

**Imagine you're 5 years old,** trying your best to be patient as you wait in line at the grocery store with mom. You don't know why the cashier is shaking her head when mom slides the credit card through the machine for the second time, but you can tell from the bright red look on mom's face and the stares from other shoppers that you won't get to have the Captain Crunch cereal you picked out for breakfast tomorrow. The nice lady in line behind you smiles and hands mom a piece of paper with an address on it. She says they can help. You walk to the bus stop and it takes you to a tall building called LARS that doesn't look like a grocery store, but inside there are people taking loaves of bread from the shelves and filling their bags with lots of fresh fruits and veggies. After mom talks to the lady at the desk, someone goes down the stairs and comes back with four bags of groceries. As you start walking home, you spot a big box of Captain Crunch peeking out of one of the bags. You smile. Mom smiles too, for the first time in a long time.



**W**hat would you do if you were truly down to your last dollar? If you had to choose between keeping a roof over your family's head and keeping them fed? LARS is here because no one should have to make that difficult decision. Because everyone deserves the peace of mind to know someone will care enough to help them get back up with dignity if they fall.

This past fiscal year LARS served **1,871** households (4,616 individuals) in crisis, **168** of whom were homeless. LARS prevented **147** families from being evicted from their homes and distributed **11,025** bags of food to people whose next meals were uncertain. In the spring

of 2016, LARS will pilot a cutting-edge self-sufficiency program to help our clients build the skills they need to maintain stability in their lives. LARS will provide ongoing case management, financial education, and individualized support for motivated clients as they learn to become their own advocates.

**Your year-end gift to LARS will make an immediate impact in the lives of people right here in your community who are struggling to meet their most basic needs.**

Please consider making a donation to LARS as a holiday gift for a loved one, or set up a recurring gift that fits your budget to support LARS' work throughout the year! All donations to LARS are tax-deductible and can be made online at [www.laureladvocacy.org](http://www.laureladvocacy.org) or by mailing a check using the enclosed envelope. Federal employees and those with a United Way workplace giving program can have their employers match donations to LARS (LARS' United Way designation number is 8843 and CFC-Combined Federal Charities number is 92544). Visit [www.laureladvocacy.org/donate.html](http://www.laureladvocacy.org/donate.html) to learn more.

Our staff, board of directors, volunteers, and our clients all join me in thanking you for your kindness this holiday season. We could not do this important work without you!

Wishing you happy holidays,

*Leah Paley*

Leah Paley, LGSW  
Executive Director

For more information on LARS' work over the past year and plans for the year to come, visit [www.laureladvocacy.org/press.html](http://www.laureladvocacy.org/press.html) to read our FY2015 Annual Report.