

breaking new ground

Building LMM's next 50 years

September 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.

Celebrating a Successful Housing Initiative

Housing is a human right, and at LMM, we work tirelessly to help end homelessness for the people we serve in their time of need. After recently exceeding our goal of \$3.5 million by \$745,000, we know how important it is to pause and celebrate the success YOU helped make happen!

On August 4th, we gathered on Bonna Avenue at the Cleveland Browns-sponsored house, which was the first house acquired as part of the BNG campaign, with help from the Cuyahoga Land Bank. Though the house's renovation took longer than others because it was a full remodel, the home's completion came at just the right time, allowing for us to cut the ribbon and walk through the beautiful interior! Our partners at Humble Design fully furnished the home for our families.

Designer Sai Sinbondit and his team, including TRY, worked to reconfigure the duplex to add two bedrooms, totaling three upstairs, and three downstairs (ADA accessible). This allows for two larger families to move in with adequate space. "I think the families will enjoy the big open spaces filled with natural daylight and the nice big kitchen," says Sai. "As a designer, to work on a meaningful project like this, while working with wonderful people and having fun doing it, was a dream."

In addition to the ribbon cutting, we invited the neighborhood for fellowship and a tasty bite to eat from our Metro45 Food Truck. It was wonderful meeting the neighbors and telling them about LMM. Two of the neighbors came by and told us their stories of having once been residents of our Men's Shelter, and how happy they are to welcome and help out the two families moving in.



Community BNG celebration catered by Metro45.



Take a virtual look at the home!

Thanks to those of you who were able to join in the fun, and to all of you who helped make this monumental milestone possible.

There will always be more work to do in the area of housing families exiting homelessness. If you'd like to contribute, there's still time to show your support.



Cleveland Browns House ribbon cutting ceremony.



Walking through the newly renovated home.



Sam checks out the space before the kids move in. He approves!

Leadership in the BNG Neighborhood

Meet the Executive Director of the St. Clair-Superior Development Corporation (SCSDC), where all of our Breaking New Ground (BNG) families will live! Jeremy Taylor is entering year two in this role. He's known as a visionary leader and committed community organizer who resides in the neighborhood he serves.



Gus Frangos, Cuyahoga Land Bank President, and Jeremy Taylor, SCSDC Executive Director, attend the Breaking New Ground celebration.

Q: Why is Saint Clair-Superior (SCS) a great place for a family, including your own?

A: SCS has access to everything in the city of Cleveland including Lake Erie, Downtown and University Circle. There is a lot to explore here.

Q: How will the completion of LMM's Breaking New Ground affordable housing initiative impact the neighborhood?

A: LMM adds to the layering of different types of housing that is needed in the neighborhood. They are a strong community partner and attract volunteers that collaborate on everything from delivering resources to community cleanups. Most importantly, adding to the diversity of and strengthening of our housing stock.

Q: What is the status of the mid-way bike lanes or other biking resources that will benefit BNG families?

A: The Superior MidWay, as I understand it, is fully funded. Right now, we are working with our partners at MidTown, CDC, Campus District, Bike Cleveland, and the City of Cleveland to understand the timeline for construction and most importantly the community engagement strategy for this protected pedestrian infrastructure. Some of the residents who will be impacted the most by the project have limited access to reading English and limited access to the internet, so the strategy needs to be a very intentional and grassroots approach.

Q: What is the MetroPark CHEERS lake project and how will it make a difference for residents?

A: CHEERS in a nutshell was a study to reimagine and enhance the eastern lakefront. The E. 55th and E. 72nd Marinas feed directly into the neighborhood and yet, there is a disconnect between Lake Erie and most of our neighborhood. The study resulted in a plan to connect residents to the lakefront. The community will benefit from being welcomed back to Lake Erie through improved public health, both mental and physical.