



## Diakon's 150th Anniversary

An anniversary of this magnitude is a time to celebrate and reflect.

To reflect on 150 years of service ministry to children, youths, families and adults of all ages, a legacy of care and concern uninterrupted by the vast changes in society during that time.

But the anniversary is also a time for rededication—to committing ourselves to another century-and-a-half of service to people in need.

Your gift is needed today to ensure that service. Unrestricted gifts, which allow us to serve where needed most, have been a mainstay of donor support over the years and remain critically important today. Thank you!

— MARK T. PILE, MSHA, MSW,  
DIAKON PRESIDENT/CEO

*“The home helped shape me into who I became—a devoted husband, father and grandfather with strong religious beliefs who worked hard my entire life.”*

— ORPHANAGE ALUMNUS



For more information, contact:

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[www.Diakon.org/giving](http://www.Diakon.org/giving)

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*“As proud adoptive parents of two wonderful girls (Savannah, 10 and Autumn, soon to be 9), my wife Shirley and I have been truly blessed. Diakon has been so instrumental for ours and so many other forever families that it is hard to express our extreme gratitude that we have for their dedicated mission and the staff members of Diakon Adoption and Foster Care. Diakon's services are needed now more than ever, as so many children are in dire need of fostering and adoption. We cannot advocate loudly enough in our praise and admiration for the services and leadership provided by all of Diakon in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable among us.”*

— Ken Mertz, Diakon Child, Family & Community  
Ministries Board Member

*You can play a pivotal role in that rededication to another century-and-a-half of care and compassion for children, youths and families in need.*



Emried D. Cole, Jr.

*“It's a true blessing that Diakon is celebrating its 150th anniversary. At the same time, Diakon is not resting as it reflects on 150 years of tremendous service to thousands of our neighbors in need, in response to God's love for us.*

*Informed and inspired by that history, we are enthusiastically planning for the next century-and-a-half, discerning how best to serve more people as we continue to adapt to changing times.*

*I am delighted to serve as honorary chair of the “Ensuring Our Future” campaign because I have volunteered with the organization and its predecessors for 30 years—a great 30 years! Diakon is dedicated to a servant ministry that I have seen work wonders, transforming the lives of people of all ages and their families. It is a ministry that inspires me, not only through that remarkable service but also through its quest for excellence and its commitment to quality.*

*Our 150th anniversary campaign is focused on helping Diakon effectively grow and reach more neighbors in need. Thank you for your partnership with us. I hope you will prayerfully consider joining me in supporting this campaign for Diakon's next 150 years!”*

—Emried D. Cole, Jr., Diakon Child, Family & Community Ministries Board Chair

Diakon is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



## Ensuring Our Future, Honoring Our Past

# 2018

marks the 150th anniversary of Diakon's services. In recognition, we are offering four key opportunities for donor support. Your generous gift can help us reach our critical goals to serve more people in need.

IN RECOGNITION OF DIAKON'S  
150TH ANNIVERSARY,  
WE ARE OFFERING FOUR KEY  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR DONOR  
SUPPORT. YOUR GENEROUS GIFT  
TODAY CAN HELP US TO REACH  
THESE CRITICAL GOALS  
FOR TOMORROW.



*"In preserving our mission and history of providing benevolent care for our residents, it is essential that we continue to provide funds for those individuals who are in need of support."*

—Larry Delp, Diakon Board Member

## Benevolent Care

In 2016, Diakon provided nearly \$18 million in uncompensated care so that senior living residents with limited financial resources through no fault of their own could continue to receive housing and personal or nursing care in our senior living communities.

We are proud to provide this sense of security for our residents. But we need your help to continue to fulfill our mission of senior care in the face of rising health-care costs and tight reimbursement levels.

*"Diakon touches so many needs in our communities, from pregnant women who need services for their baby to disadvantaged youths whom no one else will care for, to our elderly, who need compassion and care. It makes me feel good that my donation, no matter its amount, can help in so many ways. Thank you for all Diakon does!"*

—Norman F. Basso, CPCU, President & CEO/Principal  
McConkey Insurance & Benefits



## Memory Support

Our senior living residents and their family members face increasing challenges caring for loved ones with memory-related illnesses.

Although we operate a number of memory-support neighborhoods within our senior living communities, our goal is to create a supportive environment for people caring for loved ones at home, providing the opportunity for these caregivers to maintain some sense of normalcy in life, even if just for a few hours a day. Our Memory Fund addresses all of these challenges, helping to support:

- Residents with memory-related issues.
- Family members caring for a loved one at home, for whom support groups help to maintain a sense of normalcy in life.
- Memory-focused activities provided by professional staff in groups or personal settings. Enhanced staff training on working with people with cognitive impairments.

*"Cognitive illnesses affect Diakon residents, their families and the staff members who care for them. The Memory Support Fund can help in such situations by helping to provide caregiver and family education, workshops, seminars and speakers, as well as support groups. Funds also can be used for specialized activities for residents with memory impairments through such programs as Luther Crest's "Brain Gym," held in the Charlotte Staton Center for Holistic Health.*

*Diakon's interdisciplinary approach to care allows residents affected by memory-related illnesses the opportunity safely to thrive in the most-independent living situation possible."*

—Cindy Bonney, NHA, MBA, PCHA, Senior Executive  
Director Diakon Senior Living Services



## Second Chance Fund

This fund has two purposes focused on ensuring the success of the children and youths served by Diakon programs:

- Youths' success in transitioning from our programs to fruitful community life is fraught with challenge. The Second Chance Fund provides a way for these young people to achieve independence by helping them to obtain employment, find adequate housing and continue with their education. Support may cover fees associated with tutoring, GED testing and college applications; academic supplies; professional attire for job interviews; and needed transportation.
- The Second Chance Fund also helps to pay court costs, fines and restitution.

Students' participation typically requires substantial community service, proof of employment or current grade report, completion of life skills training and commitment of their own financial resources.



- Families involved in the Diakon Family Preservation and Reunification programs often need assistance with basic needs to ensure they are able to remain intact. The Second Chance Fund provides this critical help.

*"The Second Chance Fund is important because it lifts a tremendous financial burden off our youths and their families, as they work to make better decisions in their lives."*

—Ron Davis, Executive Director, Diakon Youth Services

## The Diakon Lutheran Fund

The direct descendent of the oldest part of the Diakon family of organizations, the Diakon Lutheran Fund provides perpetual support for our child, youth and family services. Gifts to the fund help to:

- Unite waiting children and youths with loving foster and adoptive families, as well as provide for the immediate needs of children entering our families' care.

*"We would not be able to serve so many children and families without the Diakon Lutheran Fund. And as we look forward, we know the need for this support will only continue to grow because of lower governmental payments and increased social service needs. We must continue to add to this critical fund."*

—Maurice H. Bobst, Jr.

- Provide guidance for older teens and young adults who need help to remain on the path to success in life but have few other options.

- Compassionate, professional behavioral health care and counseling for children, youths and families in crisis.

The Diakon Lutheran Fund offers the ability for donors to make gifts to:

- A permanently restricted endowment, providing income to child and family services forever.
- A temporarily restricted fund that can meet immediate needs.

*"I support Diakon because it helps children and youths gain permanent homes and relationships. Aging out of the system without permanent support leaves kids unprepared to deal with the issues that can arise as they try to launch themselves into the real world. Not having any family support can lead to poor results and homelessness at a young age and an inability to obtain the education needed to become productive adults."*

—Eric Henderson, community supporter/donor to Diakon  
Adoption & Foster Care