



# THE ANGEL FUND

*Jen helps the pregnancy counselor at LFS explain to women what it's like to be pregnant, what to expect at the hospital and from the experience in general.*

*In 2008, LFS will help build over 60 families through the blessing of adoption. For more information on our open, designated, foster-to-adopt and international adoption programs email us at [adoption@lfsco.org](mailto:adoption@lfsco.org), for information on pregnancy counseling email us at [pregnancy@lfsco.org](mailto:pregnancy@lfsco.org). Phone calls are also welcome at 303-922-3433.*

*Pregnancy counseling is a free service to expectant mothers and their families. To help support this life changing program, please contact our resource development department at [development@lfsco.org](mailto:development@lfsco.org) or 303-922-3433.*

During the Christmas season many of us celebrate with friends and families, sharing our love for one another through our many traditions, religious beliefs and special moments. This time of year often reminds us of the ties that bind us to our loved ones. Through the years, the concept of family has changed as we've found that biological ties are not the only ties that bind our hearts. At Lutheran Family Services we have been building and strengthening families for 60 years. Our families are not always "traditional," but they are created by choice and with great care.

Catherine and Derek chose to extend their family through adoption. Through this process they gained more family than they could have hoped or dreamed. "You go into adoption hoping to add a child to your family. We consider ourselves so lucky because we added family to our family," says Catherine. Recently Catherine and Derek adopted a little girl, Alexis, through the open adoption program at LFS. She and her husband along with Jennifer and Chris, the biological parents, are flag bearers for the blessings of the "non-traditional" family.

Catherine shares that not only Chris and Jen, but their entire extended family have become very important in their lives. "We pray for them daily, we worry when one of them is sick, we want to encourage them in their struggles and share in their joys. It is amazing to me how quickly this relationship has become so close. It is a two way street, too. We benefit from our relationship with them and I believe we have also become a great source of strength in their lives as well. I know the idea of open adoption scares some people and the idea of maintaining that relationship may seem overwhelming, but just as your heart expands and fills with love for your new baby, it also expands to love and welcome her first family."

We feel so lucky to be a part of the adoptive family. We could have tried many different ways to have a biological child, but we were moved to leave technology alone and pursue adoption. We know that this was the right choice for our family and we are thankful that it was the plan the Lord chose for us. We know that the Lord has selected each of our children for us because they need us and we need them."

The entire family is extremely open with baby Alexis about her adoption and how her family was formed. Catherine says, "I love to listen to Nick (big brother adopted four years ago) talk to Lexi about her adoption story. He tells her how Jen and Chris love her, but cannot take care of her so they asked us to be her mommy, daddy, and big brother forever."

Jen says, "Families can be made in so many different ways. What's the definition of family? Everything is blended these days and that's okay!" Jen and Chris utilized our pregnancy counseling services as they searched their hearts about the right decision for Alexis as well as themselves. They are very comfortable and confident that this family, created through her adoption plan, is the best for everyone involved.

As you rejoice this holiday season with your family and loved ones, help us to celebrate all of our families - young and old, blended and traditional, all shapes and sizes - who come together to love each other, protect the vulnerable and help those who are hurting.

Our charge is to be present in the hard places of life with services that heal, strengthen and provide hope. To continue these services we look to generous individuals and families to strengthen our ministry. Please consider celebrating the gift of family today by helping LFS reach out to people like Catherine, Derek, baby Alexis, Jen and Chris.

In God's Love,

Jim Barclay  
President & CEO



**LUTHERAN  
FAMILY SERVICES**  
of Colorado



**Charitable giving  
is an important tradition for our family.  
Our Gifts to Lutheran Family Services offer a wonderful  
way to teach our values to our children.”**

## **YEAR-END GIFT OPPORTUNITIES**

*Help Lutheran Family Services* to serve the vulnerable....

### **IRA Rollover Gifts**

Any individual over 70 may make a non-taxable charitable distribution of up to \$100,000 from a Traditional or Roth IRA directly to Lutheran Family Services. IRA Rollover gifts may be given to charity with no new income to report or taxes to pay. An IRA Rollover gift is a tax-wise way to make a year-end gift to Lutheran Family Services.

### **Gifts of Stock or Real Estate**

Gifts of long-term appreciated Stock or Real Estate provide two tax savings. You avoid paying tax on the increase in the value of your stock or real estate. Additionally, you receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of your stock or real estate gift.

### **Gifts of Appreciated Stock or Cash to Fund a Charitable Gift Annuity**

In exchange for a gift of cash or appreciated stock, a Charitable Gift Annuity\* will provide:

- ...Guaranteed income for life. Gift Annuity income rates are higher than CD interest rates and stay constant even if interest rates or the stock market go down. Gift Annuity rates are as high as 11.3% with no investment worries or responsibilities.
- ...An immediate charitable deduction.
- ...Capital gain tax savings for gifts of appreciated stock.
- ...A gift to the LFS services you love at your passing.

**Gifts designated to the Foster Care programs of LFS are eligible for the 50% Child Care Contribution Tax Credit from the state of Colorado. We will supply the documentation for your records.**

\*Charitable Gift Annuities provided by Lutheran Community Foundation



**For more information on year end gift opportunities contact:  
Jane Pope Meehan at 303-217-5848 or [jane.pope.meehan@lfsco.org](mailto:jane.pope.meehan@lfsco.org)**



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