

LSS Hires Mara Dučkens, Strategic Thought Leader and Philanthropic Advocate, as Chief Advancement Officer



Milwaukee, Wisconsin Mar 25, 2023 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - [Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan](#) (LSS) is pleased to welcome Mara Dučkens as the organization's first Chief Advancement Officer (CAO) beginning March 23. Dučkens' proven track record of leading successful multi-million-dollar campaigns within philanthropic circles established her as a recognized leader, mentor and innovator in the industry.

"LSS has been an organization that has drawn my interest because of its compassionate approach to positively impacting children, adults, and families in need," Dučkens said. "In fact, it's the multifaceted programming...that most appeals to me. As the chief fundraising strategist for the organization, helping donors understand the power of the programs within LSS - and their combined impact - will be my top priority."

Mara's experience in fundraising has shaped her into a strategic relationship-builder and advocate perfectly suited for the LSS leadership team. It is another step forward as LSS continues its strategic plan around new growth and innovation.

Héctor Colón, LSS President and CEO, and key driver of a multi-year, \$30 million turnaround for the organization, explains, "I am excited about working with Mara and LSS leadership to enact a robust philanthropic plan that will yield strong donor partnerships around helping people live their best lives and thrive. Her demonstrated a strategic approach to fundraising will certainly grow our capacity to better serve the nearly 30,000 individuals and families that seek support from LSS each year."

José Olivieri, LSS Operating Board Chair, and Pat Wesner, LSS Foundation Board Chair, agree with Colón, "Mara brings the passion and empathy for others we value and admire in all our colleagues. We are confident in her ability to increase giving for LSS and grow the endowment to support the organization's important mission work in perpetuity. We are grateful that Mara has chosen to continue her esteemed career with LSS and to support our vision of healthy communities filled with people using their God-given gifts to serve."

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