



lutheran metropolitan ministry

October is National Guardianship Awareness Month. LMM has provided adult guardianship services in Northeast Ohio for more than 30 years.

Nora's Last Ride

A mutual love of motorcycles has bonded two women together. One, a young legal guardian who enjoys riding for charity in her free time, and the other, an 86 year old who has a spunky side. Dementia isn't taking that from her.

"My dad, he had all these motorcycles. Funny how certain things stick in your mind, but I can't remember a lot of things," says Nora to her LMM guardian, Octavia Maynard.

"She has some of the Alzheimer's symptoms which is why she can't remember everything, but we try to help her out with that. Medically, she's currently with hospice," says Octavia.

LMM provides legal guardians like Octavia to serve as concerned, caring advocates and surrogate decision-makers for adults who cannot care for themselves. "I appreciate all the help. When you don't have relatives, it's not real easy," says Nora.

In addition to looking after the emotional, social, financial and physical well-being of these vulnerable adults, LMM guardians are known for their commitment and often go above and beyond to make their wards feel seen and heard. Octavia has a knack for sensing when one of her wards needs an adventure.

"During my visits, Nora and I talk about the bike runs I go on for charity and she kept mentioning how she loved riding and I made a joke about taking her on a poker run with the Eagle Riders," says Octavia. "She told me she wished she could because that would be something to remember, and from there I took off with the idea and made it happen!"

Octavia wasted no time contacting everyone she needed to in hopes of receiving permission. Nora is completely wheelchair dependent and a lot of coordination would be needed. "So I called all my friends, and the nursing home, and my bosses, and



the doctors and the director of nursing and everybody else and asked if it was okay," she says.

After the plan got the green light and everyone was invested in Nora's motorcycle adventure, the word kept getting passed around. "All my friends from four different riding groups, a local community of riders, came together and helped us find a sidecar driver for her," says Octavia. Two Harley dealerships donated gear for Nora to wear, and Octavia got her the perfect helmet.



Staying Engaged for a Better Cuyahoga County

Did you know that Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry works regularly with five different county offices: the Office of Homeless Services, the Office of Reentry, the Division of Senior & Adult Services, the Division of Children and Family Services and the ADAMHS Board? Through these partnerships, LMM receives significant funding through grants and contracts, referrals of program participants and importantly, technical assistance and thought partnership.

This expansive relationship between Cuyahoga County government and LMM has fostered numerous engagement opportunities related to the County Executive election. In late August, candidates Chris Ronayne (D) and Lee Weingart (R) spent several hours conducting site visits with LMM leadership. Each candidate witnessed the youth services provided at the LMM Youth Shelter, the homeless services provided at the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside and the affordable housing provided through the

Breaking New Ground campaign. The candidates also learned about LMM's Guardianship Services and saw the power of workforce training – and second chances – through Workforce Development's Culinary Training Program and Chopping for Change.

In addition to these half day visits, LMM partnered on three candidate forums in October. Each forum was open to the public and addressed topics important to the agency and community. Two of these forums occurred in LMM's North Church where questions related to health & human services and housing & homelessness were asked, while

the third forum will take place at the LaSalle Theater and address community development.

These engagement opportunities are important as they help ensure the next county leader better understands the challenges facing Cuyahoga County – and the people and organization working to identify and implement solutions. They also provide an opportunity to raise awareness to the systematic issues that lead residents to need safety net services and policies that could lessen that need. LMM values its partnership with the county government and looks forward to working alongside its next leader.



Nora's Last Ride

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Nora couldn't believe it when Octavia asked her to ride. "When I found out? I was real thrilled and excited and happy," she said. "I like that sound, the Harley sounds, you can't beat it!"

Before the ride, the nurses carefully transferred Nora from her wheelchair to the side car, tucking her in for the 15-minute ride. As staff got Nora comfortable and safe, 30 or so riders who had never met Nora rallied around her for her last ride. "Everyone was excited and emotional; I was anxious and excited for her," says Octavia.

Nora transformed during that ride. She was young in mind and body again. "You're just out there in the wind and I just enjoy motorcycle rides very, very much."

Octavia says Nora chatted with her rider and waved. "I rode in front of her and she was just like one of the group, comfortable and happy throughout. After the ride she described it with the most adjectives I've ever heard strung together including marvelous, stupendous, amazing and best day ever. After the ride, many of my riders were brought to tears, everyone loved her."

"I appreciate what you did for me so very, very much. Thank you so much and I really enjoyed everything," Nora expresses.

Has Nora's life changed since meeting Octavia? "It has changed a whole lot and it has changed for the better," she says.

Octavia feels the same about Nora and others in her care. "Our job is unique and every situation requires a unique approach. I love more challenging situations and being able to think outside the box and make a difference to all of my wards. They're like my really big family."

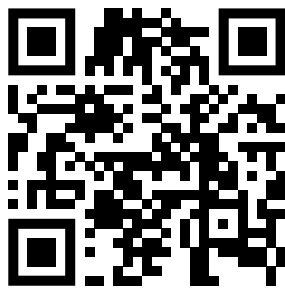
Nora's Last Ride holds a special spot in Octavia's heart. She looks at Nora and says, "I could throw a Harley motor on the back of your wheelchair!" The women laugh.

"Wow. Yeah, I love those Harleys."



Metro45 is booking for holiday events! Whether it's a fun corporate holiday lunch, a family gathering, or a bigger holiday event, book us for delicious seasonal dishes and support the Workforce Development program at the same time. Great food. Better story. Email imarks@lutheranmetro.org or call 216.696.2715.

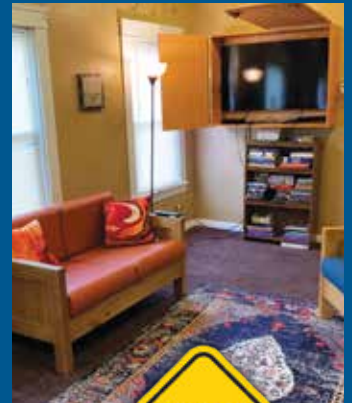




Watch
Nora's
Story

Become a volunteer guardian.

Contact
GSvolunteer@lutheranmetro.org
for details.



A Safe Space for Youth in Crisis

Upgrades at the Youth Shelter Empower Radical Hospitality

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM) is grateful to all of the individuals who donated in support of the Girls Bathroom Renovation Project at our Youth Emergency Shelter this spring. Thanks to you, the project is well underway and includes the following:

- Demolition and disposal of the existing bathroom
- Replacement of flooring, drywall, ceiling
- Updating the plumbing, electrical
- Install new showers, sink and vanity
- Install new mirror, towel racks
- Install new exhaust fan
- Paint and finishes

LMM's Youth Shelter is the only emergency shelter for children in Cuyahoga County, licensed by the Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services (ODJFS). The shelter is available twenty-four hours, seven days a week, 365 days per year for the admission of youth between the ages of 13 and 17.

Upon admission, children are in crisis and the objective is to be as supportive and constructive as possible during their stay. Our

shelter is designed to meet the immediate needs of homeless youth, youth in custody of the child welfare system that require an emergency placement, and planned respite to support non-custodial youth by diverting involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Our commitment to radical hospitality for the youth we serve knows no bounds. This fall, we hope to install new computer equipment in the youth shelter media lab, and exercise equipment in the rec room.

If you would like to support the computer lab and rec room upgrades at our Youth Emergency Shelter, please contact Marcella Brown, Vice President of Development & Communications at mbrown@lutheranmetro.org or 216-658-7208. To learn more about our youth services, contact Lisa Smith, Vice President of Youth Resiliency Services at lsmith@lutheranmetro.org.

Ways to Support LMM This Fall

Give In-Kind through AmazonSmile

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry is requesting in-kind donations to support our various program areas. Many of the individuals we serve are in need of basic, everyday items. The items listed are guidelines to what our clients are in need of. If you find a less expensive or different brand of one of the items listed that you would prefer to donate, please feel free to do so. Items can be shipped to Connor O'Brien at 4515 Superior Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103. Please consider donating by scanning the QR code or visiting smile.amazon.com and selecting Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry as your preferred organization to donate a percentage of your order to us!



Sponsor the Metro45 Food Truck

Metro45 Cafe & Catering, a social enterprise of LMM operated by our Workforce Development program, offers culinary services and job-readiness training for individuals facing barriers to hiring, while providing quality meals to individuals experiencing homelessness. By donating \$600, you can make a difference in the lives of residents at our Men's Shelter by sponsoring the Metro45 food truck to provide a meal to the shelter for a day. For more information, email Ian Marks, VP of Workforce Development, at imarks@lutheranmetro.org. Use the QR code to sponsor the food truck.

Donate Meals to the Men's Shelter

The Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside Ave. serves up to 365 men per night, offering them beds, meals, and additional essential services to find the men safe housing, job security, and more. Want to show your support for this important programming? A great way to get involved is by gathering a group of friends, family, co-workers, or congregation members to donate and serve meals at the Men's Shelter. For more information on how to get involved, reach out to Men's Shelter Coordinator of Volunteers, Lydia Bailey, at lbailey@lutheranmetro.org.



Host a Third Party Fundraiser for LMM

Join in the FUN with a Third PARTY Fundraiser for LMM!

LMM is grateful to the many people, companies, faith-based partners and organizations that support our mission. Third Party Fundraisers are a wonderful way for external partners to engage with our programs and services.

If you are considering a Third Party Fundraiser on behalf of LMM, please consider the following as you begin your planning process.

- Contact LMM's Development Office to discuss your fundraiser
- Select a date and location for the event
- Create a budget
- Set a realistic goal you aim to raise
- Create a marketing plan with your audience in mind
- Start raising funds

LMM recently worked with the family of the late Jody Grebenc, a longtime volunteer at the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside Avenue, on a memorial fundraiser in her honor. This year's event was the second year of the Jody Grebenc Memorial Fundraiser, in support of our shelter. Thanks to the hard work of the Grebenc family, more than \$60,000 was raised in support of the shelter and in Jody's honor. We celebrate the Grebenc family for their amazing efforts to support LMM and a meaningful way to honor Jody's legacy at 2100.

For more information on Third Party Fundraisers, please contact Marcella Brown, Vice President of Development and Communications at mbrown@lutheranmetro.org or 216-658-7208.



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LMM is an organization that's committed to diversity equity and inclusion. We want to honor your prefix preference. Please let us know if you need to change your prefix or prefer not to have one listed. Please send changes to mail@lutheranmetro.org.

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216.658.4627

Housing & Shelter
216.566.0047

Workforce Development
216.658.4608

Health & Wellness Services
216.281.2500

Youth Resiliency Services
216.696.0370

Guardianship
216.696.1132

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

Portraits of Strength

Stories of Redemption



View the new exhibit digitally

To book the exhibit at your location contact Lydia Bailey
lbailey@lutheranmetro.org

