



SPECIAL EDITION

seeds of change

Announcing Affordable Housing Initiative in LMM's 50th Year

LMM to Move Families Out of Homelessness, Into Affordable Housing

As an agency, we stand where great needs meet bold solutions. Right now in Cleveland, a great need is affordable housing, and a bold solution is the way we plan to end homelessness for some local families.

At LMM, we work hard to identify with the experiences of the most vulnerable among us, including those who are experiencing homelessness. We don't shy away from challenges, but rather embrace the need for change by creating cutting edge solutions to empower those who seek to become independent.

There remains an undeniable need for affordable housing, the lack of which is the leading cause of homelessness in the nation. Our friends at the United Way of Greater Cleveland

have identified safe, affordable housing as the number one need in Cleveland. At LMM, we see this need every day with individuals who have barriers that make it more difficult to find housing. Currently, people with vouchers are denied housing 91.2% of the time. When compared to the 757 families who sought homeless services in Cuyahoga County in 2018, the number of affordable housing units available isn't adding up for families seeking a stable environment. After careful study and thorough planning, we're ready to take the lead with a bold new initiative. We're moving into the housing market and providing a solution.

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VISION

LMM is announcing a 50th Anniversary Campaign - **Breaking New Ground: Building LMM's Next 50 Years** – an exciting initiative that celebrates our impact and marks our readiness to leap boldly into the next phase as a transformative service provider in the community. This **\$3.5 million dollar** campaign will allow us to provide client-focused housing that is affordable, with a model that is sustainable.

LMM will create an innovative rental model for underserved Clevelanders by purchasing and renovating up to 20 homes in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood and rent them out at affordable rates to families coming out of homelessness. The most obvious barrier to sustainable, permanent housing is prohibitive cost. We'll close the critical gap between voucher-eligible would-be renters and homes that would otherwise be unavailable to them. Our vision means that families in Northeast Ohio will have an affordable and stable place to call home, and a strong foundation for them to thrive.

“There is a great need for affordable housing options for women and children in Cleveland. Through this initiative, LMM has the opportunity to positively impact families who will benefit greatly while, at the same time, create stronger communities through neighborhood stabilization. This is an exciting project, and LMM is needed in this space.”

– Joel Ratner, CEO
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

What Will Housing Initiative Mean to Families Staying in Shelters?

LMM is well positioned to help referred families end their homelessness by making the transition to independent living in safe, affordable permanent housing. Our experience in operating a family overflow shelter in Cleveland, called Haven Home, allows us to cross paths with many families in need of housing. Some of the families finding out about LMM's affordable housing initiatives are expressing hope for the future, knowing a change will be made in Northeast Ohio.

“My daughter is my joy. With her, it's been rough to be homeless,” says Christina, mother to a five-month-old baby girl. “I try to stay positive because if I don't, I will fall apart. The way I grew up wasn't a good environment; I want things to be better for her.”

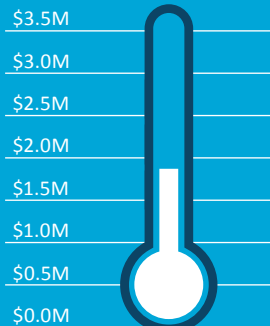
Christina has had her fair share of troubles with landlords due to unsafe living conditions. She says catching a break with a good landlord in a safe home can make all the difference for a family. “This time, I am going to try to be smarter and choose my landlords more wisely. I'd like to build up my credit and eventually buy my own house so I don't have to experience a landlord like that again.”

Families like Christina's will be in a referral stream to move into LMM's housing and gain the stability they seek. This means families can stay in one place and children can attend the same schools year after year.

How Can I Help?

Visit lutheranmetro.org and give to “Breaking New Ground” on the **DONATE** page. Your gift will help build and sustain these homes for years to come.

\$3.5 Million Goal



\$1.8 Million Raised

Leadership Gifts

\$500,000 Grant Awarded

The George Gund Foundation

LMM is delighted to announce that The George Gund Foundation is supporting *Breaking New Ground* with a generous grant to help make the affordable housing campaign a success. This substantial grant is helping LMM with the acquisition and renovation of homes, as well as other costs associated with the project. Gund's long-time support of LMM indicates that we're a trusted provider of a full range of wraparound services, and they're ready to step into this necessary and new territory with us.

"We know that access to safe, affordable housing lies at the heart of developing thriving neighborhoods and stable families," noted Marcia Egbert, Senior Program Officer at The George Gund Foundation. "LMM has a powerful commitment to providing shelter to the most vulnerable and The Gund Foundation is privileged to help LMM take its next big leap in that commitment through the Breaking New Ground project."

The Foundation lists the substantial housing grant under their Human Services category for meeting basic needs. Together, we are impacting our community by declaring housing as a

necessity, not a luxury. With The Gund Foundation joining LMM on the journey to safe, affordable housing for families who are homeless, we are pleased to have such good company aligning with our agency's dedication to a greener, as well as a more affordable, community. "We are profoundly grateful to Gund for their generosity and visionary support for our initiative in converting housing stock into affordable homes," says Andrew D. Genszler, LMM President & CEO. "Featuring lead-safe and green building practices, we are especially excited that this project furthers Gund's commitment to sustainability for our community."

Families make up one third of homeless Ohioans.



The Cleveland Metropolitan School District reports that 2,483 students are homeless, including 1,258 children under the age of 10.

\$100,000 Committed

The Cleveland Browns "Browns House"

Thanks to our hometown football team and their commitment to community, the Cleveland Browns organization has committed up to \$100,000 to fund the rehabilitation of a home as part of the Breaking New Ground housing initiative! The Browns House will be among the first of up to 20 homes to be purchased and rehabbed in the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood.

"Having the support of the Cleveland Browns in this venture really solidifies that this exciting next step for LMM is also a much-needed step for our community," says Andrew Genszler, President & CEO of LMM. "While others punt the issue, the Browns see the need and have a passion for reentry-based projects," adds Genszler. "We're excited to announce the Browns House will provide stability to families impacted by the criminal justice system and other barriers who find it hard to locate stable, affordable housing. This is a win-win for the families and the Browns."

The 45-year history LMM has in serving returning citizens helped to seal the deal for the Browns. Members of the front office recently attended a Chopping for Change graduation ceremony, where they saw the children of women who are currently incarcerated witness their mothers graduate the

culinary program at LMM. Since individuals who are leaving prison are considered to be homeless, Chopping for Change graduates will be eligible to live in the Browns House with their children.

"On behalf of our players and our entire organization, we are thrilled to support Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's new housing initiative that assists citizens in the process of reentry find stable and affordable housing," said Peter John-Baptiste, SVP of Communications for the Cleveland Browns. "As part of our collective commitment to work on Social Justice causes, reducing recidivism rates is an important effort for a population that often has a difficult time getting back on their feet to become contributing members of society. LMM has a long history of success working in this area and we are honored to partner and make an impact on this critical project."





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seeds of change
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1969-2019 THE TIME IS NOW

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry is in its 50th Anniversary year, and with a milestone moment comes a game-changing announcement.

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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.

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

SAVE *the* DATE



lutheran
metropolitan
ministry

50th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 5

At League Park in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood, where LMM began.

