



ECONOMY INCREASING THE NEED FOR LOCAL CRISIS NURSERY **Support from Tonic Sol-fa helps LSS respond to calls for help**

The downturn in the economy is causing increased stress on families who are seeking help in greater numbers at the Lutheran Social Service Crisis Nursery in St. Cloud.

Calls to the Crisis Nursery have more than doubled in August, compared with previous months, according to Conni Orth, program director.

“The economy has significantly impacted people we serve and has increased the need for Crisis Nursery services,” she said.

“Most of the families we serve are low income and many are single parents without a support network,” she added. “They are often dealing with health or family issues, housing instability, or financial strain – and the current economic environment and the threat or reality of unemployment only makes their situation worse.”

Each year, the LSS Crisis Nursery places over a hundred children in emergency, temporary care, in addition to the hundreds of other families they assist with counseling, resources, referrals and incidental support.

With calls for help increasing, Orth said that more volunteer phone advocates are needed to guide families facing turmoil in their lives and that training is provided. The LSS Crisis Nursery is also seeking more licensed day cares that can offer temporary child care while parents address personal emergencies.

Some nonprofits, like the LSS Crisis Nursery, are becoming resourceful and identifying new and innovative ways to meet increasing demand for their services.

For example, Tonic Sol-fa (www.tonicsolfa.com), the award-winning a capella music group from St. Cloud, has designated the St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery to receive a portion of the proceeds from their CD sales in October. On October 17, while Tonic Sol-fa performs at the Women's Showcase at the St. Cloud Civic Center (www.womensshowcase.com), the Crisis Nursery will be there to share information with the 3,000-4,000 anticipated attendees.



“We are grateful for their partnership,” Orth said. “In addition to the financial contribution from Tonic Sol-fa, the Women’s Showcase is a fantastic opportunity for us to inform people and professionals in the community about Crisis Nursery services, as well as generate new volunteers, partners and donors.”

Tonic Sol-Fa (tonicsolfa.com) performs approximately 150 concerts each year across 48 states. Tonic Sol-fa’s original songs, arrangements and albums have won numerous contemporary a cappella awards.

The **St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery** is a service of **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** (lssmn.org), the state’s largest statewide social service organization. LSS serves all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability or age.