



seeds of change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

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\$750,000 Grant Awarded to Bolster LMM's Workforce Development Efforts

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's (LMM) Workforce Development service area has been awarded three-quarters of a million dollars by ECMC Foundation, a Los Angeles-based national foundation that makes investments in postsecondary programs and initiatives. The grant will help LMM propel the agency into a new phase of educational programming.

LMM offers culinary and hospitality training programs and is currently seeking additional accreditation for an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in culinary arts. With ECMC Foundation's generous funding, LMM will strengthen the technical education program and further the innovative workforce programming to meet the current and future needs of the employer marketplace. With this catalytic support, LMM's workforce development efforts will be funded by philanthropic support, and through earned income and federal student aid.

The support will allow LMM to build significant capacity and intentionally set the agency up to compete in a dynamic marketplace. "We're excited to highlight our agency as a premier provider of workforce development and vocational educational programming in Cuyahoga County," said Andrew Genszler, LMM President and CEO. "The community and our stakeholders can also look forward to having this resource nearby. We will have a long-term impact on the community by educating and empowering people to be productive citizens making a valuable contribution to the local workforce."

The funding is crucial to building capacity for the transition of the diploma program to the AAS degree, and to the research and



Chef Laura Campbell teaches students about the importance of finding fresh produce for a healthy culinary masterpiece.

exploration of other degree programs responsive to market conditions. With the ability to confer associate degrees, LMM is positioned to form strategic partnerships with regional institutions of higher education to create a career pathway for graduates and an option to continue their education.

Participants from LMM's Chopping for Change culinary program will be positively impacted. Monica, a current student, had tears in her eyes when she found out about the grant. "I'm going to graduate in January and walk across the stage to get my Advanced Culinary diploma. My dad is coming. I haven't seen him in nine months. He's 78 and I'm the baby of the family, but I'm the first one of his five kids to ever receive a diploma, so it's really going to be emotional. Now all I have to do is get the Associate degree and make him even prouder. It's a game-changer."

The \$750K Career Pathways grant from ECMC Foundation will be received over three years. LMM's relationship with ECMC Foundation began with a \$150,000 one-year grant in 2017 for the expansion of the Chopping for Change program.

"We're excited to continue our support of LMM's work and look forward to seeing how they will expand their work to reach more of the workforce and meet the needs of employers," said Peter Taylor, President of ECMC Foundation.



Gritty City 2018



Gritty City, now in its third year, brought together a community of runners, walkers, and staff partners to the Richard Sering Center on Saturday, October 13th. This year, proceeds benefitted all LMM programs!

Even though the weather was rainy, it didn't stop agency supporters. The annual 5K run/1 mile walk through the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood kicked off with Dani Wiggins from Channel 3 and a dance party with a line dance instructor. After the run, participants headed inside for awards and more fun! Post-run activities included a DJ, Mitchell's Ice Cream, Artefino energy bites, puppets from Ingenuity, Gritty City temporary tattoos, and a trick-or-treat bag craft by Upcycle. Thank you all for your participation!



Participants enjoyed Gritty City temporary tattoos put on by our littlest volunteer.

To see additional photos from Gritty City 2018, check out the photo album at [Facebook.com/LMMCleveland](https://www.facebook.com/LMMCleveland).

LMM Turns 50 in 2019

As we approach the new year, 2019 will have special meaning for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry. The agency, which began in 1969 in the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland, will enter its 50th year. Over the last five decades, LMM has evolved along with changing needs of the community by developing effective and timely advocacy initiatives and social services programming.

The 50th Anniversary will be a year full of events, large and small, that will set the stage for showcasing the innovation of our current service areas: Housing & Shelter, Workforce Development, and Health & Wellness Services. The LMM team is looking forward to sharing with you the projects we're currently and newly embarking on, which will set up future generations of staff and participants for success. The half century mark will also be an opportunity to look back at the people, programs and impact of the agency over the years.

Watch for a special edition of the *Seeds of Change* newsletter for a major announcement in early 2019. We'll also have 50th Anniversary coverage in the quarterly issues of Seeds next year, as well as in E-News, which you can sign up for on

lutheranmetro.org. Please take a moment to follow us on social media @LMMCleveland to stay up-to-date on the many happenings over the next 12 months, including our two most anticipated agency events.

Our annual **savor** event is set for April 4 at LMM, and will be a more intimate, exclusive dining experience this year. We look forward to your attendance as we showcase our agency's newest ventures. Watch for tickets to go on sale soon.

In the fall, we'll have our 50th Anniversary Celebration, which will be a unique and exciting event to remember. We look forward to sharing our 50th year with you, our biggest supporters and change-makers! Together, we will enter the next chapter of innovation at LMM.

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS FOR MEN'S SHELTER RESIDENTS

Browns Player Surprises Residents

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry always has an abundance of volunteers on Thanksgiving Day, but residents got a surprise holiday visitor from the Cleveland Browns.

Christian Kirksey, linebacker, shocked residents when he walked into the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside just in time to help serve Thanksgiving dinner to 400 men, which was provided by the kind donors at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church and their small army of volunteers. Kirksey, who is known for his humble spirit and giving efforts for underserved populations, brought his family with him to volunteer, and they wasted no time rolling up their sleeves. Kirksey also sat down with some of the men to hear their stories, and even initiated a sing-a-long when a talented resident began to play the piano while the men ate their holiday meal. You can see a glimpse into Kirksey's Thanksgiving visit on Instagram by following him @ChristianKirksey.



Christian Kirksey visits with Men's Shelter residents from the Veteran's Dorm.



The Kirksey family serves dinner to 400 Men's Shelter residents.

Feed the Need

While most of us are getting ready to be surrounded by friends and family for the holidays, not everyone has a home to go to, but some did have a Thanksgiving meal to remember.

November 20, 2018 is a day LMM's Men's Shelter residents won't soon forget. Just before noon, a large coach bus pulled up to the front door of the Shelter and nearly 60 men hopped on board to go to a popular restaurant for a Thanksgiving meal unlike any other. The busses arrived one after another at Townhall in Ohio City, after traveling around town to various shelters to pick up those in need of a hot holiday meal and a special experience.

Just inside the doors of Townhall, staff waited to show the residents to their dining tables. The eatery closes down only one day a year, and employees use that day to give back to the community. Townhall's 6th Annual Feed the Need event produced thousands of turkey dinners for members of the community who need a little extra love around the holidays. "This is awesome," said Men's Shelter resident, Tim. "Townhall is paying it forward and giving back, you can really tell it is a community event and it means a lot to me."

Professional athletes, mascots, newscasters, politicians, and even Santa, volunteered as celebrity servers throughout the day. Cleveland Browns players Baker Mayfield and Denzel Ward joined Cavs coach Larry Drew and other public figures to help Townhall's staff make sure the guests had a true restaurant experience. This luxury is one the special diners may otherwise not have had the means to do.

Thank you, Townhall, for giving the Men's Shelter residents a sense of home during the holidays!



Shelter residents board a bus to Townhall.



Shelter resident and Browns mascot, Chomps, share a moment during dinner at Townhall.



Shelter residents break bread together.



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

In Memoriam

Each December, 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.

Please visit lutheranmetro.org to view the list of those we have recently lost. As we reflect together, we will honor their memory by continuing to advocate for the oppressed, forgotten and hurting. May all who eternally rest do so peacefully in God's hands.

