



seeds of change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

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Culinary Students Starstruck by StarChefs

A unique and promising opportunity for LMM's culinary program has presented students with an opportunity to learn from some of the best chefs in the restaurant business!

StarChefs, an industry-based culinary magazine and website company in Brooklyn, NY, hosts several competitive chef events each year around the country. This year, Cleveland was the center of the action for the StarChefs Rust Belt Rising Stars Awards Gala, as culinary masters from around our region earned top honors. StarChefs extended an invitation to LMM to take part in the two-day celebration, as well as receive part of the proceeds from the gala.

The first day of the event was an educational experience for LMM's culinary students. LMM's current classes went to the Vitamix World Headquarters in Olmsted Falls to hear from a panel of award-winning chefs and mixologists from the tri-state area. Students were able to ask questions and mingle with the restaurateurs they admire. "The food service industry is demanding, and we hope the culinary students in attendance found the inside look into the ups and downs each panelist experienced on their path to success both practical and inspiring," said Ali Lapinski of Vitamix. Students were then invited to assist the same chefs at the gala the following day, allowing them to get a flavor for the teamwork and skill it takes to put out a great dish for people to enjoy.

The gala was similar to LMM's own annual **savor** event. Dozens of culinary stations were set up for guests to enjoy at The Westin. LMM was featured as the non-profit of choice during the awards presentation. President and CEO, Andrew Genszler, offered thanks and introduced attendees to LMM's role in culinary education for people who face barriers to employment. He explained how the agency offers cutting-edge job training solutions that include overlooked and underutilized people in the workforce. "I encourage you, the chefs of our booming culinary city, to make a



StarChefs Gala



LMM student helps chefs at Rust Belt Rising Stars event.



A chef prepares small plates for hundreds of guests.

difference by hiring LMM graduates into the Cleveland restaurant scene," challenged Genszler, who was met with applause.

Excited student participants did an exemplary job of networking at Vitamix and volunteering at the StarChefs gala. Several culinary students made lasting impressions and were invited into the kitchens of various local restaurants in the weeks that followed the event. The students took initiative to go beyond their education at LMM, and in return, gained valuable on-site training and connections they'll be able to use in their careers upon graduation. "We're thrilled that StarChefs' partnership with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry helped connect students," said Features Editor, Caroline Hatchett. "We know they'll continue to build their skills working with some of Cleveland's best chefs."

Meet LMM's New Board Chair



LMM's 48th year as an agency is in full swing, and we began the year by welcoming a new Chair to the Board of Directors. Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry is proud to introduce Marcella J. Brown. Brown is entering her 10th year as an LMM board member, and is excited to take on the role of Chair.

Marcella is the Executive Director of the Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation. She is also a strategic planning and non-profit management consultant.

Let's get to know Marcella!

Q. What draws you to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's mission?

A. I know there are people in our community who have significant challenges to living their best life and I think the work that LMM does helps people to overcome those challenges.

Q. What in your professional life has led you to serve on the Board of Directors for this agency?

A. Many years ago, I was working at The City Club of Cleveland and had just gotten my master's degree. I definitely was looking to get more involved in some things in the community. I didn't know that so many programs I'd already heard about separately were all a part of one organization, so that really sparked my interest.

Q. How do you personally connect with the people LMM walks beside in their time of need?

A. Honestly, I don't think there are any programs that LMM has that do not in some way impact someone I know personally. It's the challenges we face, including adult guardianship, which is something that has just recently become an issue for me. My mother is disabled and so I've now become a guardian for her.

Q. How do you describe LMM to those just learning about the non-profit work we do?

A. I start by talking about the programs, like a bottom-up approach, and then I'll tell them it's all part of one organization. It's a philosophy of how LMM does things. We always start with people and stories.

Q. What's the most rewarding part of being on LMM's Board of Directors?

A. Just knowing I am a part of an organization and a steward over something that's impactful, efficient and very caring and endearing to the people is really the most rewarding part for me.

Q. How does the board work to ensure LMM's programs evolve along with community needs?

A. We are constantly challenging ourselves. I feel like this board is very good about making sure we have the right people in place, such as recently appointing a COO. Our needs are changing so rapidly. They're a very smart group of people and they know when to pause and make sure we're making the most of our time, our money, our talent, and make sure we're serving real needs.

Q. About eight months ago, LMM staff and board members launched a strategic planning process for the agency. What excites you about the strategic process?

A. What excites me is that we took a risk on a new type of process. We took on this agile canvass with the intention of knowing we are a complex organization, maybe we should try something that's a more organic process. The staff is more involved in the decision making on the front end and that's very important.

Q. Help us get to know you. What are three interesting facts about you?

A. First, I love to bake. I love when my kids are really excited and my two girls, they're in the kitchen on their little step stools trying to reach the counter to help. My son loves the science of it. It's an opportunity for me to teach the kids and also get family time. Next, I love to travel. My first trip out of the country was to South Africa at 19-years-old when I was studying abroad with Ohio State. For me, traveling is seeing the human experience in different places. It has helped me be culturally competent and emotionally intelligent. Third, I'm quite the HGTV junkie. I live in Cleveland Heights and recently purchased a very old home so I've gotten a lot more into home design and renovations. I'm even taking some interior design classes at Tri-C!

Q. You've been involved with LMM for a decade. What stands out to you as you look back?

A. Being in the new building. This building represents so many things that are core to who we are. It's open. You can look into people's offices. There's a sense of transparency, peace, right relationships, and it reinforces our commitment to collaboration with all of the programs in one place.

Q. What's your number one goal as Board Chair?

A. There is a significant opportunity for us to describe the new set of challenges that people have to true independence. The new diversity is being affected by things you can't go back and fix. If we can increase employability to people with challenges and help them be independent, some of those other challenges will fall away.

LMM SURPASSES FUNDING GOAL

With great appreciation we acknowledge the individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations who helped make the 2016 LMM Fund the most successful effort in recent history. Annual Giving totaled \$754,710 – surpassing the \$750,000 goal – and Foundation Giving increased 30% to end the year with \$930,202 awarded in 2016! This generous support, combined with the dedication of nearly 4,000 volunteers, allowed us to continue to serve the oppressed, forgotten, and hurting in our community.

LMM welcomed seven individuals who made a planned gift in 2016 and are now included in the LMM Legacy Society. To learn more or to discuss how you can become a member, contact Marge Zellmer at mzellmer@lutheranmetro.org or 216.658.7204.

savor the Flavor of Local Restaurant Dishes

LMM's **savor** 2017 at the Silver Grille promises to be a culinary event to remember! With our new location inside the Higbee Building and an array of food stations from some of Cleveland's best restaurants, you won't want to miss our fourth annual signature fundraiser on April 27th! In addition to sharing great food and entertainment with friends, you will learn about the impact the agency has on the community. Also, make sure to glance up at the Cleveland skyline! The Terminal Tower will honor LMM on the evening of the event by lighting up blue and green, reflecting the agency's colors.



Event and raffle tickets are on sale now! Your chances to win are better than ever because only 300 raffle tickets will be sold! Here are this year's exceptional raffle packages:

savor the ballpark: Tickets, airfare & lodging for two in Cincinnati for the Indians vs Reds game

Hit the road to cheer our defending American League Champions to victory as the Cleveland Indians take on the Cincinnati Reds! Package for 2 includes roundtrip flight from Cleveland to Cincinnati, dugout box tickets at The Great American Ball Park, and hotel accommodations in Cincinnati for two nights.

- THIS IS A DATE SPECIFIC PRIZE. Flight departs (5/22/17) & returns (5/24/17) to Burke Lakefront Airport courtesy of Ultimate Air Shuttle, ballgame scheduled to begin at 7:10 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

savor the experience: Private dinner & cooking experience at LMM

This four-course meal for 8 people features wine pairings and a hands-on culinary session from LMM's Culinary Instructor. Package includes a basket of assorted Cleveland products as well as a 22-week subscription of locally sourced food, courtesy of Fresh Fork Market.

savor the city: A collection of Cleveland attractions & food

From restaurants to museums, from theater to sports, this package boasts a wealth of adventures reflecting the best Cleveland has to offer, including an overnight stay at The Ritz-Carlton.

To purchase tickets, go to www.lutheranmetro.org. You can also contact Vanessa O'Sullivan, Database Coordinator, for **savor** tickets at vosullivan@lutheranmetro.org or Paige Jakuszewski, Communications Manager, for raffle tickets at pjakuszewski@lutheranmetro.org. The drawing will be held at the event and the winner need not be present.

Dominion Partnership Spans Decades

LMM's Work Experience Program (WEP) is getting a boost, thanks to Dominion. The Dominion Foundation, which supports various non-profit causes, has donated \$7,500 to the WEP. The successful program helps 200 men with job training through experience.

Benjamin Kroeck, Senior Philanthropy Coordinator for the Dominion Foundation, says the company sees the importance of supporting the agency. "Dominion is proud to partner with LMM on the Men's Shelter Work Experience Program. The \$7,500 grant presented to LMM was part of our \$1 million Critical Community Needs grants initiative, across 13 states, shared amongst 140 organizations. LMM's commitment to providing true work experiences as a pathway out of homelessness is truly inspiring."

The Work Experience Program grant is just one of the gifts Dominion has awarded to LMM over the years. More than three decades ago, a man with a strong business sense and even stronger sense of community, began the relationship.

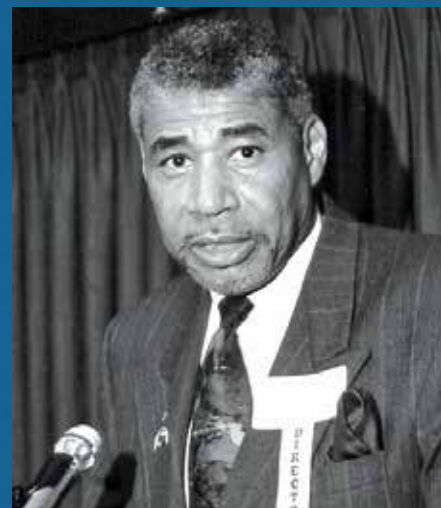
Bob Varley started working at Dominion in 1977 and remembers first connecting with LMM in 1982. Now retired, Varley once helped form a consumer round table to talk with people about their concerns over the rising price of natural gas. "We got a good community dialogue going," he recalls. "I became sensitized to the needs of the community and the importance of LMM's services." So began an ongoing partnership between LMM and Dominion.

"I think the relationship has been a natural one and it's great the relationship has continued."

In addition to his duties at Dominion, Varley became the Chairman of the Cuyahoga County Ombudsman

Program, furthering his connection to vulnerable community members seeking assistance. He also deepened his personal connection with LMM as he served on the board for the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside. Varley fondly remembers forming a bond with LMM's Founding Executive Director, Reverend Richard Sering, before his passing. "I'm fortunate to have had conversations with Dick Sering. Those are the types of talks that stay with you," reflected Varley. "I have a magnet on the door to my garage and I see it as I leave the house every day. It's a quote from Dick Sering: 'In the Kingdom of God, nobodies are somebodies and somebodies are called upon to become nobodies in order to be somebodies in the Kingdom of God.' LMM hasn't wavered from that."





A Message from the Founder's Son

Soon after Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's founding in 1969, Charles See quickly became a trusted and integral part of the agency. First as a child, and eventually as a valued staff partner, Michael Sering, son of LMM's founding executive director, has had the privilege of working with Mr. See for 24 years.

My father, Dick, Charles See, George Hrbek, and I first started working as a team on re-entry issues back in 1971. Now granted, I was a fairly young team member, but I quickly learned there were some good people involved in the criminal justice system, and we should help them. Help them, Charles, you certainly have.

Charles has made a lasting impact on the re-entry community. He has hosted national dignitaries, re-defined for us all what "rehabilitation" is, and found potential in everyone. Charles has been an unwavering advocate for social justice and in handling the toughest of situations, would thoughtfully ask, "How would we treat this person if we truly loved him?" I had the good fortune to grow up with my father and Charles

cracking the code on recidivism reduction, ever committed, whether it be over a backyard game of basketball, around a conference table, or while enjoying a well-deserved milk shake.

Charles, on behalf of your community of advocates, the Sering family, and the 2,208,000 people currently incarcerated, we thank you for your steadfast dedication, successful career, and indomitable spirit in the pursuit of justice for all. Happy retirement, friend.

Michael R. Sering

Michael Sering
Vice President, Housing & Shelter
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry



A young Michael Sering wearing Charles See's straw hat in 1971.

Treasured Staff Member Retires After 44 Years

An integral presence for 44 of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's 48 years, Charles R. See is saying farewell. He enters retirement with a thankful heart and a fulfillment that only comes after a lifetime of advocating for others. Nationally known for his work in re-entry, the impact of his passion resonates with LMM and the citizens of Cleveland whose lives have been changed.

See began his service with LMM in 1973, four years after its founding by the late Rev. Richard Sering. Four decades later, his passion for re-entry and deep belief in equality for people who are re-entering society from the criminal justice system has changed the views of many and sparked compassion and advocacy from the community.

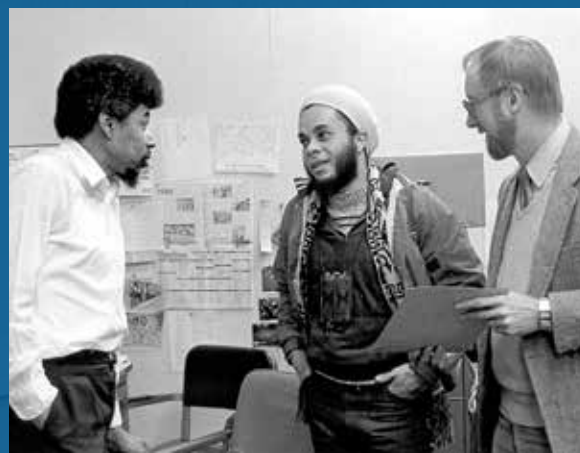
"Charles is a respected voice of re-entry and an esteemed colleague at LMM," said Andrew D. Genszler, President & CEO. "We are grateful for Charles' service and leadership, and will continue the work of re-entry, knowing he blazed the trail for innovation and change."

See's accomplishments have added up to an astounding list of successes. He's known for his exemplary role in providing community-based corrections programs. In 1985, he was awarded the Cleveland Bar Association's prestigious Liberty Bell Award. Under See's leadership, LMM's Community Re-Entry program has won numerous awards, including the National Peace and Justice Foundation's gold medal in 1986.

In 1996, See was selected by the Citizen's League as one of the 100 outstanding citizens for his contributions to the government and civic life of Greater Cleveland over the last century. He was appointed by Ohio's former Governor, the late George Voinovich, to serve on Ohio's Select Committee on Prisons following the historic Lucasville prison riot. See was Chairman of the Prison Committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and a member of the Ohio State Sentencing Committee, which reworked Ohio's sentencing procedures. Then-Mayor of Cleveland, Michael White, appointed him to sit on the city's Black-on-Black Crime Task Force, leading to the revamping of many Cleveland Police Department policies and procedures. See co-authored a book, has appeared on numerous national and international television and radio programs, and is a Cultural Mitigation Expert for capital cases involving African Americans.

As he looks back on his career, See credits the people who have surrounded him. "I have been extremely blessed with staff partners who have been exemplary role models for me, their endless efforts to seek justice for, and with, those who are hurting, forgotten and oppressed has inspired me and left an indelible impression upon my mind and heart; I'm indebted to each of them for their faithful witness."

An agency celebration of Mr. See and his work in the community is being planned for early Fall 2017. If you would like to send a congratulatory message to Mr. See, please do so by emailing him at CharlesSee907@gmail.com.



"When one's life's work is tied so closely to one's career, retirement simply becomes a transition to another venue where their service can continue; so it shall be with me."

— Charles R. See,
Executive Director, Community Re-Entry
& Vice President, Re-Entry Services



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seeds of change
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Our Mission:

To promote shalom (peace, well-being) and justice (right relationships) through a Christian ministry of service and advocacy with those who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting.

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Latest news at
www.lutheranmetro.org

Contacting LMM

LMM Main Offices, 216.696.2715

- Development & Communications, 216.696.1724
- Office of Advocacy, 216.658.7210

Behavioral Health Services

- Lutheran Family Services, 216.281.2500

Community Re-Entry, 216.696.2717

- Care Teams, 216.696.2717
- Comprehensive Case Management Services, 216.696.2717
- Friend-to-Friend, 216.861.1838
- Women's Re-Entry Network, 216.696.7535
- Young African American Reclamation Project, Jr., 216.623.0138

Guardianship Programs, 216.696.1132

- Adult Guardianship Services, 216.696.1132
- Volunteer Guardianship Program of Lorain County, 440.934.3613

Housing & Shelter

- Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside, 216.566.0047

Social Enterprise, 216.658.4608

Youth Services, 216.696.0370

- After School Prevention Resources, 216.651.6841
- Next Step—shelter care, 216.941.0062
- Next Step—semi-independent living, 216.221.8920

To add, delete or change your address, contact
216.696.1882 or mail@lutheranmetro.org.



lutheran metropolitan ministry's

savor

[THE DATE]

4.27.17

NEW LOCATION!

**Silver Grille at the
Higbee Building!**

Food stations, entertainment,
raffles, and more!

Visit lutheranmetro.org for
event and raffle tickets!



**Friday, October 20th
4-7pm**

Happy Hour & Run packet pick-up
Goldhorn Brewery: 1361 East 55th
Street Cleveland, OH 44103

**Saturday, October 21st
9am**

5K run and 1 mile walk
LMM's Richard Sering Center
*Post-run activities
featuring local vendors*

Visit lutheranmetro.org
for more information.

