

Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York



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www.LDRNY.org

LDRNY MISSION STATEMENT

To respond directly and encourage and facilitate response from others to the needs of persons and their families affected both directly and indirectly by tragedy or disaster.

LSS-MNY worked quickly to respond to the needs of people following Sept. 11, collaborating with LDRNY to create two unique programs that provide care management, services and assistance to those affected.

Project L.I.F.E.

Project L.I.F.E. (Lutheran Initiative for Empowerment), a program funded by LDRNY in response to the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks, is a ministry of Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York. Project L.I.F.E. is one-on-one personalized care management designed to help those who've been affected (financially, vocationally, emotionally, or otherwise) as a result of the tragedy. Project L.I.F.E. offers a full range of services to clients, including referrals to job training and placement programs, eviction prevention and emergency utility assistance programs, psychological counseling referrals, and a wide range of advocacy with government and non-profit programs. We help clients access the assistance to which they are entitled, advocating when necessary on their behalf, and ultimately seek to return each client to long-term stability.

Additional individuals served through Project L.I.F.E. include those who might have slipped through the cracks of the 9/11 response. Anyone who can document a connection to 9/11 is eligible for assistance from Project L.I.F.E. It has no geographic cut-offs or boundaries, and no immigration restrictions. It also offers care management in Spanish, French, Arabic, Hebrew, and some Asian languages.

Immigration Legal Assistance

Help with immigration paperwork, employment services and legal assistance is offered to new immigrants at the Manhattan office. The program has also partnered with Our Saviour Church, Jamaica, Queens; St. Peter's Church, Cypress Hills; Trinity Lutheran, Brooklyn; Coalition Against Anti-Violence, Bronx and others. LDRNY provides funding for 9/11 related immigration issues.

The Immigration Legal Services staff provides one-on-one consultation for immigrants in need or group presentations on the constantly changing U.S. immigration laws.

Immigration Legal Services also provides on-site legal services at the New LIFE Community Center at True Light Lutheran Church, Chinatown, New York.

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A word of thanks from someone Project L.I.F.E. helped



"Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you! For all of your help . . .

There should be more people like you! I feel so lucky to have met you, and to have had you as my advocate. You have inspired me to be more proactive, and our victories have given me more strength. Thanks to you I have a roof over my head, I was fed when I was in need, I was able to get counseling – which helped to give me peace of mind. Your kind words of support, all of the listening to my problems, helped me immensely. You cared enough to help me find the solutions. It's people like yourself that renew my faith, that this world isn't completely falling apart. You are a wonderful example of selflessness, caring and devotion to your fellow man and one that I will aspire to emulate in my relations with people who may need my help one day too. All of your efforts with FEMA were a success, they did help me – it took a while, but we didn't give up thanks to you!! Marilyn and Gloria at FEMA were great and it was you who built the relationship. And now my therapy sessions will be covered by Project LIFE. I will always remember you. You are a hero to me – an integral part of a life that has been changed forever, but I'm going to make sure it's changed for the best. Just know that none of your efforts were in vain. You've made a big difference in my life - God bless you all, and God bless Lutheran Social Services. May they be around for a long time, helping people like you do. You'll be in my thoughts and prayers."