



# LSA CELEBRATES FOSTER CARE MONTH

## Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan

### OPENING A LOVING HEART



It's not surprising that a young girl whose mother was unable to parent her; whose five older siblings all lived in foster or adoptive homes; and who had moved from place to place for half of her 14 years had difficulty attaching herself to her latest foster family.

LSS foster care social workers created a web of care around the girl. The web included an understanding therapist, a supportive school environment, and the accepting attitude of her foster family. The family made it clear that they did not want her to move to another placement, but to stay with them. The foster parents received training in ways to attend to the needs of a child even when the child rejects them.

It took time and patience, but this child with the difficult past was able to open her loving heart and allow her foster parents to be her mom and dad. She learned that she could express her feelings and opinions, and that even when her foster parents disagreed with her, they would still love her.

"There are children in terrible situations. They're not safe. They deserve a loving home to experience compassion, empathy and safety, which they may never have had."  
– Kim Westfahl, Director of Adoption and Foster Care, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS)

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## #LSAFosterCare

### Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan

LSS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan operates 263 programs at 188 sites in 115 communities throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. It touches more than 100,000 lives each year.

For more information about LSS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, visit [www.lsswis.org/](http://www.lsswis.org/)

LSS of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan is a member of the LSA Network, an LSA 20-500 Fund supporter and it's part of the LSA Children, Youth and Family cohort working with the Center for the Study of Social Policy.