school and had the privilege of attending a gathering once a month with local Lutheran Elementary Principals. I was the only female - image that! At one of those gatherings, I met Kathy Krause as the guest speaker from LSEM. She spoke on the fact that our Lutheran schools have special needs children in our midst, and they need to be counted as valuable learners. I was awestruck because I recognized the truth in every word she uttered. I had a son who needed to be valued as one who “learned differently”. He was told countless times to “TRY HARDER” even though we studied long hours in varied ways.

My sainted husband, John, was always my encourager to follow my dreams and make a difference. He encouraged me to pursue a special education degree and apply to LSEM. My world was turned upside down

with the most awesome blessings beyond what I could ever imagine! After retirement happened many years later, I continued to express that I will ALWAYS be thankful to LSEM for the privilege of learning about and putting into practice the many ways to include learning-challenged students for success.

LSEM helped me become a strong advocate for learning challenged students who only need a DIFFERENT way to achieve success! A mom of one of my teenage students gave me a thank you gift of a beautiful glass swan with a note, “Thank you for helping my son to become a beautiful swan when some consider him an ugly duckling.” WOW!

As I move closer to being an octogenarian, it’s necessary to update our Family Trust. My attorney is asking me to name an organization that impacted my life in a very profound way. I have named LSEM. The good Lord blessed our family’s paths of ministry for our 53 years together and John’s father was instrumental in training him to know and live “the more you give the more you’ll be blessed”! I continue that today. Teaching children for nearly 35 years touched my heart but working with children served by LSEM touched my soul!

“My world was turned upside down with the most awesome blessings beyond what I could ever imagine!”

“His self-confidence has grown so much throughout the year as he realized that reading was possible. He, his parents, and I are so thankful that LSEM was put here just in time to help this little guy.”

Be a Part of Something Special!



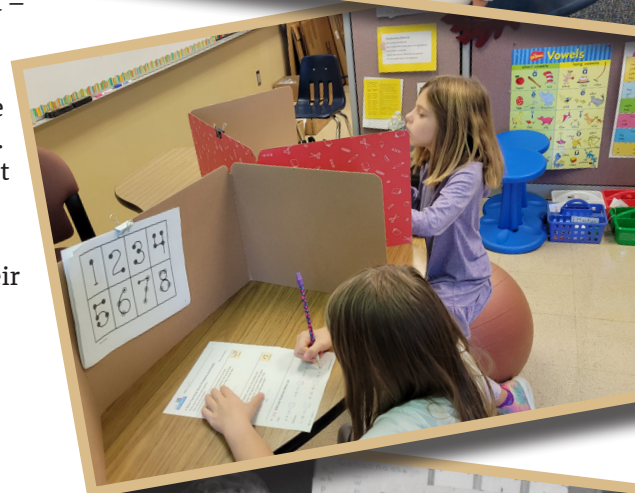
The 1873 Legacy Society acknowledges individuals and families who have given Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) the highest compliment – including the ministry in their estate plans.

Membership in the 1873 Legacy Society is open to individuals who designate a gift of \$10,000 or more to LSEM through a will, trust, or other planned gift. Individuals who make an outright gift of \$10,000 or more to the Endowment Fund are also invited to join.

Legacy Society donors enjoy the benefits of a planned gift, knowing that their foresighted donation will make a difference for future generations. Benefits include:

- **A permanent legacy at Lutheran Special Education Ministries**
- **Recognition on Lutheran Special Education Ministries donor wall**
- **Prominent listing in the LSEM Annual Report**
- **Annual recognition at a special event honoring you for your gift**
- **Invitations to other LSEM events**
- **Legacy Society lapel pin**

Please contact us if you have already designated an estate gift to Lutheran Special Education Ministries so that we might appropriately recognize and thank you for your generosity.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Come join us for golf, fellowship, and fun at our 18th Annual LSEM Golf Outing on Monday, **September 18, 2023!** We return to the gorgeous Cherry Creek Golf Course in Shelby Twp, MI. Arrive early to have breakfast with us before the shotgun start at 9am. Then enjoy 18 holes of golf, lunch, dinner, and some fantastic prizes. Register today! Visit www.luthsped.org or scan the QR code. Don't golf but still want to be a part of this event? You can make a donation, be a sponsor, or donate a prize!



Christmas Tea

Our special Christmas Tea event will be held at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit, MI, on Thursday, **December 7th**. Mark your calendar to be sure to join together in this festive holiday lunch where we share with you the stories and details of how your support is impacting children with learning differences across the country and around the world.



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“That extra support is so important for these younger students and I am grateful to LSEM for providing the tools to help them achieve their goals.”



LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES

the **Advocate** SUMMER 2023

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