



# seeds of change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

Winter 2021 Volume XXVII, Issue 1

## Save the Date: Founder's Day Celebration on Feb. 4

LMM's conception dates back to the pain of the uprising in the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland in the mid-1960s. The campus pastor at Case Western Reserve University called together the Lutheran Pastoral Conference of Cleveland to consider an appropriate response. Misunderstood by many was a central figure for peace and neighborhood progress, known then as Harllel X, now Harllel Jones (retired director of Community Re-Entry's Denise McNair New Life Center). Harllel was the prime minister of the Afro Set, Cleveland's most powerful black nationalist organization. Harllel spoke to the pastors, along with Concordia Seminary Professor Dr. David Schuller, an urbanologist. Each in his own way gave the same message; the clergy should unite and act.

The founding group phoned the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America for assistance. A young Lutheran minister was brought to town from St. Louis in the summer of 1967: Rev. Richard Sering. Sering assisted Lutherans in listening to the residents of the city, learning about the positive initiatives going on and how the Lutheran church might participate.

Sering also designed a plan for a continuing agency, left the plan with the committee and returned with his family to their parish in St. Louis. In 1969, a cooperative arrangement was reached involving all Lutheran church bodies. Dick Sering was officially called to direct the effort. He and his family moved to Cleveland in May 1969. And the calling that is Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry began.

On February 4th, 2019, LMM inaugurated Founder's Day, a day to celebrate the life and legacy of the now late Rev. Sering. We wish we could announce that the work of seeking justice, advocating for the oppressed and promoting peace was no longer needed. Unfortunately, the work that Rev. Sering started more than 50 years ago is still greatly needed.

The LMM Board, staff and volunteers are honored to work towards the fulfillment of Rev. Sering's legacy. We invite you to join us this February 4th, at 4:30 PM for a virtual Founder's Day Celebration on LMM's Facebook page ([facebook.com/LMMCleveland](https://facebook.com/LMMCleveland)). The occasion will include an ecumenical service, a staff dedication ceremony and the reveal of LMM's Vision for Racial Justice. We are excited to share this new initiative with our supporters, while honoring the legacy of Rev. Sering and those who strongly support his work.





# Seeking Safety and Stability by Breaking New Ground

"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but man has nowhere to lay his head." *Jesus – In Matthew 8:20*

For more than 15 years, our work in serving those who are experiencing homelessness has been a labor of love and a show of respect for the dignity of our neighbors facing adversity. Working in this area has proven that the people struggling to overcome homelessness are often people of color, young families and individuals with prior criminal convictions. It has also taught us the value and impact of having a safe, stable place to call home.

Having a stable home helps children perform better in school. Having a safe home allows women surviving domestic violence to find peace and healing. Having a nurturing place to call home decreases the recidivism of people in our community who have a criminal background.

Breaking New Ground is a five-year, \$3.5 million affordable housing initiative and family stability fund that has the potential to end family homelessness in

## Please consider a donation to Breaking New Ground

Gift Options	Gifts Remaining
\$500,000.....	1
\$250,000.....	1
\$75,000.....	2
\$50,000.....	2
\$25,000.....	3
\$10,000.....	4
\$5,000.....	5
\$2,500.....	10

Cleveland. To date, LMM has raised \$2.34 million towards our goal since 2018.

Each year, more than 2,300 families in Cuyahoga County seek emergency shelter services from the Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services (OHS). LMM is a trusted partner of OHS, a member of the Continuum of Care and a leader of the COVID-19 Hotel Hubs



Children at Haven Home



6401 Bonna Ave. Before & After

operation that is saving the lives of hundreds of people who are without a home and at risk of contracting the virus.

We invite you to join us in our effort to make a safe, stable place to call home possible for families experiencing homelessness in Cleveland.

To learn more about Breaking New Ground, to request a campaign presentation or to donate, contact Marcella Brown, Vice President of Development & Communications at 216.658.7208 or [mbrown@lutheranmetro.org](mailto:mbrown@lutheranmetro.org) today.

## Become A Volunteer Guardian

COVID-19 has limited or halted many methods of traditional volunteering, but becoming a guardian isn't one of them. We'll walk you through how to be a caring advocate to an adult in need, and you can do so from your own home.

Join us for a virtual Volunteer Information Session on Feb 26, 2021 at 9 AM to see if becoming a volunteer guardian is right for you! Reach out to Volunteer Coordinator, Brian Stevens, at 216.696.2715 ext. 108 or [bstevens@lutheranmetro.org](mailto:bstevens@lutheranmetro.org) to join. Visit [lutheranmetro.org](http://lutheranmetro.org) for more information on the program.

**Guardianship Services** – serving Cuyahoga and Lorain county residents for over 30 years

2020 – served **654 wards**

**80 wards** served by volunteer guardians

Interventions of guardianship provide for the **peace, well-being and dignity** to improve the person's quality of life.

Guardianship is a part-legal, part-social relationship with **no financial obligation** to the ward.

Time requirement of volunteer guardians: **One-two hours per month** for at least one year



# Advocacy 101 With LMM

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry was founded 51 years ago as an advocacy organization committed to affecting systems change with those who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting. While the areas of advocacy have shifted throughout the organization's history, the desire to promote systems change in order to reduce demand for LMM's safety net services, and promote opportunity for those LMM serves, has remained constant.

Currently, LMM's advocacy work is focused on four areas: *ending homelessness, criminal justice reform, promoting health and wellness and advancing racial equity*. For individuals interested in advocating alongside LMM, the first step is to better understand the aforementioned topics. At LMM, we provide several opportunities to learn about these topics through a monthly advocacy e-blast and a quarterly newsletter, *Advocacy in Action*. The monthly e-blast shares the most current news while the newsletter provides a more in-depth overview of LMM's advocacy work, and what action LMM is taking to advance its advocacy priorities. To sign up for these newsletters, check out the 'Join our eNewsletter' section at the bottom of our website, [lutheranmetro.org](http://lutheranmetro.org). LMM also hosts public forums on topics like voting and re-entry. We invite you to join these events, which are promoted on social media and in LMM's weekly communication's emails.

Once you become more knowledgeable about the policies LMM is working to advance, the second step of advocacy is taking action. At LMM, this is most often in the form of responding to an emailed advocacy alert that may ask you to email or call your elected official and demand funding for a specific program, or by taking a step in your own life, like registering to vote. Relatedly, another form of advocacy, for those who have lived experience – maybe you have experienced homelessness or have been incarcerated, and were served by LMM – is to tell your story. This may be by writing a blog post or by participating in a meeting with an elected official. Through this engagement, LMM can affect systems change and work towards providing transformational services while reducing the need for safety net services.

**Questions? Email Margie Glick, Director of Advocacy at [mglick@lutheranmetro.org](mailto:mglick@lutheranmetro.org)**



# 2021

## Resolved to Grow, Resolved to Give

Did you make any resolutions this year? If you did, you're not alone! According to the Statistic Brain Research Institute, about 45% of Americans make resolutions at the start of the year—and only 8% manage to keep them for all twelve months! So, if you've already broken yours, you are in good company. May we suggest a few resolutions that are worth keeping?

A resolution to deeper commitment to our spiritual/community life is one well worth our investment, and one way to do that is to be intentional about your involvement with LMM. Perhaps you can resolve to follow a particular program throughout the year. For example, perhaps you will decide to follow all the email and print articles about Guardianship Services. Maybe you would like to have your congregation pray for the at-risk youth in our Youth Resiliency Services program on a regular basis. Your community group might spend the year learning more about the culinary arts students in our Workforce Development program. The people experiencing homelessness whom LMM shelters or the families with children who have no homes who will be moving into the Breaking New Ground homes could all use your support, prayers and love. Certainly, participating in our advocacy efforts will bring about lasting change and equity for neighbors who struggle in a system that too often shoves them aside. Resolving to invest your loving attention in any of these programs is a spiritual act. It is a way of building up our community and strengthening the network of human care that makes life better for all.

Of course, financial giving is a great way to express your highest commitments. Perhaps you are in a position to consider a monthly recurring gift to a specific LMM program or to the area of greatest need. Your congregation or club might consider making a year-long contribution to a program.

Whatever you resolve to do this year—be it quitting smoking, or losing weight, or watching less Netflix, or whatever you decide, I hope one of your resolutions will be to grow in love for God's "Beloved Community" of those who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting. If we can help you find a way to do that, please contact Director of Development, Kate Maver, at [kmaver@lutheranmetro.org](mailto:kmaver@lutheranmetro.org).



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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



@LMMCleveland



@LMMCleveland



Facebook.com/LMMCleveland



YouTube.com



E-newsletter sign-up at  
[www.lutheranmetro.org](http://www.lutheranmetro.org)



Latest news at  
[www.lutheranmetro.org](http://www.lutheranmetro.org)

## 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 Resiliency Services**  
216.696.0370

**Guardianship**  
216.696.1132

To add, delete or change your address, contact 216.696.1882 or [mail@lutheranmetro.org](mailto:mail@lutheranmetro.org).

## In Memoriam

Each year, 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 received services from the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside and those who were under the care of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Adult Support & Advocacy guardians. It has been an exceptionally difficult year for our guardians' wards in long-term care facilities, where the pandemic has left its mark on the vulnerable population, despite best efforts of heroic health care workers.

Please visit [lutheranmetro.org](http://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.

