



seeds of change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

Summer 2017 Volume XXIV, Issue 2

LMM: Where Great Needs Meet Bold Solutions...

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry seeks that people who are oppressed, forgotten, and hurting be empowered, valued, and healed by our unwavering commitment to addressing chronic needs. We've embraced this missional purpose for 48 years, and look to our upcoming 50th anniversary as an opportunity to celebrate this legacy while looking ahead to the next half century of innovation, advocacy, and system change.

This spirit of innovation – where great needs meet bold solutions – is captured in our NEW WEBSITE! We invite you to browse lutheranmetro.org to view a fresh look at LMM and our services. Focusing on Housing & Shelter, Workforce Development, and Health & Wellness Services, you'll see how LMM creates innovative programs that serve people who are homeless, youth who are at-risk, older adults who are vulnerable, people impacted by the criminal justice system, and individuals with behavioral health needs.

While visiting lutheranmetro.org you'll also be able to view our recently released video, sign up for our newsletter, view inspiring stories, donate, and find out how to volunteer. Be sure to check back frequently to read President & CEO Andrew Genszler's blog and make sure to click on the social media icons and follow us @LMMCleveland on Twitter and Instagram!



#WeAreLMM

Advocacy Updates

Advocacy is a crucial element to the success of LMM as a nonprofit working for those who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting, and we're proud to bring you updates on advocacy efforts across the agency.

The Office of Advocacy, led by Director of Advocacy, Tony Minor, continues to be out and about in the community and had the opportunity to take a trip to Columbus in April to advocate for issues such as transportation, health care, and affordable housing. Residents from the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside also participated by sitting down face-to-face with legislators and telling their personal stories to encourage law makers to initiate necessary changes to improve budgets and policies.

The team has also been hard at work on bail bond reform initiatives along with members of the Ohio Transformation Fund. Judges John J. Russo and Ronald B. Adrine came to LMM for a community forum on the topic and provided updates on their bond reform committee's progress. They also took questions from the community, including men who currently reside at the Men's

Shelter. On the same topic, LMM is proud to have hosted and participated in the Ohio Transformation Fund "Courting Justice Ohio" discussion on the impact of fines, fees and bail reform, which appeared on ideastream's website.

In early May, President & CEO, Andrew Genszler, spent several days in Washington, D.C. attending the annual Lutheran Services in America conference. Prior to the conference, Genszler spent time on Capitol Hill meeting with the offices of Senator Rob Portman, Senator Sherrod Brown, Rep. Jim Renacci, Rep. Dave Joyce, and Rep. Marcia Fudge. At the conference, he moderated an important conversation on the future of affordable housing.

Stay connected with LMM to hear about more advocacy initiatives in the near future!

Sign of the Times

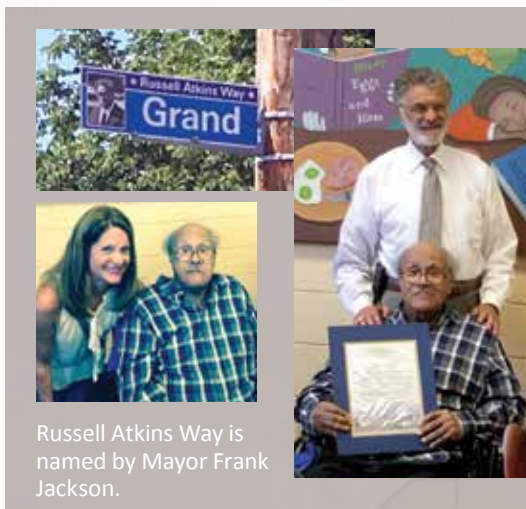
Russell Atkins is 91-years-young and is a widely published Cleveland-born poet and story teller who was a friend and collaborator of Langston Hughes. He is also a shining example of how we all can be an active and positive participant in society. Atkins, who is battling dementia, is finding renewed hope with help from an LMM guardian and the mayor of Cleveland.

Karyn Seeger has worked for LMM's Adult Guardianship Services for 12 years. Four years ago, Atkins was placed in her care. As his guardian, Seeger worked tirelessly to get his affairs and medical issues addressed and was able to get him placed in a facility that could best care for his needs. As she got to know Mr. Atkins, she learned more about his life and claim to fame.

"He was quite the poet in his day," said Seeger. "His poetry was considered radical for the time. His writings stood out as being quite different from the work of other poets." He received many awards for his work, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cleveland Arts Prize. Atkins pushed the envelope and his publications are still read in many schools and poetry groups. "He has a certain comradery with today's young, edgy poets," Seeger adds, mentioning his work is currently being re-published, this time alongside poems from a community of fans mimicking his writing style today.

An honor bestowed upon Russell Atkins was shared with 50 of his friends and former colleagues who gathered to celebrate him. Mayor Frank Jackson proudly named the street Atkins grew up on after him, in honor of his life's work. "It struck me," said Seeger. "Just watching him, you could see pride all over his face. It made him so happy and I rarely see that. The fact that the mayor recognized him was awesome. He took it all in."

Congratulations to Mr. Atkins, and thank you to Karyn Seeger and all of our LMM guardians making a difference in the lives of those who need it most! Make sure to take a stroll down Russell Atkins Way!



Russell Atkins Way is named by Mayor Frank Jackson.

Lmm legacy society

Thank you to the following individuals who made a planned gift and are included in the LMM Legacy Society. To learn more, please contact us at legacy@lutheranmetro.org or 216.658.1724.

Anonymous (7)	Bob and Carol Knepel
Louis C. Barbert†	Karl Koepke†
Nancy Beheim	Arthur† and Lillian Krause
Rev. Sherman Bishop and Deb Yandala	Donald G. and Dorothy K. Kuhn
Christopher Brandt and Beth Sersig	Ann and Jim† Lee
Megan and Mark Brauer	Harold Liebet†
Mary E. Bushong	Patricia Lintala
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Rev. Hank and Mary† Doll	Patricia Murphy
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Christa L. Just	Walter Witzet†
Rev. Dr. Christian and Kristine Just	Lois J. Zalent
Lillian Kamm†	Margaret Zellmer
Rudolph Kamm†	
Pastor Don King	

† deceased



savor 2017



LMM's Fourth Annual **savor** event is in the books! The fundraiser brought together nearly 300 people to the Silver Grille at the Higbee Building. Food stations included some of the most popular eateries in Cleveland. LMM's Chopping for Change students won Best Food Station as voted on by **savor** guests!

Proceeds from the event will be used to support LMM's programs and help people most in need. We extend a special thank you to all of our guests, sponsors, donors, chefs, restaurants and to our Honorary Chair, Patrick Conway, Co-Owner of Great Lakes Brewing Company.

We look forward to seeing everyone at **savor** on March 22, 2018!

Summer Rays of Hope at Men's Shelter

Renovation & Rejuvenation

LMM's Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside recently completed a multi-million dollar renovation that began on September 1, 2016. This major renovation was made possible because of funding from the Ohio Development Services Agency and Cuyahoga County. The changes

include a new roof, a wheel chair lift to enhance accessibility, and making the building a safer place for the residents and staff. Other updates include four commercial washers, three high-energy efficient hot water tanks, and freshly painted walls, epoxy floors and LED lighting throughout. Many of the upgrades led to a more energy efficient building, which is in line with LMM's many environmental initiatives.

William DuBose, a resident at 2100, says the transformation will directly impact his life. He points out one particular change that most people might overlook, "the lights," DuBose said. "It used to be so dull in here and now it's a whole lot better. It's a building where people can rest their head, sleep better, and be more motivated to go out and look for a job."

The renovations on the Men's Shelter are more than meets the eye and became something much deeper for the residents. "It shows the residents that people do care about them," said Michael Sering, Vice President of Housing and Shelter. "I think they've always known that LMM staff and volunteers care, but now it will be a clearer message because their environment will mirror that."



Entrance to the Men's Shelter, before and after renovations.

U.S. Coast Guard Helping People Who Are Homeless

The United States Coast Guard is always in action, not just on our local waterways, but in our community. North Coast Chief Petty Officers from the Coast Guard, both active duty and retired, were part of a team who put housewarming care packages together for residents of the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside who are getting back on their feet.



U.S. Coast Guard volunteers at 2100 Lakeside.

St. John Lutheran Church in South Euclid got the project rolling and volunteers of all ages started to fall in line. The donations of dishes and other kitchenware are a much-needed necessity for 2100 residents who are moving out of the Shelter and into their own apartments. The Coast Guard volunteers unloaded the truck and assisted high school students as they sorted and boxed the plates into packages the men will be able to take with them as they regain their independence. "We were drawn to LMM because of the holistic approach taken in addressing homelessness and the integration that they have within the community," said Senior Chief, Jesse Green.

The Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association has been in existence for 40 years, helping community members in need. The group was so moved by their volunteering experience at the Shelter, they asked for more opportunities to give back through LMM. Within a week, they were at the LMM headquarters planting flower beds, and plan to continue to volunteer their time in various ways in the future. LMM President and CEO, Andrew Genszler, was pleased in his role as Navy Chaplain to make the connection between the CPOA and LMM volunteer opportunities.

Paying it Forward

When a relative passes on, keeping a loved one's memory alive can come in many forms. For Shaker High School student, Cal Nagusky, it means carrying on his great grandmother's legacy by giving back, just as she did until the age of 90 by volunteering at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

When Rita Nagusky passed away, she left each of her great grandchildren with a sum of money from her assets. Cal's parents told him to use half the money to do as he pleased. Cal chose to honor his great grandmother by using half of his share of the inheritance to buy toiletry items for men at the Shelter. Cal and his baseball teammates and coaches assembled 85 hygiene kits full of 900 dollars-worth of necessities. The team then delivered them to the Men's Shelter and stayed for the day to volunteer in other ways, as well. "It was truly a great experience and we are thankful for the opportunity," said Nagusky. The young man plans to continue volunteering at 2100 Lakeside because he believes it would make his grandmother proud to see him helping others.



Cal Nagusky and friends give back as a team.



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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.

Link with LMM



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Health & Wellness Services

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Youth Services

216.696.0370

Guardianship

216.696.1132

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



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

Register now at lutheranmetro.org.

