



*Sue Nahmensen
Chief Executive
Officer*

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of service, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

While I am aware that in context, this reference in Paul's letter speaks to spiritual gifts, but I often think of these verses in terms of those individuals God has provided to LESA to accomplish the mission that has been set before us – supporting the ministry of Lutheran education in St. Louis. We are often asked how LESA is able to provide so many relevant and valued programs with a considerably small staff. The answer? God has blessed LESA with an abundance of skilled and extraordinary volunteers who share a variety of gifts—in a variety of ways—in service to LESA!

In looking back at the past year, the Holy Spirit's work is evident in the hearts of over 170 individuals who have contributed to LESA by giving their time and talents, and often treasure, to advance LESA's mission. LESA was blessed to award the highest amount in its history in tuition assistance (\$415,000) to 514 students through its Building Blocks scholarship program, over 500 Lutheran educators attended professional development workshops, schools began using updated achievement testing instruments through a LESA grant, three new individuals joined LESA's Board of Directors, a STEM Task Force was formed to develop plans to assist schools in integrating STEM education into core curriculum, LESA's fall Brew in the Lou event broke attendance records, and the spring gala, A Night for Kids, broke attendance and revenue records!

These "successes" were blessings resulting from God's grace – and His promise to provide all that we need, including the volunteers necessary to guide, nurture, and produce programs to benefit the students in our Lutheran schools. What a blessing that our Heavenly Father has created all of us with unique gifts, and what a blessing that so many of you share these gifts with LESA! On behalf of the students and families we serve, the educators in the schools who minister to these students daily, and the LESA Board and staff, I want to thank you for turning your unique gifts into blessings for so many others!

Sue Nahmensen

Building Blocks Scholarships Help Make Lutheran Education Affordable!

LESA's Building Blocks Scholarship Fund has provided tuition-assistance to 3,490 students in its 14-year history with \$4,590,661 awarded in financial aid. Our families, schools, Board of Directors, and staff praise God for the gifts from our ministry partners that have made a Lutheran education possible for these students!



LESA Revenue and Expenses 2017/2018 Fiscal Year

Revenue	Amount	% of Total Revenue
Individual & Business Contributions	\$130,495	12%
Grants & Foundations	209,805	20%
Special Events	312,519	30%
Membership Dues	36,855	3%
Endowment Income	310,000	29%
MO District & CFNA Tuition Assistance	59,000	6%
Total Revenue	\$1,058,674	100%

Expenses	Amount	% of Total Expenses
Administration	\$87,903	9%
Building Blocks Scholarship Fund	415,000	39%
MO District & CFNA Tuition Assistance	59,000	5%
Program Expenses	393,061	37%
Fundraising & Special Events	107,171	10%
Total Expenses	\$1,062,135	100%

Founder's Society of LESA

Friend \$1-\$99

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Across the Board Game LLC	Eplin, Mark	Marxkors, Erin
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Bergt, Grace E	Gunn, Molly	Neckrock, Kathryn
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Davis, Alexander	Landskroener, Rev. Timothy & Kathy	Roth, Michael
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Englehr, Lois	Markland, Arlene	Shaddock, Joe
		Shamia, Michael

Who are the students served by LESA's Building Blocks Scholarship program? 2017/2018 Fiscal Year

Household Socioeconomic Status

Students in households with incomes below the federal poverty level	37%
Students in households with incomes above the federal poverty level	63%

Attend Lutheran Schools

Urban settings	20%
Suburban or rural settings	80%

Ethnicity

African American	38%
Asian	3%
Caucasian	57%
Hispanic	2%

Faith Affiliation

Lutheran	49%
Other faith denominations	45%
No faith home	6%

MISSION STATEMENT

LESA provides financial resources for children in need to obtain a Lutheran Christian education. We advocate and support efforts to improve the sustainability and quality of Lutheran Christian schools in the metro St. Louis area.

FAMILY AFFORDABILITY – EDUCATIONAL QUALITY
– COLLABORATION –

We would like to acknowledge our 2017-2018 donors by listing their names below. Thank you for making a lasting impact in the lives of children. If your name is missing, please contact us at 314-200-0797.

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Shatzer, Jolena
Sherrer, Joel
Shirley, Angela
Shrakes, Timothy
Siebum, Rick & Nancy
Siempelkamp, Maggie
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Slinkard, Kasey
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Voss, Jacob & Emily
Wahlman, Charlie & Joyce
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Walz, Jason
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Wehmeyer, Michael
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Weinhold, Debra
Wendt, Gerald
Whitaker, Katherine
Wiley, Theresa
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Williams, Kali
Wilson, Rev. William & Brenda
Winters, Derek
Winters, Stacy
Withrodt, Nora
Witcher, Robert
Wohlman, Joshua
Wolf, Dan
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Zeller, Mark
Zeller, Michael
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Allred, Vincent & Carolyn
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Anghilante, Pat
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Bunte, David & Cindy
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Martie, Lindsey
Martin-Brueckmann, Elaine
Matlock, Butch & Bobbi
McAtee, Alison
McSwain, Grant & Stephanie
Meyer, Jen
Meyer, Kristin
Meyer, Leah
Miller, Gregory
Moeller, John & Patricia
Moen, Terry & Linda
Moore, Amber
Moore, George & Linda
Moore, Rick & Linda
Mueller, Richard & Kathleen
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Payne, Linda and Glennon
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Polys, Jacqueline
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Rajagopal, Karelia
Ramstad, Chris & Molly
Ratz, Julie
Ray, Marla
Rebhan, Steve
Reilly, Cynthia
Reinitz, Daniel & Joyce
Riva, Mark & Mary
Rohan, Ken & Velma
Roeder, Sarah
Ruesler, Michael & Linda
Ruff, Roger & Elaine
Rusert, David & Mimi
Rust, Kevin
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& School - Affton
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Schade, Rev. Allen & Diane
Scharnhorst, Doug
Schmid, Jim
Schmidt, Bonnie
Schmidt, Rev. William & Carol
Schodroski, Glen & Chris
Scott, Tamara
Sehr, Veronica
Senske, Dr. Al

Siemers, Ilene
Sipes, Kenneth
Smith, Kathryn
Sprich, Gregory
Spvers, Leslie
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Stone Hill Wine Co.
Stout, Dennis and Diane
Stuart, Marlo
Tayon, Craig and Dawn
Thompson, William
Tidwell, Margie
Toth, Karoly
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Vazquez, Ann & Ed
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Weaver, Donald
Weidner, Lindsey
Wellhausen, Claire
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Claus, Robert & Nancy
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Dierker, Michelle
Dobrinic, Susan
Eckert, Kenneth & Rita
Florine, David
Gersman, Maureen
Gordon, Charles & Mary
Grote, Steven
Gruenwald, Mr. & Mrs. Steve
Guebert, Willard & Sue
Hennen, Joyce
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St. Charles
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Kesterson, Jennifer
Kesterson, Jo Ann
Kiessling, Mr. & Mrs. Mark
Klein, Clayton & Amy
Klingsick, Barbara

Kratzer, Mike & Sandy
Kreienkamp, Dale
Krueger, Ken & Amy
Loehs, Norbert & Margot
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Maxfield, Bill & Marlene
McGraw, Dennis
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Meyer, Charles
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Pieske, Bob & Diana
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Walton, Carol

Help Build a Legacy for Kids

What do you think of when you hear the term "legacy?" Perhaps your thoughts turn to something of permanence, a tradition, or a connection to heritage. For LESA, building a **Legacy for Kids** means building an endowment to assist schools as they minister to children in their unique communities, both now and in the future.

LESA contracts with the LCMS Foundation to provide estate planning services. Donors and friends of Lutheran education may work confidentially with the LCMS Foundation gift planner—at no cost to the individual—to develop their own estate plan and discover ways to bless their families and favorite ministries, once they have been called to heaven.

As part of its planned giving program, LESA also offers "**named endowments**" to donors who are committed to leaving a lasting legacy for future Lutheran elementary school students. These endowments are funded with a minimum gift of \$25,000. This \$25,000 gift may be funded at one time or over a period of five years. To expedite establishment of new named endowments, **The Clara and Spencer Werner Fund** will provide the final \$5,000 to establish a named endowment for the next twenty (20) donors who complete the first \$20,000 in named endowment gifts.

Lutheran education is a significant ministry of our Lutheran heritage and one that continues to be relevant—and much needed—in today's world. Our thanks to those who already have joined us in our endeavor to build a **Legacy for Kids**, and we hope that those who haven't will prayerfully consider partnering with LESA's **Heritage Club** as together we build a legacy of Lutheran education for the kids!



The JOY of Resilience

Our Lutheran schools strive to be schools of excellence. We place high regard on students learning skills in math, reading, science, social studies, and technology. Other discipline areas such as the study of our Lutheran faith, fine arts, and physical education/sports are also important in producing a well-educated student. How do we know students are gaining knowledge? We assess those areas through tests, standardized assessments, and observation. But not all important qualities of a student are assessed and students need more than proficiency in academic subjects and good scores on tests to be successful. One key to future success is resilience.

In September 2017, educators from our LESA schools gathered to learn what it means to build resilience in students, presented by Dr. Kim Marxhausen, a nationally-known Lutheran teacher, author, and speaker. Resilience is defined as the power or ability to return to the original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed, or stretched; elasticity (dictionary.com). From a Lutheran-Christian worldview, resilience is not something that students or we can attain on our own. It is not a characteristic we are born with. As God's children, we grow in resilience as we grow in faith; our resilience arises from how He helps us endure changes in our lives. In order to help our students build this resiliency, we need teachers with a strong Christian faith to help students develop this quality in themselves.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought for it does not cease to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

The tree depicted in this scripture has developed resilience. It has roots planted firmly in the ground, reaching to the stream, allowing it protection from hot weather and drought. As Christians, we have resilience through faith, and not a surface faith, but one with deep roots.

Lutheran-Christian teachers help our students understand why building faith is so important. The world tells us to stay strong, look out for number one, and just do it, for "he who hesitates is lost." Our faith tells us to trust in God, look beyond yourself, and repent and learn from mistakes. Resilience is not a characteristic God gives, it arises from how He helps us endure.

The **J-O-Y (Jesus-Others-You)** model serves well to teach more about building resilience that can lead to a joy-filled life:

Jesus—Trust Him through the hard times so you can dive into discomfort.

Others—Build relationships and remember your shared purpose as a child of God. Move thinking from "me" to "we" to build empathy.

You—Think about God's good things to live a good life. Focus energies on blessings and positive emotions.

Building resiliency in a child through teaching him to handle life's challenges and disappointments is not an easy task, but through Lutheran schools full of grace and love, it will be also faith-building experience.



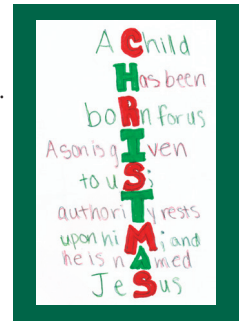
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Artist: Arielle, Salem Lutheran School in Florissant

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