

December 2005

Every day LSS receives about a hundred new requests for disaster assistance from the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We are responding with emergency shelter grants, prayer and comforting words. We realize that the needs will continue to far exceed financial and other resources. Yet, we pray that the help and support that we as Lutherans can offer provide some measure of relief and comfort during this difficult time for so many. For the latest information on disaster response efforts, and to help those in need, please go online at www.lsss.org.

As a result of war and ethnic cleansing, hundreds of African teenagers are homeless. Many are resettled in the United States through a federal program called the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Project (URMP). LSS recruits foster families and provides support services for this program. Please consider fostering one of these teenagers. LSS also needs foster families to care for children who require special medical attention. To provide help, healing and hope to these children and those from Africa, please call (800) 622-6697 for more information.

The primary goals of the LSS Buena Vida Adult Day Center ministry in El Paso are to maintain or increase the level of function of their elderly and disabled participants, and to educate and support their family caregivers. Recently, 13 graduate students in occupational therapy from the University of Texas-El Paso helped modify the physical exercise program at the adult day centers to prevent falls. The students also worked with family caregivers of the elderly and disabled on how to more precisely communicate with doctors and other health care providers, facilitating better outcomes and overall health care. For information about the LSS Adult Day Center ministry, call Peter Nicolaou at (915) 598-5403.

Residents of Wedgewood South Assisted Living in Lubbock will soon be enjoying their new chapel/theatre. The new addition to the LSS community will include stained glass windows, theater seating and a movie projection system. Stop by Wedgewood South on Dec. 8 for "Christmas 'Round the World," the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Social. The event will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and includes special refreshments and a tour. Call (806) 798-1011.