



seeds of change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

2022 Volume XXVIII, Issue 1

Youth Continuum of Care

For youth in northeast Ohio who are homeless, part of the child welfare systems, or are aging out of foster care, they have experienced complex trauma. By recognizing that each youth's past struggles are an integral part of who they are and how they behave, we have created programming committed to being trauma-informed to set the foundation for healing and resiliency. At LMM, we serve our young people who are hurting, displaced or forgotten with our Youth Resiliency Services.



re-sil-ience:
the capacity to
recover quickly
from difficulties;
toughness.



Girls Bathroom at Youth Shelter

Youth Bathroom Renovation Needed

Upkeep at our youth buildings is an essential part of the hospitality, comfort and functionality of the everyday life of young people staying with us in their time of extreme need. Currently, we have a strong need for a renovation of the girls' bathroom at our youth shelter.

The purpose of the emergency youth shelter is to welcome those who are in crisis and meet their immediate needs, including food and hygiene. Having a hot shower in a bathroom that isn't run down would make the brief but meaningful stay at the shelter a more comfortable one at a very difficult

time for the youth. The boys' bathroom has been renovated, but funding for the girls' restroom is still needed. The area needs a complete overhaul, including shower floors and stalls, fixtures and flooring.

The cost of the youth shelter renovation is approximately \$35,000 and we'd appreciate any size donation to this project. If interested, please contact Marcella Brown, Vice President of Development & Communications, at mbrown@lutheranmetro.org or 216.658.7208.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CONTINUUM:

LMM offers Pre-Independent and Semi-Independent Living for transition age youth 16 to 21 years old who require skills to live independently prior to exiting the foster care system.

YOUTH SHELTER:

LMM's Youth Shelter is the only emergency shelter for children in Cuyahoga County, licensed by the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, and is available 24 hours, seven days a week, 365 days per year for the admission of youth in crisis between the ages of 13 and 17.



WHAT'S ON DECK AT LMM FOR 2022?

A youth drop-in center! We can't wait to share more details with you!

2022 Advocacy Priorities

End homelessness. Reform the criminal justice system. Advance Racial Equity.

Each year, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Advocacy Department releases an advocacy mission and vision, and priority agenda. These documents guide the work of the advocacy department. Final approval comes after review by the Staff Advocacy Committee, the Board Advocacy Committee, and approval by the LMM Board of Directors.

After a thorough review and preparation for 2022, it was determined that the advocacy mission and vision will continue to work to end homelessness; help to lessen individual's involvement in the criminal justice system, and if not possible, ease the reentry process for those returning from incarceration; aid vulnerable adults who need support; and address racial inequities in our community. These goals, while ambitious, push LMM to fight for the community that we want to see and that all individuals, regardless of past actions, deserve.

In contrast, following numerous conversations, we did simplify the 2022 advocacy priorities to have three overarching policy goals rather than four. Specifically, our work to affect policy change at the local, state and federal level will focus on ending homelessness, reforming the criminal justice system, and advancing racial equity. The advocacy priorities previously under the header 'health and wellness' are now integrated under the other priority areas. This reflects the reality that much of LMM's health and wellness work is in close partnership with LMM's other programs, and therefore the advocacy pertaining to it should as well. Finally, for the first time, LMM integrated language related to environmental justice in its advocacy priorities which reflects a deeper understanding of how the environment impacts one's ability to live safely and healthily.

These documents, which were approved by LMM's Board of Directors on December 9th, 2021, help to ensure LMM's advocacy work stays on task in the upcoming year, and avoids mission creep into other worthy causes. As effective advocacy is focused advocacy, we are committed to working with laser focus to advance the goals listed in these documents.

You can read LMM's 2022 Advocacy Vision, Mission and Priorities in full on the advocacy webpage:
www.lutheranmetro.org/advocacy/



Department of Justice Grant to Support Expansion of C4C

The United States is the world's leader in incarceration. Ohio houses nearly 45,000 individuals who recidivate at a rate of over 35%. Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry is committed to ending recidivism for incarcerated individuals in Ohio through the expansion of workforce development programming. Research shows that employment opportunities have a significant and positive impact on reducing the number of individuals who return to incarceration. Now, a grant of \$900,000 from the Department of Justice will allow LMM to expand reentry programming for people who are incarcerated and in need of job training and wraparound services.

LMM's Chopping for Change (C4C) program has a less than four percent recidivism rate. It's a nationally recognized program, which began in 2016, and is a partnership between LMM, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry. Women incarcerated at the North East Reintegration Center in Cleveland come to LMM five days a week and engage in a comprehensive program which includes counseling, support services and culinary arts training.

The federal grant money comes from the Second Chance Act Adult Reentry Education, Employment, Treatment and Recovery Program. The game-changing funding will allow LMM to put a dream into action by scaling up the program. People who are incarcerated in the men's prison in Grafton, which is in Lorain County, will now have the opportunity to engage in programs and services that will enable them to

return home equipped with valuable personal and professional skills, position them for successful entry into the workforce, and empower them to avoid recidivism.

Focusing on completion, placement, licensure, and reduced recidivism, there will be a lasting and profound impact on participants returning to society by providing viable and sustainable pathways to rehabilitation. Completion will directly connect to formalized educational outcomes including certificates, diplomas and degrees. Placement translates directly to sustainable living wage employment. Licensure provides a third-party validation of the scope and value of services. Finally, recidivism is the essential outcome to dramatically underscore the power of quality therapeutic and vocational programming to influence future behaviors to a higher percentage of positive outcomes. We look forward to sharing this journey with you in the near future!





A Win-Win: Create a Tax-Advantageous Plan to Support LMM This Year

Charitable donations by check or cash are the most common ways people give to community organizations. Did you know that there are also a few tax advantageous ways to support social service providers like Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM)? Here are a few strategies to consider for making charitable contributions that can help you make the most of your giving this year.

- **Establish a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)**

A DAF is a charitable giving vehicle sponsored by a public charity, that allows you to make a charitable contribution to a public charity, receive an immediate tax deduction, then recommend grants over time to nonprofit organizations from the fund. Many community foundations and financial institutions can set up a DAF on your behalf.

- **Donate from Your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)**

Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA: If you are 70 1/5 years old and have an IRA, consider a QCD. This distribution allows you to give to your charity of choice by withdrawing funds from your IRA without any tax consequences.

If you are over age 72, a QCD can also be used to fulfill your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA as well.

- **Long-Term Appreciated Securities**

Consider contributing stocks, bonds or mutual funds that have appreciated over time. Better yet, if you have held the security for more than one year you can claim the fair market value as an itemized deduction, and avoid paying capital gains tax.

Before proceeding with the suggested giving strategies, please consult your legal, tax or financial advisor(s). These opportunities to support LMM will go a long way in meeting your charitable giving goals, be of benefit to your tax liabilities, and help LMM to meet the needs of people in our community who are oppressed, hurting and feel forgotten.

Make LMM part of your New Year's Resolution!

Whether you're an avid LMM supporter or just getting to know us, there are ways to engage that will make a difference in 2022. New Year's resolutions can be tough to keep, but not this one! Giving back in various ways will uplift your soul and change the lives of those we serve.

ADVOCATE

LMM's advocacy work informs systems change at the local, state and federal level. By leveraging staff expertise and the lived experiences of participants, we are able to advocate and provide transformational services, but it doesn't stop there. We need YOU to help us empower the hurting so that they can be empowered, valued and healed.

Sign up for ways to get involved in real time, with details on what's new and what you can do.

Advocacy alerts and e-newsletters for the latest at LMM



lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/c8BYfQT

Advocacy in Action Newsletters



www.lutheranmetro.org/publications/newsletter/

VOLUNTEER

While COVID-19 has temporarily changed the way we volunteer, there are still safe ways to make a difference! Reach out to inquire about volunteering.

Men's Shelter: lbailey@lutheranmetro.org

Guardianship: bstevens@lutheranmetro.org

Workforce Development: mkidd@lutheranmetro.org

Youth Resiliency Services: ismith@lutheranmetro.org

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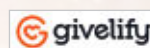
GIVE

Your gifts are a crucial part of how we keep our work going. Here's how you can give:

Donate online at:



www.lutheranmetro.org/home-page/donate/



Search Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry



Search Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry



Donate > Specify Your Gift > Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry

Mail a check using the enclosed envelope.

Host a fundraiser.

To learn about hosting a fundraiser in support of LMM, please contact Marcella Brown, Vice President of Development & Communications, at mbrown@lutheranmetro.org or 216.658.7208.





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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

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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.

In Memoriam

Each year, we recognize and respectfully share a list of the 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 LMM'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 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.

