



seeds of change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

2021 Volume XXVII, Issue 4

Your Voice. Your Vote.

It's time to vote (again)! In just a few days, Cleveland residents will select the next mayor, sparking a new day in Cleveland leadership. Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry has followed this election closely, as the outcome will have a significant impact on LMM staff and program participants.

As Cleveland residents prepare to elect the next leader of Cleveland, we want to provide you with five actions to take before you vote.



MAKE A PLAN:

To make sure you don't miss your chance to vote, we strongly urge all registered voters to make a firm plan to vote. That means committing to vote early in person, voting by mail, or voting on election day (November 2nd) at your designated polling location. Of these options, we strongly recommend either early in person at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, or by mail. This reduces the chance that a last-minute emergency keeps you from the polls.

SECURE TRANSPORTATION:

Don't let transportation get in the way of you making it to the polls! VoterCLE is a nonprofit that provides rides to the polls for Cleveland residents. Call 216-294-4261 to secure a free ride to the polls. LMM's Men's Shelter at 2100 will also provide rides to the polls for residents.

GET SMART:

This election is too important to be under-informed. LMM recommends voters re-watch the August Mayoral Forum on Housing and Homelessness hosted by LMM and then watch the October Cleveland Mayoral Candidate Forum on Housing and Urban Development hosted by Cleveland State University. Voters can also visit Justin Bibb and Kevin Kelley's websites to see where they stand on the issues that matter most to you.

URGE THE CANDIDATES TO PROTECT RENTER RIGHTS ON DAY 1.

LMM is asking the next mayor of Cleveland to Protect Cleveland Renters on Day 1. This includes introducing legislation that would end Source of Income discrimination and advance Pay-to-Stay protections and establishing a group to develop a comprehensive Renter Bill of Rights. Sign on to this petition to show to the next Mayor of Cleveland that the community supports renter rights!

GET SMARTER, CITY COUNCIL EDITION:

While much focus has been on the Cleveland Mayoral race, it is equally important to be informed about the other elections on the ballot. Specifically, there are several open seats on Cleveland City Council and incumbent challenges that could significantly change the composition of Council. City Council plays a critical role in determining policies related to housing, community development, and policing. It is important your voice be represented in those who serve on this legislative body.

Now that you have taking time to create a plan, confirm transportation, and learn about what is on the ballot, all that is left to do is go vote. We hope you will conduct your civic duty, and be an engaged citizen in Cleveland!

Workforce Development on Wheels

Our new venture, LMM's food truck, is on the road and ready to serve you and your family and friends a variety of delicious culinary concoctions. In the last issue of Seeds of Change, we told you about our new project – Metro45 Mobile Kitchen & Catering. Since then, the truck has undergone a make-over and our menu site has launched. We're ready to roll.

Workforce Development's latest social enterprise initiative will operate as a retail food truck three quarters of the time. The truck is available for events both public and private, such as corporate lunch events, privately catered gatherings, festivals, fairs, breweries, and bars, to name a few. Just last week, the truck pulled out of the LMM parking lot for its maiden voyage on wheels. Our soft opening was a tasting gig and it was a big hit. The sales from the food truck will support the agency's commitment to serving the underserved.

The other 25% of the time, the truck will be used to feed the need as an innovative source of food production and serving. This will allow a new option for congregate meals for our shelter partners. Individuals who are homeless wait in line daily for a meal. By having the option to go up to a food truck now and then, the complimentary meal will also bring with it dignity and a sense of inclusion as the food truck scene booms in Cleveland. For a time, residents will get to do what others are able to regularly do and sometimes take for granted.

We are exploring other ways to serve the community with the mobile catering truck. We're working on how we can use the truck for healthy eating and nutrition in the community in partnership with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

We'll keep you updated on our adventures as they pop up. Catch us at the Taste of the Browns at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on November 14th.

Scan the QR code with your cell phone to visit our website for a mobile menu, and make sure to follow us on social media @Metro45 for the latest locations and specials. For more information or to book Metro45 Mobile Kitchen & Catering, contact our Vice President of Workforce Development, Ian Marks, at imarks@lutheranmetro.org.



The LMM Food Truck is ready to roll!



Scan the code to pull up the Metro45 menu site!

National Guardianship Month

All month long, we've been celebrating National Guardianship Month and honoring our talented, dedicated guardians at LMM. Guardianship Services has provided adult guardianship in Northeast Ohio for more than 30 years. We operate in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties and our legal guardians serve as concerned, caring advocates and surrogate decision-makers for indigent, incompetent adults who cannot care for themselves and have often encountered abuse or exploitation. Many wards have dementia and need family. Our guardians become family.

Guardians look after the emotional, social, financial and physical well-being of these vulnerable adults and advocate for the least restrictive living environment possible. From the moment of court appointment and sometimes for years after, our guardians continually do what is best for the wards, and that usually includes some tough moments such as end-of-life decisions and funeral arrangements.

All of our guardians take pride in their positions and become invested in those they serve. Some of our guardians have been with LMM for more than a decade. We're honored to introduce you to two of them as we celebrate their choices to do one of the most challenging jobs in the social service realm.



Guardian and supervisor
Melanie Haas
with her late
ward, Charles.

MEET MELANIE HAAS

Q: What's the best part of being a guardian over your 16 years at LMM?

A: The best part is the teamwork and comradery of the other guardians. Everyone is always so willing to help one another out. It's also a situation where many people do not understand our job and what it exactly is that we do. So we have a bond and an understanding with each other based on that. Our team is a really great one!

Q: Describe what your position entails when you become a court appointed guardian.

A. When you become a guardian you are responsible for making decisions for those who cannot make decisions for themselves. We do medical, financial, and placement decisions-and so much more. We go above and beyond for our clients because we care that much about them. We work closely with the facility where the client lives, the client's family, and the client to assure we are honoring their wishes as much as we can. Communication is a very important part of being a guardian. We are also on call 24/7 because things happen off hours that we need to be available for. It's not uncommon to get a call in the middle of the night from a hospital with a medical decision that needs to be made.



Karyn Seeger,
Guardianship
Services
Supervisor

MEET KARYN SEEGER

Q: How long have you been a guardian with LMM and why did you select this line of work?

A: I've been a guardian for 16+ years and a supervisor/guardian for about three years. I have a degree in special education and previously worked with persons with disabilities in various ways including as a CNA, Social Security Disability, Hospital Liaison to assist with Medicaid and also an advocate for my adult son who has disabilities.

Q: Guardianship takes a caring individual to advocate on someone's behalf to ensure they have the best quality of life possible. What keeps you working with this vulnerable population?

A: These are people who do not choose their illness, disabilities, needs, etc. and I believe that as human beings, we have an obligation to help those who cannot help themselves.

TO READ THE FULL INTERVIEWS PLEASE VISIT LUTHERANMETRO.ORG

Celebrate the Joy of Being Generous this Giving Season!

The holidays can be a hectic time of the year. Honoring family traditions, buying gifts and planning special occasions is a challenge for many. Add onto that stress an ongoing global pandemic, and you can quickly lose your sense of joy during what should be the most wonderful time of the year. This year, you can foster a renewed sense of joy for your family by creating exciting plans for Giving Season!

LMM is committed to supporting people in our community who are suffering oppression, feel forgotten and who are hurt by difficult life circumstances. We are honored to serve people in Northeast Ohio who are experiencing homelessness, youth in crisis, vulnerable seniors and restored citizens. Your support of our mission is the fuel that keeps our organizational engine going and there are many ways you can strengthen our programs. But we also want you to experience the joy of generosity as you partner with us.

To ease another person's troubles gives you a brief but meaningful moment of pure joy, a sense of hope and an opportunity to forget your own personal challenges. This Giving Season, we encourage you to make the joy of giving fun for your family. Here are a few ways you can bring a renewed sense of purpose and excitement to your holiday traditions.

- **A Friendly Match-Challenge:** Make a charitable contribution to LMM and challenge your family, friends, coworkers or employer to match your commitment. Celebrate with bragging rights, a virtual party or a shout-out on your social media page. Remember to tag @LMMCleveland!
- **Organize a Fundraiser:** Can you organize a small gathering for family and friends, a special project at your place of worship or a donation drive at work? Contact our team and we will gladly work with you to promote LMM and celebrate your efforts to champion our cause.
- **Dress Down Day Fundraisers:** Does your office have a monthly or quarterly "Dress Down Day", "Jeans Day" Fundraiser or Ugly Sweater Competition? Nominate LMM to be the recipient of your next office or company pooled fundraiser.
- **Use the Power of Social Media for Good:** Social media sometimes gets a bad rep. There are many ways you can use your social media pages to raise awareness about issues of concern to you and in our community. Many sites also offer online fundraising tools. Log onto your platform of choice and check out their tools for hosting an online fundraiser this Giving Season.
- **Host a Cook Off for the Shelters:** LMM operates the largest shelter in the state of Ohio at 2100 Lakeside Avenue, the only emergency youth shelter in Cuyahoga County and a family overflow shelter. Life in a shelter setting can be a humbling and difficult time for the people we serve. Offering our shelter residents a delicious and unique meal is often a

reprieve from their pursuit of housing and stability. If you and your family or friends like to cook, LMM would be delighted to receive a donation of prepared food. Due to COVID, we are not able to support the serving of meals at our shelters, but we gladly accept fully prepared entrees, desserts and other items that will give our residents a sense of normalcy and dignity.

Partnering with LMM has never been easier or more important, and we greatly need your support. Our gift acceptance policy allows for donated goods, as well as contributions of cash, stocks, real estate, bequests and planned gifts, grants from your donor advised fund or private foundation. Bring back the joy this holiday season by giving generously to people in Greater Cleveland who need to feel seen, valued and healed.

If you or your financial advisor have any questions about contributions to LMM, please don't hesitate to contact Marcella Brown, Vice President of Development & Communications, at 216.658.7208 or mbrown@lutheranmetro.org. LMM is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, recognized by the IRS. Contributions made to LMM are all or in part tax-deductible.

Amazon Holiday Wish List

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry is requesting in-kind donations to support our various program areas. Many of the individuals we serve are in need of basic, everyday items. Please consider donating. The items listed are guidelines to what our clients are in need of. If you find a less expensive or different brand of one of the items listed that you would prefer to donate, please feel free to do so. Items can be shipped to Connor O'Brien at 4515 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103.

Visit smile.amazon.com and select **Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry** as your preferred organization to donate a percentage of your order to us!



Welcome Home!

As we set out on a \$3.5 million campaign to renovate homes for underserved Clevelanders, we dreamed of 20 units being remodeled and ready for families exiting homelessness to move into. Now, the first two are complete! The houses on Schaefer and Edna are part of the cluster of properties LMM is purchasing in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood as part of the Breaking New Ground Affordable Housing Initiative.

The once run-down single family home on Schaefer has been restored. With the renovation complete, the three bedroom home is prepped, decorated and ready for a family. All that's left is to fire up the coffee pot and turn on the Saturday morning cartoons! Just a few streets away, a spacious duplex on Edna awaits two families. It won't be long before the kids are making snow angels in the yard.

Volunteers have pitched in at the properties with landscaping, painting, designing, decorating and more. While the family selection process is being completed for the finished houses, we are hard at work with other renovations and vetting of potential properties. We're not slowing down anytime soon!

With all 20 families eventually moving in over the next few years, their lived



“Edna House”

experience with homelessness and overcoming the housing barrier will bond them. Being just blocks away from each other, there's a built-in support system. In addition to providing sustainable, permanent housing with affordable rent, we also stand ready to provide supportive LMM services and a Family Stability Fund to help set the family up for success when they move in. Homes such as these are not readily available to individuals who face barriers to housing, often because of prohibitive cost or eviction records. Starting with these move-ins, we are closing that gap. We're looking forward to sharing the stories of our houses as they become homes.

If you'd like to embark on this journey with us, visit lutheranmetro.org.



Before Renovation



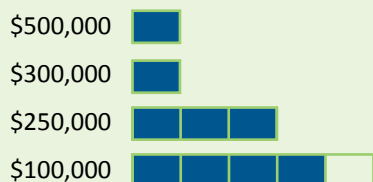
The “Schaefer House” renovation is complete.

Campaign Gifts

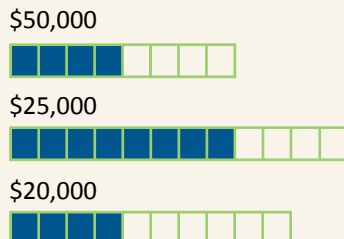
GIFTS NEEDED
GIFTS FILLED

Campaign Total to Date: \$2,965,000
Gap to Goal: \$535,000

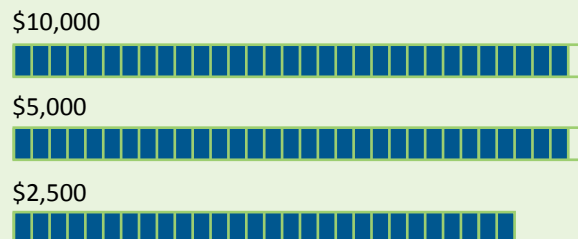
Leadership Gifts



Major Gifts



Special Gifts





lutheran metropolitan ministry
seeds of change
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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.

Contacting LMM

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Health & Wellness Services
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Youth Services
216.696.0370

Guardianship
216.696.1132


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

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