



seeds of change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

Summer 2016 Volume XXIII, Issue 2

LMM and Local Leaders Celebrate Program Launch

County Executive Armond Budish joined Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry and LMM for a ceremony to celebrate the successful pilot launch of Chopping for Change – an innovative new model of pre-release, focused on minimizing challenges that occur with reintegration through culinary training and wrap-around services.

“I feel like sometimes people make the same mistakes because that’s all they know, so if we have the opportunity to learn a trade and learn some tools and even just more about ourselves we’ll be different people when we come back out,” said Taneicia Alexander, a participant in the Chopping for Change program.

The collaborative Chopping for Change program is an effort developed between the Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry, LMM and Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) with additional funding from Wheat Ridge Ministries. The program provides female inmates, set to be released in six to nine months, with training/work experience as well as wrap-around services such as therapeutic/behavioral services to further increase re-entry success.

In addition to representatives from Office of Reentry, Northeast Reintegration Center, and ODRC, including Director, Gary Mohr, attendees at the ceremony included family members of the Chopping for Change honorees and the next class of program participants.

The participants started the program with learning basic food prep by “chopping” and cutting fruits and vegetables in LMM’s Central Kitchen. In an effort to reduce recidivism in a healthy and sustainable way, participants simultaneously addressed challenges that may have led to incarceration through substance abuse and trauma therapy, parenting classes and case management.

“We’re so grateful for the partnership with Cuyahoga County and other funders in bringing this innovative program to life,” said LMM President & CEO Andrew Genszler. “This is just one example

of LMM’s commitment to cutting-edge program development and to creating positive change in our community.”

Chopping for Change participants will now begin six months of culinary training at LMM including developing soft skills in a culinary class and learning hard skills in LMM’s commercial kitchen. In the kitchen, participants will not only develop important job skills they can leverage after incarceration, but will also assist in the production of nearly 2,000 meals per day for area homeless shelters.

Office of Reentry and LMM are gearing up to expand the Chopping for Change program in 2016-2017.



Chopping for Change participant and class speaker, Taneicia Alexander.



ODRC Director, Gary Mohr, and Cuyahoga County Executive, Armond Budish, congratulate the Chopping for Change women and LMM staff.

Men's Shelter Residents Discover Their Artistic Talents

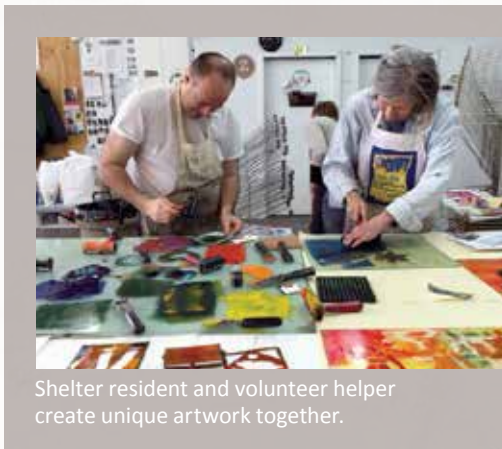
Poets from LMM's Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside recently walked into Zygote Press on E. 30th Street to try a different type of art than the poetic form they're used to creating. Demetrius, Tim, Charles, Ken and David, residents of the shelter, are part of a volunteer-driven poetry workshop called Finding Voice Poetry.

When the men arrived at Zygote, the workspace was filled with bright colored prints and inks, as well as other supplies to make one-of-a-kind pictures. After a brief demonstration from employees, the five poets quickly became print artists, mimicking the techniques of the Zygote staff. With music playing and creativity flowing, they proudly produced some eye-catching pictures.

Charles said he appreciated learning something new and being treated like a "regular" person. Ken would like to volunteer at Zygote and help others learn similar skills.

The finished prints are on display in the shelter's upstairs conference room, which is also home to the Finding Voice Poetry group.

Volunteers continue to be an integral part of the shelter's success. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Lydia Bailey, the shelter's Volunteer Coordinator, at 216.649.7723 or by emailing Lbailey@lutheranmetro.org.



Shelter resident and volunteer helper create unique artwork together.

OUR DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you to the individuals, corporations, and organizations who contributed to the LMM Fund in 2015 and helped us to surpass our goal! Your gifts totaled \$737,860, a 20% increase over the previous year! That support, coupled with our 3,700 volunteers, allowed us to serve 7,971 people in-need in 2015.

Thank you to the following individuals who made a planned gift and are included in the LMM Legacy Society. To learn more, contact Marge Zellmer at mzellmer@lutheranmetro.org or 216.658.7204

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Anonymous (4) | Rudolph Kamm† |
| Louis C. Barbert† | Pastor Don King |
| Nancy Beheim | Bob and Carol Knepel |
| Rev. Sherman Bishop and Deb Yandala | Karl Koepke† |
| Christopher Brandt and Beth Sersig | Arthur† and Lillian Krause |
| Megan and Mark Brauer | Donald G. and Dorothy K. Kuhn |
| Mary E. Bushong | Ann and Jim† Lee |
| Raymond Channock† | Harold Liebet† |
| Hank and Mary† Doll | Patricia Lintala |
| Faye Druckenmiller | Patricia Murphy |
| Michael Fedock† | Curt Nelson |
| John D. Fish | Robert Omsten† |
| Carol Fredrich | J. Ward Pallotta |
| William H. and Nancy J. Gerdes | Joyce "JP" Palmer |
| Dr. William A. Giese† | Edwin Phillips† |
| Helen Gratzert† | Betty Ponevac† |
| Rita Gurnick† | James and Margaret Schroeder |
| Richard and Wanda Hansler | Christine Grever Schuhle |
| Howard Heckert† | Helen Sheehan and Otfried Niedermaier |
| Bernard Hoffmant† | Robert and Margaret Springer |
| Martin and Virginia Huget† | Marie Starket† |
| Cynthia Ishler | Albert Stratmant† |
| Forrest and Glendola Jewell | Clarissa Sutton |
| Karen Jones† | Rev. Rupert and Lottie Uffelmant† |
| Christa L. Just | Walter Witze† |
| Rev. Dr. Christian and Kristine Just | Lois J. Zalent |
| Lillian Kamm† | Margaret Zellmer |

† deceased

Recognizing Advocates for Adults in Guardianship



Carolyn Anderson (left) receives award for volunteerism.



Karmen Jackson (right) presented with The Good Samaritan Award.

Last November, Adult Guardianship Services (AGS) presented the Greg Hoshek Volunteer Guardian Award to Carolyn Anderson. Carolyn has served as the guardian for five women over the past ten years. Carolyn, who has proven to be a great advocate for these individuals, is a devoted caregiver with compassion and excellent communication skills.

AGS also presented The Good Samaritan Award to Karmen Jackson. Karmen, a licensed social worker, serves as the Social Services Director at Cityview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Cleveland. Over the past 21 years, Karmen has provided services to hundreds of AGS clients. She treats all clients with respect and dignity and strives to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Cityview.

Graduates Ready to Take on Working World

On March 30, 2016, 14 people graduated from LMM, many of whom had never in their life participated in a graduation. They decided that hardships will no longer deter them from accomplishing their dreams. To honor them, two separate graduations were rolled into one extraordinary and emotional ceremony.

This special ceremony at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry was held for participants who have excelled and passed courses through the agency's Employment Services and Culinary Arts Training Program. These programs aim to provide education, job skills and placement assistance to individuals experiencing barriers to employment including homelessness and incarceration.

Alejandro Koonce, one of the culinary graduates and a class speaker, began his speech with an emotional sentiment. "I want to say a special thanks to my father," he said, pointing to his hero sitting in the crowd. "He's fighting cancer right now and if you look at him you couldn't even tell. This is the closest he's ever seen me being successful coming out of school!"

The employment services graduates completed training in areas such as resume writing, computer competency, interviewing skills and workplace etiquette. Culinary students were also proud to share the graduation spotlight after six months of hard work. They started their journey in the classroom learning important soft skills as it relates to the labor force then spent three months

learning hands-on skills in the Central Kitchen, cooking meals for some of the county's homeless population.

"I have two interviews tomorrow for possible jobs," Koonce proudly announced to the crowd during the program. Koonce has since landed one of those jobs, and is now working at the new Hilton Cleveland Downtown hotel.

LMM's Chief Operating Officer, Maria Foschia, shared a quote from Maya Angelou. "One isn't necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest." Foschia commended the group for seizing the opportunity for advancement.



Proud graduate of Culinary Arts program shows off her accomplishment.



Alejandro Koonce, culinary graduate, addresses class of peers.

Youth Program on a Roll Thanks to Van Donation



Mark Brauer, Vice President of Youth Services, pictured with new van.

LMM's Next Step program is really moving now with the addition of a new 10-passenger van. The program, which serves youth, ages 12-21, who are homeless or will be exiting the foster care system and have no family support, is using their new 2016 Ford Transit to help improve the lives of young people in a number of ways. They are able to take youth participants to group therapy and medical appointments, help youth move personal belongings to and from apartments and take youth on job interviews, recreation trips and grocery shopping.

Next Step helps youth learn life skills—budgeting, cooking, conflict management — and supports youth in completing high school, going to college, getting job training or securing employment. Individual counseling and drug treatment are available for these youth, many of whom have experienced abuse and neglect.

Thank you to the "Friends and Volunteers of Next Step" and the following donors who supported the project to the tune of \$36,000 —

Anonymous (2)
The Acuity Group
Beverly A. Boey
Church of the Redeemer UCC
Dawn L. Cipollo
Rody J. Costanzo
Susan E. Costanzo
Faith Lutheran Church, Lakewood
David Gerdeman
Merle Gordon
Luana Hadorn
Marianne Henterly
Rhonda/James Planchet
Rockport United Methodist Women
Gretchen Swasey
Audray Wiesen
Arthur T. Young
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and Sunday School, Valley City



lutheran metropolitan ministry
seeds of change
4515 superior avenue
cleveland, ohio 44103

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit No. 3849

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



@LMMCleveland



Facebook.com



Youtube.com



E-newsletter sign-up at
www.lutheranmetro.org



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.



Friday, October 21st • 4-7pm

Happy Hour & Race packet pick-up
Goldhorn Brewery: 1361 East 55th Street
Cleveland, OH 44103

Saturday, October 22nd • 9am

Trek for Teens 1 mile walk and 5k run
LMM's Richard Sering Center
*Post-race marketplace featuring
local foods and music*

Run – \$20 • Happy Hour – \$25 • Both – \$40
Visit lutheranmetro.org for more information

