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

For more information, contact:
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Ensuring Our Future, Honoring Our Past

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 ALUMUS

Diakon’s 150th Anniversary

“An proud adoptive parents of two wonderful girls (Savannah, 10 and Autumn, soon to be 8), 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 the 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 the need of forever and adoption. We cannot advocate strongly 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.

“...[As] it is 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—great 30 years! Diakon is dedicated to a recent mission 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 the 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
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.

**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 meets so many needs in our communities, from programs which meet service for their baby to individuals who need care at home. Whether you work in groups or in personal settings or use staff members who care for them. Funds can be used for specialized activities for residents with memory issues, through such programs as Luther Crest’s "Brain Gym," held in the Charlotte Staton Center of the Lutheran Home’s Holistic Health. Our Memory Fund addresses all aspects of normalcy in life, even if just for a few hours a day. Our Memory Fund helps 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."

—Larry Delp, Diakon Board Member

**Second Chance Fund**

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

- **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.**

"Caregivers often offer Diakon residents, their families and the staff members who care for them. This money, Support Fund, is one way to help in situations like providing care and family education, transportation, clothes and supplies. Family members caring for a loved one at home, for whom support groups help to maintain a sense of normalcy in life. memory issues, through such programs as Luther Crest’s "Brain Gym," held in the Charlotte Staton Center of the Lutheran Home’s Holistic Health. Our Memory Fund addresses all aspects of normalcy in life, even if just for a few hours a day. Our Memory Fund helps 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."

—Larry Delp, Diakon Board Member

This fund provides the following services for our children and youths served by Diakon programs:

- **Youths’ success in transitioning from our programs to a more independent 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.**

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

- **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 youth and their families, as they work to make better decisions in their lives."

—Ron Dawis, Executive Director, Diakon Youth Services

**The Diakon Lutheran Fund**

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

- **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.**
- **Compensate, 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. Many of the youth without permanent support leave home to find work, and are not able to obtain the education needed to become productive adults."—Eric Reinmann, community supporter in Diakon Adoption & Foster Care

"Wendy and I support Diakon because it helps children and youths gain permanent homes and relationships. Many of the youth without permanent support leave home to find work, and are not able to obtain the education needed to become productive adults."

—Maurice H. Bobst, Jr.