



seeds of change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

Winter 2017 Volume XXIII, Issue 4

Music Teacher Reflects on Educating At-Risk Teens

The After School Prevention Resources (ASPR) program of LMM is helping children stay off the streets and participate in productive programming, thanks in part to grant dollars from the Larry Doby Youth Fund, The Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation, and other donors. The difference in the lives of our teens reaches beyond the walls of ASPR and into the community. Participating in programming is helping the young adults prepare for their future.

ASPR provides a timely, safe and supportive place for teens ages 11-17 during the hours immediately following the school day. Teens participate in enriching activities that teach skills and exercise body and mind in areas such as computers, cooking classes, athletics, creative arts, and Q-Team participation, which provides an experience in entrepreneurship and career development for youth.



ASPR music teacher, Rafique Watson, leading class by example.

The music program is an element of ASPR that's gaining momentum with participants. Rafique Watson, Arts Educator at Center for Arts Inspired Learning, is teaching music at ASPR in a way the teens can relate to. Twice a month, Watson sets up his push instrument and drum machine at ASPR inside St. Paul's Community Church in Ohio City and waits for the kids to get out

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NERC Dinner Theatre acting troupe poses after an evening of performing Shakespeare.

Dinner Theatre at the Prison

A re-entry experience to remember took place on November 1st when Northeast Reintegration Center (NERC), a prison for women, did something out of the ordinary. LMM invited guests inside the prison walls for a night of Dinner Theatre.

Family, friends, and community members began the night with a guided tour of the prison. Guests then gathered in the dining hall for delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by LMM's Chopping for Change program. Thanks to LMM's partnership with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC), Chopping for Change empowers women in the criminal justice system and provides

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of school and flock to the equipment, which was purchased with grant dollars. He's ready to teach them Hip-Hop.

"The kids are doing something they want to learn. Turntables are an instrument. It's a new way. You can still apply music theory to these machines," says Watson. "Music is important, but when you're talking about teenagers specifically, I think they want to do something that they're interested in. And so having the type of equipment that we have because of grants, we've been able to get industry-quality machines. Hip-Hop is a young form of music so I think it's always going to speak to the youth and particularly youth who are coming up in inner city or urban environments."

The education Watson is giving the ASPR group is grabbing their attention. "Hip-Hop is primarily an extension of music sampling," he explains. "As technology has evolved, different ways of sampling have evolved, so I teach the kids how to do that and we can start to construct our own music around those various sounds."

It's not just about a good beat, though. It goes beyond the art of music. Through this program, LMM has found that music is an escape for children. Some ASPR teens have tough home lives and it gives them a chance to express and excel. For others, it encourages them to stay off the streets. Watson's students tell their stories through music. "The reason I think the music program has found success is because it's a new opportunity for kids who are interested in music," says an engaged student. "For me, participating in the music class has been a fun experience, and I look forward to continuing doing music and building on my craft."

Watson says he sees the program making a difference in the lives of the teens. "There's a process you can get lost in. So, for that hour and a half that we're here, the student is at least focused on something else. The kids are safe here. Whatever they're dealing with, this is a way to focus on something else. It's fun and there's no pressure." They can also exercise their voice on the microphone. One ASPR teen wrote about the violence in



ASPR music teacher, Rafique Watson.

the streets of his neighborhood and was able to put the words to a beat. "It's cathartic. He was so proud of it and put it on Facebook. And he did it right here," said Watson.

The teacher often hears from former ASPR participants. Some have applied to music programs in nearby colleges, and some are hoping to get there. "He is teaching me so many things I've never seen before," says one student. "It's attracting many other kids, and expanding our minds to so many other possibilities. It's also helping me build and help my arts persona." This kind of feedback makes it all worth it to Watson. "To just have one kid tell me I planted a seed in him and encouraged him to follow his curiosity, for me that's a part of my zen. If I can give that to someone else, it's worth so much."

Watson knows in a heartbeat, programming can change lives, but it can also quickly be gone without the help of caring donors. "Having grant money allows the kids who aren't in a sport or after school activity to still have options. Having more programs that speak to kids' interests is a good thing."

Dinner Theatre at the Prison — from page 1

them with significant experience in the culinary arts. While the Chopping for Change women showed off their kitchen skills, their fellow residents took the main stage. Members of NERC's theatre group trained by the Artist Rehabilitation Coalition performed scenes from Shakespeare's plays including Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, and The Two Gentlemen of Verona. Each of the scenes were randomly selected by audience members, which was a true testament to the women's acting abilities. The women also recited classic Shakespearean sonnets

and chose ones they could personally relate to, with one woman even demonstrating her vocal talents.

Dinner Theatre was not only a night of entertainment, but also an interactive and educational experience. The women engaged in a Q & A session with guests and were open and candid about their stories. In partnership with ODRC, LMM continues to challenge the way society views re-entry, through innovative programming and events, such as this.

C4C Provided a Sense of Home During the Holidays

The holidays are a joyous time to come together and celebrate, but for the women of LMM's Chopping for Change program, it's an especially difficult time to be away from their families. The annual Chopping for Change holiday party allows the women to feel a sense of home during the holidays, despite being incarcerated. Families are invited to LMM where

Santa makes an appearance for the children, art projects are created while enjoying a holiday meal, and moms are able to give their little ones Christmas gifts. Most importantly though, the women are given a chance to spend time with their loved ones in a more relaxed and intimate setting. Volunteers visited with the families and served the special holiday meal.

"The whole experience is amazing. My daughter is able to come here, see Santa, and open gifts. It's priceless," said C4C participant, Tomika Daniel. "It fills the gap since I'm not there. I can't put it into words because it's so beautiful."



C4C participant, Tomika, and her family visit with Santa.



Board member John Barrett, his wife, Kathleen Barrett, and members of ChristCare from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Hudson volunteer at the C4C holiday party.

Make a Difference Day



WKYC staff paint doors at 2100.

National Make a Difference Day 2017 reached far and wide throughout Northeast Ohio in October, and once again included services to help residents at the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside. Kind-hearted people in the community, including the WKYC-TV3 crew, put on their volunteer shirts and got to work.

About a dozen Channel 3 employees came to the Men's Shelter to pitch in around the building and befriend the residents. Volunteers painted doors and completed projects, while Great Clips gave the men free haircuts, and Dave's Supermarkets provided the food, and Channel 3 fired up the grills.

Visit our Twitter page @LMMCleveland to see photos from Make a Difference Day.



Great Clips gives free haircuts to Shelter residents.



On your mark, get set, GO!

Gritty City 2017

Gritty City, LMM's annual two-day community event benefiting Youth Services, was once again a success. The happy hour on Friday, October 20th at Goldhorn Brewery brought together the community to share a few drinks while playing pool, cornhole, and darts for a great cause.

Then on Saturday, October 21st, 125 runners and walkers stepped off from LMM at E. 45th and Superior for the 5K run/1 mile walk after being pumped up by Joe Cronauer from 95.5 THE FISH and WKYC TV-3. Over 30 volunteers and numerous LMM staff and community members came out in support of the event. After the run, the fun continued inside with music by DJ Bill Bowen, awards, Mitchell's Ice Cream, Artefino energy bites, Central Kitchen 5K protein cookies, and a craft table by Upcycle.



Participants enjoying post-run goodies while making trick-or-treat bags.

Thank you all for your participation! Proceeds from the event will greatly benefit Youth Services by helping children in Northeast Ohio who need it most. Check out @LMMCleveland on Twitter to see more photos.



Staying strong to finish the 5K run through the St. Clair Superior neighborhood.

Save the date for
next year!
October 13th



Year in Tweets

If you're not following Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry on Twitter, you're missing out! Here are some of LMM's best tweets and most popular hashtags of 2017! Follow us @LMMCleveland and President & CEO, Andrew Genszler, @LMMPresident for the latest agency updates, events, photos, community interactions, and more!

#LMMsavor



LMM @LMMCleveland • Nov 2
A breakout short from @redantelopefilm feature about incarcerated women & LMM's C4C reentry program screens today @TEDTalks #TEDWomen



LMM @LMMCleveland • Nov 2
Academy Award nominated filmmakers Jennifer Redfearn & Tim Metzger @redantelopefilm to tell inspiring story of LMM's #C4C women. #ERWnow



LMM @LMMCleveland • Oct 24
DID YOU KNOW? In the last 5 yrs, LMM's Central Kitchen has served over 2 million meals to people who are homeless #WeAreLMM #NationalFoodDay



#GrittyCity



LMM @LMMCleveland • Feb 1
1,100 submissions were eliminated & LMM is in the 2nd round of review for a 100 million dollar grant! #ERWnow @MacFound



LMM @LMMCleveland • Sept 26
Happy to welcome members of @CuyahogaCounty Council & other friends of the agency for a tour of LMM & lunch made by C4C students! @DRCOhio



LMM @LMMCleveland • Oct 21
Gritty City runners and walkers!



#MDDAY



LMM @LMMCleveland • May 5
At @LutheranSvcS annual conference, @LMMpresident is moderating an important conversation on future of Affordable Housing. #LSA2017



LMM @LMMCleveland • Aug 15
We appreciate @OhioAG taking the time to visit LMM with @DRCOhio as we all work to end recidivism in the state of Ohio. #ERWnow #WeAreLMM



#WeAreLMM



LMM @LMMCleveland • May 15
Q&A time following a great conversation! Look for video of panel discussion on bail reform on @WVIZ website – Courting Justice Ohio.



LMM @LMMCleveland • June 6
DID YOU KNOW? Recycling 1 ton of paper conserves 17 trees. #Recycle #education #LMMGreenTeam #WeAreLMM @RecycleCuyahoga





LMM @LMMCleveland • Aug 21
Watch party at the Men's Shelter
at 2100 Lakeside! #Eclipse2017



LMM @LMMCleveland • May 1
The Terminal
Tower was lit
blue & green in
honor of LMM &
#LMMsavor 2017.
Check out this
great pic!



LMM @LMMCleveland • May 8
Women from Norma Herr attended fashion show
w/ Resource Center clothing & also got outfits
for themselves. We share your happy tears!



LMM @LMMCleveland • May 9
Grad day at LMM. Culinary student hasn't seen
her mom in 11 yrs, but will today. Many stories,
1 goal. Overcome. @DRCOhio #C4C #ERWnow

#LMMsavor

#MDDAY



LMM @LMMCleveland • April 27
2017 #LMMsavor is underway!
Thanks to @MeltBarGrilled & our
other great food stations!



LMM @LMMCleveland • April 7
@LMMPresident had informative and inspiring ride-
along this morning with our talented Guardianship
staff – they are amazing advocates! #WeAreLMM

#WeAreLMM



LMM @LMMCleveland • Feb 17
Thank you to our friends at the @ADAMHSBoardCC
for informing people about AGS and the importance
and need for volunteer guardians.



LMM @LMMCleveland • April 21
We loved participating in educating veterans
about programs & resources available to
them! @UnitedWayCLE @TriCedu

#GrittyCity



LMM @LMMCleveland • March 29
8th graders from @MessiahSchoolFP hope to get a
better understanding of the community & what they
can do to give back by volunteering at LMM



LMM @LMMCleveland • March 3
It's #DevelopmentalDisabilitiesAwareness
Month – SAW grads are a shining example of
a group with much to contribute to
society! @CuyahogaBDD



#ERWnow



LMM @LMMCleveland • April 17
Thanks again to the @Indians for having
us & our fellow Larry Doby Youth Fund
grantees at the game Saturday!



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON

At the close of 2017, we recognize and respectfully share a list of individuals who were part of the LMM family and passed away during the year. The names reflect those who were under the care of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Adult Support & Advocacy guardians, those who received services from the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside, and individuals who have made an impact on the lives of others through their work with LMM. We walk with those who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting. In their honor, we will continue to advocate for vulnerable adults and respond to the needs of people neglected by society. May those who have passed in 2017 find everlasting peace.

Adult Guardianship Services

Richard Marc Aurele
Carrie Bailey
Levorn Bates
Peter Belak
Ruth Bell
Mary Block
Robert Booker
Annie Boyd
John Broadus
Neva Chaplin
Gail Childers
Christine Coleman
Sandra Cotton
Doris Dickman
Donna Dittman
Dolores Eaton
Catherine Falzone
Anna Feritto
Ferman Garner
Jeff Gerenday

Wanda Griffith
James Gwynn
Williams Haas
Joanne Hardy
Ricardo Harvell
Verner Harvey
Walter Helensky
Shirley Himes
Jackie Hutchenson
Marie Jackson
Vibhor Jain
Hosea Jefferson
Thomas Johnson
Rosalind Jones
Charles Keck
Robert Korecky
Lucille Lane
George Makarovski
Carol Mazany
John McCarthy
James McLaughlin
Sandra Melite

Claretta Melton
Rochelle Morgan
Fred Nickels
Linda Nicksick
Lawrence Oros
Susan Perry
Shirley Powell
Mary Profansik
James Quinn
Edith Riley
Beverly Rodriguez
Annie Sanford
Callie Shephard
Richard Smola
Phylliss Thomas
Stephen Thomas
Rosa Trump
Virginia Turner
Harold Vinck
Peter Vovos
Frank Waligorski
Brenda Ward

Gaynell Washington
Doris Weber
Carl West
John West
Phylliss Wine
Geraldine Wood
Lawrence Zylko

Volunteer Guardianship Program of Lorain Co.

Howard Cooley
Clara Cooper
Helen Lehman
Norman Nall
John Pinter
Agnes Sapp
Winnifred Schaeffer
Louis Strnad
Barbara Tallhamer
Burdine Thornberry
Joan Vintle

Men's Shelter

Juan Broom
James A. Brown
Roger Carte
George Cooper
Royce Crim
John M. Hauser Jr.
Eugene Lewis
Melvin Rhodes
Kevin Standokes
Albert Stone
Jeffrey Thieken
Richard Travers
Charles Welker
William Werner
Otis White
Robert Witucky



SAVOR THE DATE

Circle your calendar for **savor** on **Thursday, March 22, 2018!** Please join us again at The Silver Grille in The Higbee Building for LMM's 5th annual **savor** fundraiser!

New and returning restaurants are already preparing to make the evening a fun and food-filled experience, including Pier W, Melt Bar & Grilled, La Dolce Vita of Little Italy, and Mitchell's Ice Cream, to name a few!

Raffle tickets will be available again this year for the chance to win some amazing gifts. Last year, prizes included tickets, airfare and lodging for two to Cincinnati to see the Indians vs Reds game in dugout box seats at The Great American Ballpark, private dinner and cooking experience at LMM, and the coveted Cleveland collection, including gift certificates to the city's finest restaurants, hotels, museums, theater shows, and more. We can't wait to tell you what prizes you'll be able to enter for in 2018!



savor 2017

DON'T MISS OUT! WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LMM WEBSITE AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR TO MAKE SURE YOU RESERVE YOUR SEATS!

LMM Re-Entry Documentary Film Underway



Jennifer Redfearn
Director, Producer



Tim Metzger, Director of
Photography, Producer

Academy Award nominated filmmakers Jennifer Redfearn and Tim Metzger are taking you on a journey. For more than a year, the Brooklyn, New York-based duo and founders of Red Antelope Films have been making frequent trips to Cleveland to capture moments through their lens. The reason? Creating a documentary about the women of LMM's Chopping for Change program.

Chopping for Change (C4C) is nearing its second year and is gaining momentum as an innovative re-entry partnership between

LMM and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. The participants are currently incarcerated at the Northeast Reintegration Center (NERC) in Cleveland and come to LMM five days a week as students, working towards a culinary degree, while also receiving wraparound services tailored to their needs.

To bring awareness on the importance of second chances, Redfearn and Metzger are frequently filming every aspect of the lives of several women who are in the program. From their daily routines inside the prison walls, to their most vulnerable and emotional moments in LMM's trauma-informed therapy classes, to their culinary graduation, the film crew is there to capture the milestones. Once the women are released from NERC, the filming continues in halfway houses, and ultimately with the women's families as they come home to reunite with their children.

Redfearn and Metzger's other works have been described by international press as "engrossing," "poignant," "beautifully cinematic" and "intensely human." They have become part of the LMM family. Affectionately dubbed "the film crew" by our staff, we have gotten to know their kind hearts and appreciate their growing passion for re-entry. We want YOU to get to know them, as well, through this Q & A with Jennifer and Tim!

Documentary Q & A

How did the documentary on the women of LMM's Chopping for Change program come about?

A little over a year ago we met one of the women from the first Chopping for Change cohort, and we were quite moved by her story. Her son was ill and she was grappling with how she would take care of him and support her mother once she returned home. Hearing her story we started to understand how complex the transition home is for many women and the importance of programs that help returning citizens, especially mothers. Once we delved into the research and learned that there has been a 700% increase of women in prison over the past 30 years, we realized that this was a very important story to tell, one with national significance.

You travel the world telling stories through film.

Why did you choose to make this documentary?

After spending the past few years working on films in other countries, we decided to invest more time on stories here at home. It's no secret that our country has both an addiction crisis and an over-incarceration problem. Remarkably, people on both sides of the political divide are coming together to work constructively on addressing these issues and a lot of innovative work is being done right here in Ohio, and in Cleveland specifically.

What has it been like to delve into the lives of the C4C women and get to know their stories?

You can never understand the complex layers of a person's life until you sit down and listen to their story. It's a revelatory experience — we've been moved by their honesty and courage when they've shared their stories with us.

What kind of dedication does it take to make a documentary like this?

In-depth storytelling takes time. The kinds of films we like to make involve much more than just parachuting in, getting the scoop, and getting out. A great deal of commitment and face-time is



required in order to truly do justice to the story and to the people who generously share their struggles and achievements with us, and by extension, to the audience.

The documentary has a breakout short film that was released in November. What was the TEDWomen screening like?

The short film, *The Walk*, tells the story of the Chopping for Change program manager, Malika Kidd, who served a 14-year mandatory sentence. Today she is putting her life back in order while helping other women rebuild theirs. Malika and I attended the TEDWomen conference together — it was a profound experience for me to witness the audience's positive response to her story. The short shows just a glimpse of what we'll be able to do with the full-length documentary as the feature film follows women through the nine month program and then follows up with them for six months as they reunite with their families and transition back into their communities.

What's your background in film?

We've each built a diverse body of work around the world over the past 15 years, mostly in documentaries — Jennifer as a director and producer and Tim as a cinematographer. We first met in 2008 and joined forces in the South Pacific to tell the story of a remote island community that's losing their land to climate change and rising seas. The film follows them as they search for a new homeland. We've been together ever since.

You were nominated for an Academy Award?

Yes, our film in the South Pacific — *Sun Come Up* — was nominated for an Academy Award and was broadcast on HBO. Increased exposure from the Oscar nomination helped get the film (and the issue) into hundreds of schools, churches and communities around the country.

Fun fact: you're a married documentary team! Does the job get sweeter or a bit tougher with a spouse?

Documentary filmmaking can be challenging, but it does help to have a partner who's on the same wavelength. Filmmaking is our passion, and we're always talking about it — even when we're not on set. I once saw a film about a trapeze artist who was in love with a circus clown. She said, *"He understands me because he too is from the circus."*

When will the full-length film be finished and where will it be seen?

Stay tuned for the release of the film in early 2019. We plan to launch the film with a nationwide festival and community screening campaign bringing the film into community theaters, schools, nonprofits, religious organizations, and hopefully within the prison system. We also hope to find support so the women can tour with the film and speak to communities after the screenings. The outreach and engagement efforts will also include collaborating with other organizations interested in reducing recidivism and providing opportunities for returning citizens.



Film crew captures the Chopping for Change culinary graduation day.

What's the goal of the film and how do you hope audiences will react to the story?

The goal of the film is to join a nationwide conversation. The target audience includes a wide range of people — it is both local and national, across both sides of the political divide, and on both sides of the prison walls. We hope the audience will see themselves in the stories of these women, and we hope employers will see they can hire people coming out of prison. Overall with this project we're seeking to challenge viewers' preconceptions of incarcerated women, and contribute to the conversation about how to support returning citizens so they can be successful when they transition home.



lutheran metropolitan ministry
seeds of change
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cleveland, ohio 44103

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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@LMMCleveland



Facebook.com/LMMCleveland



YouTube.com



E-newsletter sign-up at
www.lutheranmetro.org



Latest news at
www.lutheranmetro.org

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216.281.2500

Youth Services

216.696.0370

Guardianship

216.696.1132

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



lutheran metropolitan ministry's

savor

[THE DATE]

3•22•18

Silver Grille at the Higbee Building

Food stations, entertainment, raffles, and more!
Details coming soon on LMM's culinary event of the year!

