

TEAM DECC 2011

Each week the DECC will feature a different DECC team member and participating nonprofit organization to highlight the wide variety of charities participating in your campaign. This Week's Featured Member and Charity:



Lori Peck of Denver Water

Lutheran Family Services

DECC # 4044

363 S. Harlan Street, Ste 200

Denver, CO 80226

303-922-3433

www.lfsco.org

Lori's Story

Forty six years ago I was placed up for adoption through Lutheran Family Services. I was adopted when I was eight days old.

When I was pregnant with my first child, I contacted Lutheran Family Services to learn my medical history. I had always known that I was adopted and that Lutheran Family Services had been involved. I know lots of people who are adopted but not many of them know what agency they were placed through. It must have been very important to my parents! I spoke with one of the social workers and she was very helpful. She provided me with medical information about both of my biological parents. This eased my mind as a newly pregnant mother.

A few years later, my biological sister contacted Lutheran Family Services inquiring about me. She also talked to the same social worker. Knowing that I was interested in meeting my biological family, Lutheran Family Services contacted me again and set a reunion in motion. Because Colorado is a closed adoption state, we were only allowed to exchange letters with non-identifying information until we could navigate through all the legal obstacles. The staff at Lutheran Family Services forwarded all of our letters and helped us with all the legal papers. Because of Lutheran Family Services, I was placed in a wonderful home as a baby and able to reunite with my biological family as an adult.

Founded in 1948, **LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES** serves the most vulnerable children and families in our community. Providing help and hope through programs in: Foster care, Adoption, Pregnancy Counseling, Refugee resettlement services and Care Management Services for older adults.



Making a Difference in Colorado:

LFS responds to critical social and emotional needs of more than 16,000 people annually. The issues encountered daily by LFS staff and volunteers include unintended pregnancy, family violence, child abuse and neglect, the impact of natural disasters, older adult isolation and the plight of refugees. LFS develops and provides programs that not only respond to such issues, but also help to prevent these situations from occurring in the first place. In the past year LFS has: created 'Forever Families' for 26 children through adoption; cared for 266 abused and neglected children in foster homes; provided free pregnancy counseling services to 39 women; supported 356 older adults and their caregivers; provided services to 1,678 refugees and offered education and enrichment services to more than 10,000 individuals.

What your donation can do:

\$1 per pay period: a week of food for a newly arrived refugee family.

\$5 per pay period: the opportunity for a foster child to participate in sports or music lessons.

\$10 per pay period: cradle care for an infant awaiting adoption.

Thank you, Denver!

Lutheran Family Services is proud to be a part of the Denver Employees' Combined Campaign. Thank you to all the Denver city employees that serve our community and help us to serve the most vulnerable through their donations. If you would like to find out more about LFS and how you can help, please visit WWW.LFSCO.ORG.