



December 5, 2018

Bishop H Julian Gordy
ELCA Southeastern Synod
c/o St. John's Lutheran Church
1410 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA, 30307

Bishop Gordy:

On behalf of our staff, Board, and most importantly, the families and individuals served by Lutheran Services of Georgia (LSG), I am writing to request an annual contribution to our organization in the Southeastern Synod's operating budget for the fiscal 2019-2020 year. Lutheran Services of Georgia guides individuals and families on a path from surviving to thriving. We empower those whose lives have been disrupted to discover their strengths and resilience, accompanying them as they grow into vibrant contributors to their community.

For more than 30 years, Lutheran Services of Georgia (LSG) has been a leading social services agency serving Metro Atlanta and across Georgia, and has worked hand-in-hand with the Synod and local church members. Our mission at LSG is an extension of your mission as a church, and we provide avenues for community engagement for church members in our shared work of accompanying the most vulnerable among us.

Last year, LSG served more than 3,400 individuals through programs that focus on moving all of the individuals and families that we serve on a path from surviving to thriving. To do this, we make sure basic needs are met; provide opportunities for stability and safety; facilitate community integration and connections; encourage and support self-determination. We serve individuals who have fled their countries, families that have survived natural disasters, children separated at the border, children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned, individuals who are homeless or living in institutions, and families that need strengthening to remain intact or to be reunited. We do this through the following programmatic areas: Refugee Services, Immigration Services, Host Homes, Specialized Foster Care, Adoption, Family Intervention Services, and Disaster Recovery.

As ELCA congregations in Georgia increasingly look for ways to connect with their communities, investment in LSG would help strengthen our partnership as a vehicle by which members of ELCA congregations can become engaged with our work. As you may know, Lutheran Services in Tennessee recently voted to become part of Lutheran Services of Georgia. This new and exciting partnership enables us to serve the most vulnerable in Tennessee and provides us an opportunity to engage with even more ELCA congregations in the work that we do together. It is in light of both this new partnership and our deep commitment to reconnecting our work with Southeastern Synod congregations that we humbly ask for your consideration of reinstating an annual budget contribution. Such a contribution would not only strengthen our financial position to sustain our shared work, it would also be a strong indication of our partnership in this work together.

Together in Ministry,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John R. Moeller, Jr." in a cursive script.

Rev. John R. Moeller, Jr.
President and CEO