

LSS Foundation

One Man's Vision Becomes an Enduring Legacy



Bela Maroti is a pioneer in the field of philanthropy. He fled the Communist takeover of his homeland, Hungary, in 1950 and eventually settled in Wisconsin. In 1958, a desire to help veterans who struggled with addiction and homelessness led him to establish the De Paul Rehabilitation Hospital in Milwaukee. Under his leadership for 32 years as CEO, De Paul expanded its services and earned a reputation for its expertise in the treatment of addiction.

In 1974 Maroti had the foresight to establish the De Paul Hospital Foundation to provide long-term financial stability. When De Paul Hospital and Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan merged in 1994, the De Paul Foundation was renamed the LSS Foundation, Inc. Maroti continues to serve on the Foundation Board.

Maroti's philanthropic goals are achieved in part through the Maroti Family Fund, an endowment fund of the LSS Foundation, established to provide annual support to the LSS behavioral health programs. Additionally, by setting up a charitable remainder trust, Maroti has ensured that he has adequate income throughout his lifetime, and that his favorite charities, the LSS Foundation among them, will receive his legacy gifts.

For nearly five decades the LSS Foundation, Inc. has worked outside of the limelight, providing generous, catalytic funding to sustain and grow the high-quality services and transformational impact of LSS.

For example, the Foundation was a generous supporter of the capital campaign that made the LSS Aspen Center a reality. LSS Aspen Center, located in Waukesha, WI fills a growing need for affordable addiction treatment services for both men and women. LSS Aspen Center offers both inpatient residential treatment as well as transitional residential treatment.

LSS was able to launch its School Centered Mental Health (SCMH) program due, in large part, to a substantial investment by LSS Foundation, Inc. SCMH takes a holistic approach to student mental health. Through targeted case management and customized services offered by a Family Coach along with a Therapist, the SCMH team, working with school staff/teachers, can appropriately support, guide, advocate and offer tools for students and families in school and at home based on their individual strengths and needs. With the right tools and resources as support, children are better able to focus, engage socially, properly communicate their needs, explore new ideas without fear and develop self-discipline and self-care.

Maroti understood the importance of having an impenetrable fund of invested assets which would generate interest revenue to be used to support annual program operations, innovative initiatives, capital projects and special needs of LSS programs.

Your legacy gift to the LSS Foundation builds our capacity - now and in the future - to empower individuals, children and families to overcome their challenges and live their best lives.

