



seeds of change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

Fall 2020 Volume XXVI, Issue 4

Honoring 15 Years of Innovation: LMM Housing & Shelter

This year, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Housing & Shelter program turns 15! Between a global pandemic, our Breaking New Ground campaign, and working to bring 3D-printed housing to Cleveland, 15 has been a busy and impactful year for the team.

More Than a Place to Stay

LMM's Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside is the largest homeless shelter in the state of Ohio, providing beds and serving meals for up to 365 men per night. While this service area does provide emergency shelter and basic necessities, our staff and volunteers also provide individuals staying at the shelter with additional support services to work toward obtaining self-sufficiency and assisting these individuals in getting back on their feet.

Remaining Resilient

Homeless services across the United States have undergone rapid and drastic changes as a result of COVID-19. Beginning in March of this year, the Men's Shelter took a lead role in adjusting to the new way of executing homeless services in Cleveland in the midst of the global pandemic. By collaborating with Cuyahoga County, multiple service providers in the area, local hotels, foundations, and health care providers, the Men's Shelter was able to make life-saving changes for residents. These vital changes included cutting the Shelter census down by 65% by moving residents to hotel hubs, and testing shelter residents on a weekly basis. LMM has also safely provided breakfast, lunch and dinner every day through our Central Kitchen, and served 600 unduplicated people in local hotels.

Breaking New Ground

LMM's Breaking New Ground affordable housing initiative is creating an innovative model for ending family homelessness in Cleveland by purchasing and renovating homes in the St. Clair Superior neighborhood. Families exiting homelessness will be



The Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside provides a safe place to rest.

eligible for the new housing program, with rental fees capped at 30% of household income and connections to supportive services to ensure family stability. Demolition began late last year on the first home on Bonna Avenue in partnership with the Cleveland Browns. If you are interested in supporting this innovative initiative, contact VP of Development & Communications Marcella Brown at mbrown@lutheranmetro.org or 216.658.7208 today.

Vice President of Housing & Shelter named 2020 Fresh Innovator

The Cleveland Leadership Center (CLC) recently took notice of the innovative work being done at LMM, and honored Vice President of Housing & Shelter, Michael Sering, as one of six

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Giving Season

Giving Season is almost here and LMM is looking forward to the many opportunities our generous donors will take part in to help our participants. Here are small ways you can make a big difference!

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement fueled by social media, unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.

Giving Tuesday is observed on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and marks the official beginning of Giving Season. Join the movement and give to LMM via our website. If you'd like, you can jump on social media after and tag us @LMMCleveland to let us know you gave for #GivingTuesday!

Give In-Kind

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry is requesting in-kind donations to support our various program areas amidst COVID-19. Many of the individuals we serve are still in need of basic, everyday items. The items on our COVID-19 Relief Amazon Wish List are guidelines of what our clients are in need of. You can find the wish list on www.lutheranmetro.org.

LMM's Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside is in need of clothing donations as colder months approach. Men's clothing of all types - underwear, socks, pants, shirts, shoes and more are all needed. The shelter will arrange for safe outdoor drop-off to allow for social distancing. Please contact Operations Director, David Blunt, at dblunt@lutheranmetro.org for more information on donating clothing to the shelter.

Break New Ground with Us

With roots in the community that go back more than 50 years, LMM is working hard every day to fulfill our promise to serve with our neighbors in need by fighting racial injustices, addressing systemic causes of homelessness, breaking down barriers for people with disabilities, advocating for second chances, supporting vulnerable adults and youth and pushing for human dignity for all. Our **Breaking New Ground** campaign aims to end family homelessness by restoring hope and homes for our city's most underserved. Visit the **Breaking New Ground** page on www.lutheranmetro.org to learn more about our campaign to end family homelessness and support LMM's vital work.



Voter Education Forum

LMM's Office of Advocacy held a voter education forum in August on Facebook Live, and there's still time before the election to watch the replay!



Election Forum, August 19

LMM hosted its **Getting Into "Good Trouble" Through Civic Engagement: A Forum for Restored Citizens on Holding Elected Officials Accountable After the Ballot** on August 19. The forum featured panelists Judge Ronald Adrine, Cleveland Municipal Court (retired); Jennifer Lumpkin, Civic Engagement Strategy Manager with ClevelandVotes; Lana Mendis, LMM Employment Specialist and Chopping for Change alumni; Robin Turner, Ohio Organizing Collaborative; Joe Gaston, Board Member, North East Ohio Coalition for the Homeless; and was moderated by Margie Glick, LMM's Director of Advocacy.

The conversation focused on the importance of voting, myths surrounding returning citizens and voting rights, and how through advocacy, individuals can hold elected officials accountable after the election. This audience consisted of restored citizens, and the organizations, faith partners and community members who support their return to active civic engagement.

Head over to [Facebook.com/LMMCleveland](https://www.facebook.com/LMMCleveland) to replay the video, including a special voting message from Cleveland Browns cornerback Terrance Mitchell, made especially for LMM's voter forum.

Extend the Impact of Your Gift this Season



Maximize Your Giving This Year

At LMM, we are grateful for every contribution. We know that your gifts, large or small, come from your hearts.

If you've ever wondered what else you could do to ensure the work of LMM continues, we have a few ideas for you. Here are some simple ways you can maximize your financial contributions right now, and even beyond your lifetime.



Donate Appreciated Stock

If you have held any stock for more than a year, the worth of your portfolio has probably increased. When you donate the stock itself, your gift is worth 20% more

than if you sold stock and made a cash donation from the proceeds. By donating stock directly to LMM, you will avoid the 20% capital gains tax. You can deduct full fair market value of your stock donation up to the limit allowed by the IRS. This gives you the financial benefit of avoiding capital gains and receiving a tax deduction. Contact your broker for more information.



An IRA Rollover

If you are at least 70½ years old, you can transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to LMM. Couples over 70½ years old can each transfer up to \$100,000. Aside

from providing LMM with a much-needed gift, you can benefit as well. For example, you can count the amount of your rollover toward your required minimum distribution for the year, tax free. You might also avoid taxation at a higher income bracket. The charitable IRA Rollover must be a direct transfer from the financial institution that holds your IRA to LMM. If you'd like to make an IRA Rollover gift to LMM, talk to your IRA manager or financial advisor.



Leave a Legacy Gift

Most estate gifts to charities come from everyday people who leave a precious legacy behind in their will. For those of you who would like to extend your philanthropic reach beyond your earthly life, we would be honored

to welcome you to the LMM Legacy Society. Of course, it's not easy to think about our own passing from this earth. However, one easy way to make a long-lasting positive impact on the lives of people who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting is through a simple bequest in your will. You do not have to be a person of great wealth to do this. While some people do have more complex estate plans, a simple bequest is just that—simple.

If your will is already drawn up, all you have to do is contact your attorney and talk to them about indicating an additional gift in your will.



Request a Matching Gift from Your Employer

Many companies in the United States offer employees the opportunity to increase or even double their charitable contributions with a matching gift. This

type of philanthropy allows you to significantly increase the impact of your donation for the receiving organization. To determine if your place of employment offers this generous benefit, contact your Human Resources department and inquire about corporate matching gifts.

If you or your financial or legal advisors have any questions about any ways to maximize your giving, contact Kate Maver, Director of Development (kmaver@lutheranmetro.org / 216.658.7204). Thank you for helping to strengthen LMM's ability to serve and advocate for people in our community who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting!

Honoring 15 Years of Innovation: LMM Housing & Shelter — from page 1

2020 Fresh Innovators! Sering spoke at CLC's virtual event, *Spark: Grit to Great*, on September 3rd, highlighting what the shelter team has been doing throughout the pandemic to keep residents safe, as well as some of the new and creative solutions his team is working on to end homelessness.

Bringing 3D-Printed Housing to Northeast Ohio

Affordable housing shortages in the US are directly linked to homelessness and housing instability. LMM's proposed

3D-printed housing solution bridges environmental and socio-economic gaps by leveraging private market trends and technology. Working with 3D-printing company, SQ4D, and supported by an expert team, LMM is currently exploring a mixed-income, carbon-negative 3D-printed housing initiative in Cleveland. 3D-printed housing is faster, cheaper to build and maintain, stronger, and less wasteful to produce and operate than traditional homes. If funded, the project has the potential to revolutionize the housing and construction sectors by making affordable and sustainable housing universally accessible. Stay tuned as we continue to assess this exciting opportunity!

Guardianship Means Friendship at LMM

October is Guardianship Awareness Month, a time to highlight the important work of guardians who give their all to make the lives of those in need better.

LMM's Guardianship Services program operates in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties. The program provides legal guardians to indigent adults who cannot care for themselves and have often encountered abuse or exploitation. Our guardians serve as concerned, caring advocates and surrogate decision-makers. Guardians look after the emotional, social, financial and physical well-being of these vulnerable adults and seek the least restrictive living environment possible. We're grateful for the lifechanging work that our guardians do every day.

Tom Stevens is one of LMM's long-time guardians. He just hit the 17-year mark as a volunteer!

"I worked for the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities for 30 years before retiring in 2017," says Tom. "I was bothered by seeing people who had no guardian or advocate, or had an ineffective guardian. I thought I could make a difference in someone's life by becoming involved."

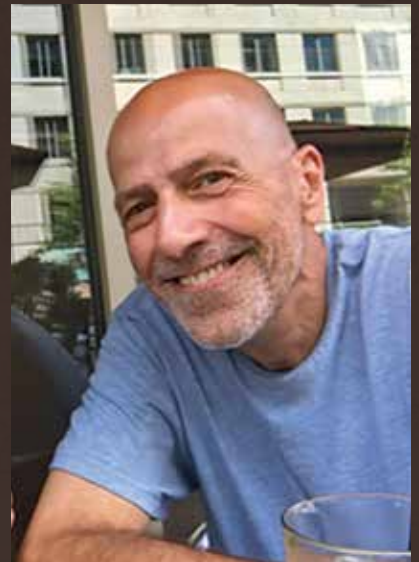
At the present time, Tom is a guardian for one ward, named Susan. She is the third ward he has been paired with over the years, with the previous two ladies having passed away. While it's hard to see his wards pass, he takes comfort in knowing they were cared for and he could make a difference in their quality of life while they were still here.

Tom says even though he is the volunteer providing the service, he gets a sense of belonging out of the experience, as well. He has even developed friendships with some of

the other residents at his ward's nursing home. "One of my previous wards had a co-resident of Middle Eastern descent, like me. She suffered from dementia, and really didn't speak anymore, and never showed any emotion. One day, I decided to make some kibbeh, which is a Middle Eastern meat dish, and I took some to her to see if I could get a positive reaction from her. After she ate it, I asked her how it was. She suddenly became very animated, but the expression on her face combined with her vocalizations seemed to say, 'so so. I've had better!' I guess I was glad to get a reaction out of her- even a negative one!"

Since COVID-19 began, visitations have changed, and he says it was hard having to limit visits to Facetime for so long. Creativity came in handy. "In May, the nursing home organized a car parade, in which I participated," explains Tom. "I painted a big sign and was able to display it out of my sunroof. I even got to stop for a minute or two to speak with Susan!"

Tom is looking forward to getting back to regular visits soon, and he longs for them to be the way they once were not so long ago. "I always try to make the life of my ward more comfortable, and more happy and enjoyable. I've always been honest with Susan and kept my word. I really miss the visits, and once per month, I would stop at McDonald's and get us breakfast sandwiches and coffee, and we would always have a nice visit chatting away. Whenever a resident or staff who didn't know me came into the dining room, she would proudly introduce me to them. The strong bond that we have is undeniable."



Tom Stevens, LMM Volunteer Guardian



Susan, ward of LMM Volunteer Guardian, Tom Stevens



Tom participates in car parade to visit his ward, Susan, from afar.

Strengthening Our Commitment to Social Justice

More than 50 years ago, LMM was founded to serve and advocate for social justice in the City of Cleveland in the aftermath of the Hough Riots. We continue to serve this purpose by meeting the needs of vulnerable individuals in our community, many of whom are people of color.

In response to the growing social unrest taking place across America, LMM's Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team have launched a Racial Justice Initiative to recommit our mission to social justice, racial equity and inclusion, and public advocacy for people who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting. We are deeply disturbed by the unwarranted use of excessive force by some members of law enforcement towards people in communities of color, the persistence of institutional racism, discriminatory practices in housing and the criminal justice system, and a lack of accountability and sense of urgency to amend these societal wrongs.

Recognizing that the change we hope to see in our community and our country should start from within, LMM's Board and Staff have taken several intentional steps to seek justice. Here are some of the ways that LMM is working to promote justice, equity and inclusion within our organization, and strengthen our public witness of the same.

Expressing our Support of Social Justice & Racial Equity

LMM has publicly expressed its support of social justice, racial equity and accountability. We are using our media platforms to encourage our supporters, funders and followers to do the same.



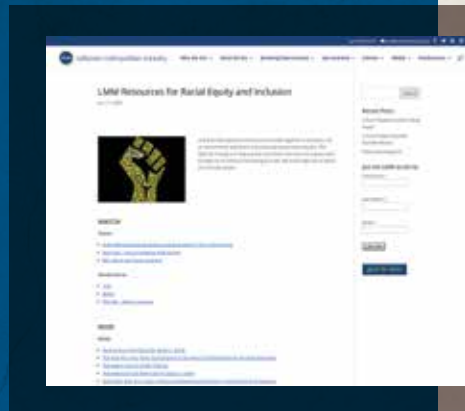
LMM @LMMCleveland • Aug 24

LMM is deeply disturbed by yet another show of excessive force by police last weekend towards an unarmed Black man, Jacob Blake. We stand against merciless violence towards Black men & women, and in support of the safety & well-being of our Black staff partners. [#HowManyMore?](#)



Providing Resources to Encourage our Staff, Board & Community Partners

Our Board, Staff and Community Partners admit we do not have the solution to institutional racism, inequality and social injustice. However, we are committed to educating ourselves on the issues that contribute to these challenges. LMM's website features a dynamic list of resources, tools and research on social justice. We encourage you to visit our Racial Justice Resource Page, utilize the recommended resources and share them with people in your family, friends and places of worship.



Sharing Lived Experiences with Social Injustice

It is said that experience is the best teacher. LMM has engaged our staff partners and program participants in a series of blogs about surviving the COVID-19 pandemic and our experiences with social justice. Visit luthernametro.org to read the *Push Towards Justice* blog series.

Guided Staff Discussions on the History of Systemic Racism & Social Injustice

This summer LMM's Senior Leadership Team sought guidance from local Diversity, Equity and Inclusion professionals to facilitate staff discussions, recommend resources about the historical context of the social unrest taking place across the country, and identify resources and tools for managing the stress and anxiety induced by the challenges of both the COVID-19 pandemic and the national social unrest.



Staff video calls allow for continued conversations and planning around racial equity and inclusion.

We do not have social justice all figured out. But as a social justice organization, we recognize that over the course of our 51-year history, the pace of progress towards greater social justice, equity and inclusion in America has been slow in good times and completely reversed in our nation's moments of darkness. LMM is determined to answer the call placed upon our organization from Micah 6:8; to seek justice, love mercy and walk in humility with those we serve.



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seeds of change
4515 superior avenue
cleveland, ohio 44103

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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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Contacting LMM

LMM Main Office
216.696.2715

Development & Communications
216.696.1724

Office of Advocacy
216.658.4627

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.

Important Voting Dates

October 6 - November 2:
Early Voting at Board of Elections

October 20:
Deadline for requesting an absentee ballot

November 2:
Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked by this date

November 3:
General Election Day – Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
(Voters are able to drop off absentee ballots at their county Board of Elections office until 7:30 p.m.)

Visit Twitter @LMMCleveland to watch brief videos featuring LMM staff on why they vote!

