

breaking new ground

Building LMM's next 50 years

June 2022

lutheran metropolitan ministry

Want to stay involved?

We will be putting out calls for in-kind donations and volunteers in the coming months as projects arise at the homes.



Goal Exceeded!

In 2019, LMM officially launched *Breaking New Ground: Building LMM's Next 50 Years*. We set out on a journey to raise \$3.5 million, and we made a promise: to be the landlord we wish to see. That we would advance existing efforts to end family homelessness in Cleveland by restoring hope and homes for our city's most underserved. We have exceeded our financial goal by \$745,000! Our grand total raised is \$4,245,000, thanks to you! Now we can focus on fulfilling our promise!

"I am thrilled at the success of the BNG campaign and appreciate the leadership and generosity of the LMM Board and the outpouring of support from individuals, churches, foundations, and corporations," expresses Michael Sering, Vice President of Housing & Shelter.

"This campaign originated with an anonymous \$300k gift for Housing & Shelter, and I am excited for what that has become – a fully funded \$3.5 million initiative, the signature element of LMM's 50th anniversary, creation of a unique housing stability fund, and we are on our way to the remainder of the 20 families moving from shelter to housing."

The \$4.2 million in funds raised will help to both directly remodel the homes and to sustain the project through a Family Stability Fund. So far, three families have left homelessness behind and moved into their BNG homes. We continue to purchase and renovate houses in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood, with several being ready for move in by fall.

"The partnerships and support have been critical, uplifting, and inspirational," says Sering. "On behalf of the families who are now in beautiful, affordable housing, I thank everyone who helped make this happen."

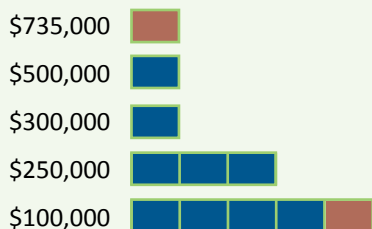
THANK YOU!

Campaign Gifts

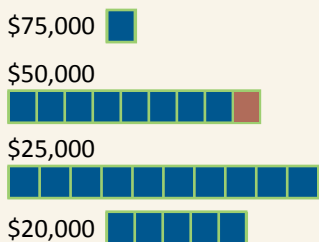
GIFTS NEEDED
 GIFTS FILLED
 ADDITIONAL GIFTS

Campaign Total to Date: \$4,245,000
 Gap to Goal: -\$745,000

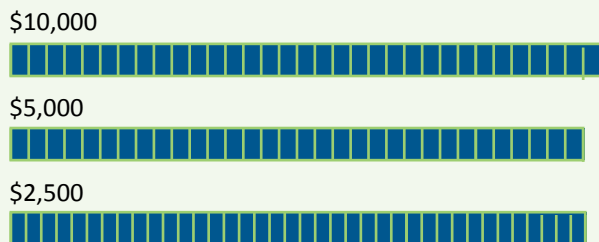
Leadership Gifts



Major Gifts



Special Gifts



Looking In

LMM staff have the pleasure of welcoming the Breaking New Ground families home. Here's James Walker's encounter, as told by shelter staff member Lydia Bailey.

We heard good news on a staff call today, which made us all pause and take note. James Walker, then- Projects Coordinator with Housing & Shelter, gave us an account of a family moving into one of the Breaking New Ground homes.

James reports, "We moved a family into one of the properties: a mother and three children. When I opened the front door, the youngest child, age five, was there, wide-eyed with a big smile. She greeted me before I could even greet her. All of the children were very excited. I welcomed them. One of them asked if she could go upstairs. I said, 'This is your home. You can do whatever you like.' In that moment, I could see the family processing the whole idea of 'this is my home.'"

"Next came this huge excitement and they started running all over the house," James continues. "The kids were running upstairs to check out the bedrooms and start claiming spaces, like kids do. The oldest child, 12, was just sitting in the space she recognized as her own...real quiet, just taking the moment

in. I spoke to her like I did all of the kids, but she was more reserved. She nodded as she smiled, very subtly. That's all she did was smile, and didn't say much. It was very powerful."

"The five-year-old really got me; reminded me of my own grand-daughter who will be eight. They're so similar, energetic and ebullient; very strong characters. Her mother wouldn't let her do certain things and the child would come back with 'I'm going to do it.'"

At this point James is laughing hard and I look around at everyone on the staff call. We are all laughing.

James continues, "Both the younger girl and the 10-year-old son were fascinated by the faucets in the kitchen and the bathroom. The fixtures allow the stream of water to be adjusted and directed. The young girl was trying to get her mother's attention and then she was trying to get my attention. But I was doing a walkthrough, a checklist process with the mother. The little girl kept calling us to

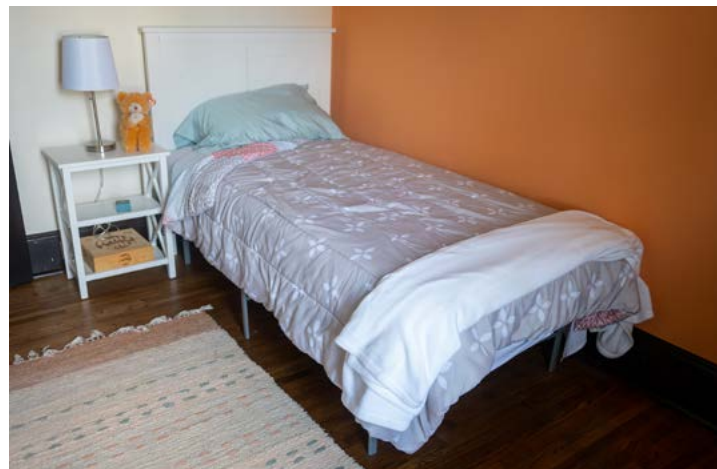


Front Porch

LOOK! Those faucets were fascinating for the kids, magnifying just how significant little things can be."

James chokes up slightly and says, "It's really a privilege to be witness to this...it just is. Here is a family who now has a home. They have their space and they are really feeling it."

Speaking for all of us, James concludes, "It's one of those experiences that we work for, and when we have that moment, it behooves us to just take the time and process it. I'll be processing this one for a while."



Child's bedroom



Kitchen