



seeds of change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

Spring 2016 Volume XXIII, Issue 1

Two Partners in Service for the Common Good

John Carroll University (JCU) takes seriously the golden rule. With hundreds of service opportunities around Cleveland, treating their neighbors as they would like to be treated is second nature to the many students participating in JCU's Center for Service and Social Action. JCU collaborates with more than 75 community partners in the Cleveland area and LMM is proud to be one of those partners.

Sister Katherine Feely, SND, is the Director of JCU's Center for Service and Social Action. According to Feely, "The goal of the Center is to prepare students for lifelong learning and to develop the whole student – intellectually, morally and spiritually. We work to cultivate responsible citizens who are sensitive to the needs of the world, who understand the dimensions of human experience."

JCU students first began serving with LMM in 2012. It began with the simple act of serving the evening meal at LMM's Men's Shelter



John Carroll student helps participant in LMM's Workforce Development program.

at 2100 Lakeside about once a month. This experience was so rewarding that students began coming in teams on Saturdays to play board games with residents at the men's shelter.

Soon after, JCU students started attending the current events discussion group at the men's shelter, moderated by Judge Christine McMonagle, now retired from Ohio's Court of Common Pleas.

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Grace Lutheran Church in Cleveland Heights

Closing the Doors but Living On: Church Funds Future of LMM

Amongst many congregations that have been important to LMM's mission outreach over the years since LMM started in 1969, there is one Lutheran church in particular that has been critical. Grace Lutheran Church and Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry share a long and intertwined history with leaders across both groups whose faith called them to serve.

Over the years, countless Grace Church members have joined the ranks of LMM volunteers, employees, and board members. It began with LMM's late founding executive director Richard Sering and his wife Susie calling Grace

Church their home congregation. According to Carrie Coblenz, President of Grace Church until its closing in November 2015, "Several Grace members were involved in the early

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formation of LMM and many other members of Grace were involved in LMM's ministry. It is thanks to those individuals who worked tirelessly for social justice that helped to keep LMM alive and in the hearts of the congregation."

George Hrbek, who served as interim pastor at Grace Church until the closing, also served as the interim executive director of LMM after the passing of Richard Sering in 2003. Rev. Mark Brauer, VP of Youth Services at LMM who has been with the agency since 1979, was also a longtime member of Grace Church and served as a Mission Team leader at one point. "The congregation was supportive with both volunteers and funds and regularly welcomed presentations on our work from staff and program participants alike," said Brauer.

Linda Proffitt, Grace Church member for 30 years, also served as the LMM Board Chair from 1988 to 1990 and program director for Adult Guardianship Services from 2000 to 2009. Proffitt recalled the Hough area upheavals in the late 1960s and said, "Churches and social service agencies alike were trying to figure out their place in the community. It was in that time that I met Richard Sering at Grace Church, and saw that he was really working to make a profound difference in the wake of all the unrest."

Sunday, November 22, 2015 saw the last worship service at Grace Lutheran Church. However the congregation will continue its rich history of having a positive impact on the Cleveland community for years to come through the Grace Endowment Fund, set up with the Cleveland Foundation.

"We chose to invest our assets with the Cleveland Foundation, and create a legacy supporting what we valued as a



Former Grace Church members (left to right) Candi Hazelwood, Linda Proffitt and Carrie Coblenz at an LMM event

congregation," said Coblenz. "Because LMM has always been in the hearts and minds of the congregation, it seemed like an easy decision for us to choose them as a beneficiary of our endowment fund. We went through a very intentional process, including conversations where members were asked to indicate organizations they wanted to support. After several rounds of voting, LMM emerged as our number one choice!"

On an annual basis, one-third of the fund distribution will go to LMM, one-third will go to the Northeast Ohio Synod of the ELCA, and one-third will be available to community service organizations in Northeast Ohio. LMM is extremely grateful and honored to be receiving ongoing support through this fund. Additional individual or corporate contributions can be made at any time to the Grace Lutheran Church of Cleveland Heights, Ohio Fund with the Cleveland Foundation.

Be the Voice. Make A Difference.

The average American life span increases every year, which can mean that more people are outliving their spouses, friends and even their children. There are thousands of Ohioans who are unable to advocate or make decisions for themselves due to age-related dementia or other causes, such as mental illness. You could become a trained volunteer guardian and help someone in your own community to maintain their dignity and receive the support they need.

Adult Guardianship Services in Cuyahoga County and Volunteer Guardianship Program in Lorain County match volunteer guardians with people who need advocates to protect their interests and make appropriate decisions about their care. Volunteer guardians can often fit the work into their own schedule; the time commitment is approximately one to four hours each month. If you are interested in volunteering in Cuyahoga County as a Guardian, Friendly Visitor or Volunteer

Attorney contact Jude Troha, Program Director, at 216-696-1132 X 137 or jtroha@lutheranmetro.org. To volunteer in Lorain County, contact Cassandra Shella, Program Director, at 440-934-3613 or cshella@lutheranmetro.org, or visit our website at www.lutheranmetro.org. Be the Voice. Make a Difference. Become a Volunteer Guardian.

We respectfully remember the Volunteer Guardianship Program clients who passed away in 2015:

Karen Mason
Michael Stephens
Ronald Bartok
Penny Himmamen
Bartolo Diaz Flores
Valerie Mosley

John Brady
James Dolfi
Leona Huber
William Ness
Peter Western
Allan Obbey

LMM and HandsOn Northeast Ohio Stand Up for People Otherwise Forgotten

On January 23rd, a 25-year tradition in Cleveland continued when nearly 1,700 people gathered downtown at the Public Auditorium for a very special event. These guests enjoyed a meal while they also received haircuts, medical services, cancer screenings and professional portraits. Most of the guests received new winter clothing and 38 people were able to address legal cases through a partnership with the City of Cleveland Municipal Court. The guests at the event included 328 veterans and over 100 children. All of the attendees were homeless.

The Homeless Stand Down, organized by HandsOn Northeast Ohio, provides homeless individuals and families a day of respite from the elements, renewal of the human spirit, and reconnection to needed services that assist in the totality of human wellness.

According to HandsOn NEO Executive Director Jeff Griffiths, LMM is one of the essential partners in the execution of the Homeless Stand Down. "In addition to their expertise in the field of homelessness, LMM's team helps to transport guests from 2100 Lakeside to the event and staff members from 2100 Lakeside have helped to establish a strong value of being your brother's keeper as well as instilling a responsibility to pay your civic rent," said Griffiths. "These values, as well as the ability of volunteers from the shelter to relate to other guests on that day, help create the dignity-affirming experience which is the centerpiece of the Homeless Stand Down."

LMM helps to support the Homeless Stand Down by recruiting current and former residents of the men's shelter that volunteer their time to set up the day before the event and also provide organization during the event.

Mike Sering, LMM's Vice President of Housing & Shelter, explained how important the event is to the homeless community here in Cleveland. "It is a great event that LMM is honored to be a part of," said Sering. "It lets the guests come and have a relaxing day that honors them as people and that is all about them for a change."



An individual receiving medical services during the Homeless Stand Down.

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Pastor Bob Springer, who volunteers with the current events group, said "There was a conversation between a JCU student and a resident who had completed several tours in the military regarding another American engagement overseas. It was one of the best conversations between two generations that I have ever had the privilege of hearing."

LMM's Workforce Development program welcomed JCU volunteers in early 2015. Each Wednesday, a group of students came to lend their computer savvy skills to clients who were searching for and applying to online job postings. One student, Robert Exler, was able to utilize skills he learned in the classroom and had the opportunity to have a life-changing impact with the individuals who need it most.

According to Exler, "I met a woman who you could tell had this passion to change her life. The staff were able to find her a secretarial position at a law firm near her home to apply for, but she had never worked in an office environment before. Along with another JCU student, we helped her write a resume, a cover letter and then prepare for a professional interview. Two weeks later, she stopped showing up to LMM and we learned it was because she had earned the position and was working full time. That confirmed for all of us that the time and effort we were putting in at LMM was truly making a difference in the Greater Cleveland community."

LMM's ties with JCU were strengthened in the fall of 2015 when Bryan Mauk, LMM's Director of Social Enterprise and John Carroll graduate, became an adjunct professor. His class, "Social Entrepreneurialism," aims to introduce the meaning and importance of social entrepreneurship in the modern economy and demonstrate how a focus on entrepreneurship can assist nonprofits in attaining their social objectives.

At the same time, Dr. Penny Harris, who teaches a class on poverty and social justice at JCU, saw an opportunity to explore the non-profit organizations combating poverty in Cleveland. In late 2015, she and her class began visiting LMM, focusing on a new service area each week with students gaining in-depth knowledge of LMM's role in the community. When students were presented with the opportunity to select one of the agencies they visited to study and make a contribution towards, they chose LMM. The students conducted research, collected data and submitted written recommendations on how to improve programming within LMM's Next Step and After School Prevention Resources programs.

"We are so grateful that the students are a part of the work that LMM does," said Feely. "We really value this partnership because the work LMM does is so needed, so well and meaningfully done. And now, LMM has become one of the Center's strongest partnerships."



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.

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Latest news at www.lutheranmetro.org

Contacting LMM

LMM Main Offices, 216.696.2715

- Development & Communications, 216.696.1724
- Office of Advocacy, 216.658.7210

Behavioral Health Services

- Lutheran Family Services, 216.281.2500

Community Re-Entry, 216.696.2717

- Care Teams, 216.696.2717
- Comprehensive Case Management Services, 216.696.2717
- Friend-to-Friend, 216.861.1838
- Women's Re-Entry Network, 216.696.7535
- Young African American Reclamation Project, Jr., 216.623.0138

Guardianship Programs, 216.696.1132

- Adult Guardianship Services, 216.696.1132
- Volunteer Guardianship Program of Lorain County, 440.934.3613

Housing & Shelter

- Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside, 216.566.0047

Social Enterprise, 216.658.4608

Youth Services, 216.696.0370

- After School Prevention Resources, 216.651.6841
- Next Step—shelter care, 216.941.0062
- Next Step—semi-independent living, 216.221.8920

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

LMM's savor 2016 promises to be a fantastic evening with more than 15 food stations, great entertainment and the chance to learn about the impact of the agency, all with the company of friends. While tickets to the event have sold out, it's not too late to purchase a raffle ticket to win one of three great prizes:

savor the vacation: one week stay at luxury resort in Mexico & \$250 for travel expenses. Choose between Puerto Vallarta or Riviera Maya. 1 bedroom/1 bathroom studio with kitchen can sleep up to 4 adults/2 children. Travel between January-March 2017, pending availability.

savor the experience: private dinner and cooking lesson at LMM with food and wine package. Enjoy a four-course meal at LMM for 8 guests with wine pairing and private hands-on culinary class. Package includes basket of wines and a 22-week local foods subscription to Fresh Fork Market.

savor the city: a collection of the finest Cleveland attractions & eats. From restaurants to museums, from theater to sports, this package boasts over \$1,000 in top-notch adventures and meals, including hotel stays in the heart of Downtown Cleveland.

To purchase a ticket, go to www.lutheranmetro.org/savor.html or contact Marge Zellmer at mzellmer@lutheranmetro.org. Raffle ticket purchase is not tax deductible. The drawing will be held at the event on April 7 and the winner need not be present.

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savor

