



seeds of change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

Summer 2019 Volume XXV, Issue 2

50th Anniversary Celebration at League Park

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry is celebrating 50 years in a BIG way! On September 21, we'll fill League Park to honor LMM's commitment to social service and advocacy over the last five decades, and we hope you'll join us!

LMM has a history in the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland, where League Park is located. The agency began as a response to the needs of the community in the wake of the urban unrest in the 1960s. LMM's headquarters is just blocks away from the historic location, making it an ideal celebratory spot rich in Cleveland history.

League Park is where the Cleveland Indians won the World Series in 1920. Nine years later, Yankees slugger Babe Ruth hit his 500th career home run there, becoming the first Major League Baseball player to reach the milestone number. (By the way, the Indians still won the game 6 – 5!) Now is your chance to support LMM while being able to walk through the gates and stand on the field where the 'Boys of Summer' once played, including Cy Young, Lou Gehrig, and Bob Feller.

At the event, you can expect an upscale, trendy evening out with traditional ballpark flair! No matter the weather, we have an event planned that will celebrate the history of LMM and launch us into our next 50 years of innovative programming in a fun, engaging way. Enjoy culinary stations with delicious food and beverages, reserved seating under a tent next to the field, live music, raffle prizes, valet parking, and more. Gather around the fire pits and share your favorite LMM stories. Visit the Baseball Heritage Museum located inside League Park, join the VIP reception if you wish, check out our new 50th anniversary video, and hear the history of LMM from those who helped create it.

Watch for tickets to go on sale this Summer!

If you're interested in sponsorship opportunities, including a table purchase, please contact Director of Development, Kate Maver, at 216.658.7204 or at kmaver@lutheranmetro.org.



Photo from www.leaguepark.info

LMM's 50th Anniversary Celebration

A Night at the Ballpark

**Saturday,
September 21, 2019
League Park in Cleveland**

5:30pm VIP
6:15pm Main Event

LMM Leadership Additions

LMM is pleased to introduce two new staff partners to the leadership team!



Marcella J. Brown, MNO
Vice President, Development
& Communications

**Marcella J. Brown, MNO,
is the new Vice President
of Development &
Communications!**

Throughout a comprehensive search process, Marcella's exceptional background, civic leadership, future-oriented outlook and love for our Cleveland community continued to stand out.

Marcella comes to LMM from the Black Professionals

Association Charitable Foundation where she has been the Executive Director for the past seven years. She has also been the Development Program Manager for One Community, and the Assistant Director of Development at The City Club of Cleveland. Marcella combines her seasoned experience in fund development and donor relations with a significant background in strategic communication and public relations.

Marcella has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Affairs, Journalism & Spanish from The Ohio State University School of Journalism & Mass Communication, and a Master of Science degree in Nonprofit Organizations (MNO) from Case Western Reserve University's Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organization & Weatherhead School of Management. (Ask her about independent student research trips to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Egypt and Mexico!) Marcella's civic engagement includes experience on a number of boards and committees, including LMM's, and she is an inaugural member of Crain's Cleveland Business "20 in Their 20's" (2007) and of Cleveland Bridge Builders Class of 2019.

If you would like to reach out to Marcella, her email is mbrown@lutheranmetro.org.



Margie Glick
Director of Advocacy

**Margie Glick is LMM's new
Director of Advocacy!**

Margie comes to LMM from the Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland where, as Manager of Partnerships and Programs, she led advocacy and communications activities and provided management for strategic partnerships. She also has great public policy experience stemming from her time as the Assistant Director of the Vanderbilt

University Office of Federal Relations, and her three years with the Office of Senator Sherrod Brown, both in Washington, DC.

To her exceptional record and Capitol Hill experience, Margie adds an in-depth knowledge of and compassionate concern for anti-poverty and community development priorities for Cleveland—including education, workforce development, affordable housing and community re-entry—and the people these priorities affect. Margie is excited to combine grassroots input and public voice with a proactive and relational approach to public policy and advocacy, and to work with many valuable partner organizations.

Margie has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy and Sociology from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Education degree from Harvard University. She is a mentor for True2U and College Now working with students in eighth grade through college, and is a board member of the Cleveland Orchestra's young professionals group, The Circle, and a member of the City Club's Education Committee.

If you would like to reach out to Margie, please email her at mglick@lutheranmetro.org.



Our 50th Anniversary Campaign – **Breaking New Ground: Building LMM's Next 50 Years** – is well on its way to the \$3.5 million dollar goal, but we need YOUR help to keep the momentum going! As we purchase and renovate up to 20 homes in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood, you'll make all the difference in being able to help homeless families move into these affordable houses and stay out of shelters. Consider giving now to **Breaking New Ground**, which not only includes funding for the renovation of the homes, but also a Family Stability Fund to keep the model sustainable.

Visit www.lutheranmetro.org to donate.

SEEDS All-Stars

LMM's ongoing partnership with the Downtown Cleveland Alliance is in its ninth year and is now expanding! SEEDS, which provides residents of the Men's Shelter with valuable work experience in landscaping, helps them to overcome their barriers to employment and housing. Now, through new partnerships, more people who are homeless are getting the chance to learn urban landscaping and obtain employment.

For 31 weeks each year, selected participants may complete up to 20 paid work hours per week, helping them to establish a work history, which can help with their housing searches. The men learn hands-on skills such as watering, soil amending, mulching, bed preparation, planting, weed abatement, pruning, dead-heading, leaf raking and composting. The part-time employment strengthens their resumes and hones their skills in a field that is in demand.

The partnership has recently expanded to include hiring of SEEDS employees from Procop House, Y-Haven, Salvation Army and most recently, YWCA-run Norma Herr Women's Shelter. The partnership with the YWCA is new this year and we are happy to welcome the first female SEEDS employee!



SEEDS employees ready to plant flowers downtown.

It's a busy summer for 2019's landscapers. Major League Baseball's All-Star Game is coming to town in July! SEEDS participants are beautifying the city to get it ready for the big event! This program has given the workers a sense of pride in their town and their abilities. Their teamwork and enthusiasm for the job is evident at their work sites.

The SEEDS program is also helping to change public perceptions about the capabilities and potential of the homeless population in Cleveland. The evidence of this has been the growing number of private business owners who are interested in hiring the SEEDS crew to landscape their properties. SEEDS has led many participants to full-time positions. Of the thirteen participants last year, 80% ended the season in housing and 90% were employed.

Guardianship Services Celebrates 30 Years

As LMM celebrates 50 years as an agency in 2019, our guardianship program turns 30!

LMM has provided guardianship services to indigent, vulnerable adults since 1989, when LMM was approached by the Protective Services Consortium for Older Adults of Cuyahoga County to conduct a needs assessment. It found that the Greater Cleveland community recognized that people who are elderly and living with dementia need special assistance in making major life decisions. As a result of this assessment, LMM developed a program to offer quality guardianship services. The program was a success and in 1993, another committee approached LMM to develop a similar program for vulnerable adults in Lorain County.

The initial assessment still holds true today with Guardianship Services serving over 850 vulnerable adults annually in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties. Seen as a model program and the largest guardianship program in Ohio, LMM strategically developed a hybrid staffing method, with both professional and volunteer guardians to serve as concerned, caring advocates and surrogate decision-makers. This hybrid approach has allowed the program to serve more intensive cases. Currently, Guardianship Services has 17 diligent and dedicated staff and 138 exceptional volunteers.

But the real story of the staff and volunteers' work is with the individuals whom we serve and connect with, as well as advocate for. All of our stories are a success in some way, but a few stand

out to show how our guardians go above and beyond to advocate for individuals who cannot do so for themselves. Sometimes, connections come through the most unexpected circumstances.

Through recruitment efforts, the program obtains and trains new volunteer guardians. During one initial visit with the volunteer coordinator and a new volunteer, a woman in the care of Guardianship Services began to repeat a series of names over and over again, as she often does. The volunteer coordinator, familiar with the woman and her case, knew some names were deceased family members, while others, he hadn't heard of before. However, the new volunteer immediately recognized a few of these names and discovered that the ward was her great aunt that she has long thought deceased. Now, the volunteer serves as her great aunt's guardian and advocates on her behalf. Sometimes guardians become honorary family members, but in this case, an aunt and niece were reunited through the program, developing a lasting connection.



Northeast Ohio woman receives services at local nursing home.



lutheran metropolitan ministry
seeds of change
4515 superior avenue
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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www.lutheranmetro.org



Latest news at
www.lutheranmetro.org

Contacting LMM

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216.658.7210

Housing & Shelter
216.566.0047

Workforce Development
216.658.4608

Health & Wellness Services
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.

SAVE *the* DATE



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Celebration**
A Night at the Ballpark

Saturday, September 21
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5:30pm VIP Reception • 6:15pm Main Event
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**Please note the date change from October 5 to September 21. See you there!*

