

# Compassionate Tacoma



## In Recognition of Listening & Serving with Love

**WHEREAS**, Lutheran Community Services Northwest was founded in 1921 in Tacoma as Lutheran Compass Mission to serve “down and out” community members; and

**WHEREAS**, the human suffering escalated during the Great Depression in the 1930s and in the 1940s during World War II and they continued to help Tacoma’s vulnerable individuals and families. They showed great compassion and welcomed the first refugees from war-torn Eastern Europe as new neighbors; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization inspired others in Portland, Spokane, the Tri-Cities, and Idaho in the coming decades to do similar work, culminating in the formation of one organization, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, in 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, today in Tacoma they offer a myriad of services, from helping immigrant and refugee families establish themselves in our city and pursue the American Dream, to support for isolated seniors and educating the community on dementia; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 has been hard on all of us, but especially our most isolated community members. Sadly, these are often our seniors, those who dedicated their lives to our community. Lutheran Community Services Northwest has shown immense compassion during this time of hardship, offering art classes for people with dementia, food deliveries to our neighbors in need, and even a Senior Friends program. Because loneliness is one of the most difficult of human emotions, and friendship is one of our most basic needs. Building these friendships between our younger generations and our elders is true compassion, and it is part of what makes Tacoma a great city.

**WHEREAS**, today, Lutheran Community Services Northwest is celebrating 100 years of health, justice and hope;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, VICTORIA R. WOODARDS**, Mayor of the City of Tacoma, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby recognize the 100th anniversary of Lutheran Community Services Northwest and the many ways they continue to serve our community with care and compassion.

Dated this 11th day of May, 2021

---

**Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor**