



# News You Can Use

For Your Church Newsletter

From Lutheran Community Services

March 2016

*Editors: This information is prepared for church newsletter editors, secretaries and pastors. Your help in getting the word out is appreciated and will help LCS achieve its mission of "Sharing God's blessings by helping others in need." Comments about timing or content are welcome. Contact Steve Tindall (stindall@lcsde.org). 302 654 8886.*

## Helping More Than Once

Dan came to us about three years ago. He had a checkered past – a less than honorable discharge from the Navy, substance problems, and brief periods of incarceration. But at one time he had a beautiful family. Dan was referred to us by the Delaware 211 Help Line. He was what we call "virtually homeless." He had an address but it was an abandoned house without electricity or water. A propane heater provided a precarious source of heat. We listened to Dan's story, and then we helped him by providing financial assistance so that he could afford a security deposit for a decent apartment. Flash forward to 2016. Dan got robbed in a home invasion. He was broke and the rent was due. Scared and desperate, he called LCS. He knew we have a goal of limiting individual assistance to once, but he knew also that exceptions can be made. We listened to Dan's story; then decided to make an exception, and provided him with financial assistance to help with the rent. That was a wakeup call for Dan. Emboldened by our assistance, he did some serious soul searching and began to lay plans to reconnect with his family...and in his words, "learn to be a grandfather."

## Thrivent Action Teams

For many years, the local Thrivent chapter made generous matching gifts to worthy causes in our community. Now, we are coming to a turning point. A new benefit program has been introduced, Thrivent Action Teams, which is the replacement program for the chapter system. The current board will thus be the last one for our New Castle County Chapter. Here's how these new Thrivent Action Teams work. First, identify an unmet need in your community that you are passionate about. Your project should bring people together for a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. As a team leader, you can invite your friends, family and even community members to help. You apply online at [thrivent.com/actionteam](http://thrivent.com/actionteam). An Action Team kit will arrive that includes a Community Impact Card with \$250 in seed money to help cover some of the project costs like promotional material and rental expenses. LCS is anxious to work with folks to develop Thrivent Action Teams with a goal of benefitting LCS. To discuss the possibilities, contact Steve Tindall at [stindall@lcsde.org](mailto:stindall@lcsde.org) or **302 654 8886 x105**.