Dear LMM Supporters & Friends:

As we embraced the journey to recovery from a global pandemic and economic instability, we have you to thank for your steadfast support of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry.

In 2021, LMM became a more specialized and community-oriented organization. We assisted our program participants who were struggling to overcome the mental health challenges that resulted from social distancing and the lingering effects of the pandemic. We advanced advocacy for housing assistance, to avoid a tsunami of evictions and a rising tide of homelessness. We offered stability to individuals and families by providing them affordable housing. We provided a safe space and respite for youth who were experiencing homelessness or were housing unstable. We made video visits a fun and less intimidating experience for the wards in our guardianship program. We added distance learning to our workforce training opportunities, to ensure our students did not abandon their academic and professional development goals. Overall, we were champions of resilience!

Resilience proved to be a core value of the mission and programs of LMM in 2021. Your support, partnership and collaborative advocacy with our board, staff and program participants had a significant impact upon our success. As you read this year’s annual report, we encourage you to smile, laugh or shed a few tears of joy, and above all take a deep cleansing breath as we celebrate the power of resilience. Your support of our programs and services was the strength we needed to be resilient in the face of adversity, and the strength our participants needed to heal and be empowered.

Thank you for being a champion of our resilience!

Nicole Braden Lewis
Board Chair

Maria A. Foschia
President & CEO

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2021 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

- Government support $12,403,581
- Fee for service and other $2,285,801
- Charitable contributions $4,227,808

**EXPENSES:**

- Housing & Shelter 28%
- Hotel Hub & Advocacy 49%
- Workforce Development 10%
- Adult Support & Advocacy 7%
- Youth 5%
- Health & Wellness 1%

LMM responded to post-pandemic challenges by being proactive and resourceful.

- 90 cents of every dollar spent is used directly for programs
- RSM US completed our 2020 financial and Uniform Guidance Requirements audits
- Our year end net assets totaled $13,291,734
COMMUNITY IMPACT

From the frontlines, we made a difference in the lives of thousands. More than ever, LMM and the community responded.

3,901 individuals served
672 volunteers engaged

Hazard pay continues for front line staff during COVID
Culinary Training Program job retention rate at 100%
83% of transition age youth attained life skills

Health & Wellness services are integrated 100% with other service areas
33% increase in guardianship appointments

32 Advocacy actions including meetings with elected officials, letters, and alerts

Housing & Shelter operating 12 sites including hotels and homes, the most in the program’s 16-year history

Taking things in stride with grace and positivity, LMM staff and the people we serve showed resilience in the face of societal change.
ADVOCACY

The Office of Advocacy shows resiliency by moving forward on key advocacy related to reentry, homelessness and civic engagement.

ACTIVISM
- LMM partners with members of the Fair Housing Working Group on the Renters Rights Day 1 advocacy campaign to urge the next Mayor of Cleveland to agree to introduce legislation on their first day in office that would create new tenant protections.
- Advocates with the National Low-Income Housing Association & Coalition on Housing and Homelessness to extend the eviction moratorium, increase rental assistance, and increase funding for homeless services.
- LMM met virtually with members of Congress and the General Assembly to share why these topics were important to the agency’s work.

CONVENING
- LMM hosts the inaugural Charles R. See Forum on Reentry in partnership with the City Club of Cleveland forum titled From Incarceration to Advocacy: A New Approach to Criminal Justice Reform.
- Office of Advocacy onboards first ever community engagement coordinator to expand capacity in regards to community outreach, grassroots advocacy, and diversity, equity and inclusion education.
- Hosts first ever In Service Together, a program for locally elected officials, government administrators and funders. Attendees, including Mayor-elect Justin Bibb, were provided with an overview of the agency’s history, mission, and work and then engaged in a volunteer activity in partnership with Central Kitchen.

AWARENESS
- Planned with partners and Cleveland Mayoral Forum on Housing & Homelessness to educate Cleveland voters ahead of the city’s first mayoral election in 16 years. A watch party at the Men’s Shelter engaged residents and encouraged voter registration.
- Advocacy intern produces Portraits of Chopping for Change, a digital gallery of images and stories of students, humanizing the reentry issues facing previously incarcerated women.
• Program name changes to Youth Resiliency Services to better reflect the agency’s growing footprint
  • LMM is selected as an operating partner and begins the planning process for a role in a future youth drop-in center, the first of its kind in northeast Ohio.
  • Shelter Care and Independent Living programs remained fully operational despite COVID challenges

• Shelter Care services were expanded to provide a safe space for youth experiencing homelessness and an alternative placement in lieu of detention for youth engaged with the Juvenile Court
  • LMM was a bridge and made sure multiple young people had access to housing and were employed at the time of emancipation from the foster care system.

**YOUTH RESILIENCY**

Resiliency for our youth is the ability to bounce back from past adversity and effectively cope in the face of future trauma. Resilient youth become successful adults.
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The changing landscape in the culinary world threatened our social enterprises and forced us to pivot into new ventures ensuring much needed revenues continued to be earned. **These revenues are the underpinnings to our ability to run our valuable services.**

Central Kitchen prepares and serves over 400K meals to northeast Ohioans experiencing homelessness.

Chopping for Change returns to full capacity at LMM’s headquarters as strict COVID precautions begin to lift.

APART film screening and panel features the stories of women in the Chopping for Change program. Photo courtesy of PBS Independent Lens.

LMM receives $900K over a 3-year period from Department of Justice to expand Chopping for Change to men at Grafton Correctional Institution.

Metro45 Café & Catering Food Truck successfully launches with excellent reviews.

$900k
LMM moved from COVID response to COVID recovery, added affordable housing units, implemented new strategies, secured additional funding, and most of all, relied on our resilient staff to overcome challenges and make additional changes to ensure a place for everyone who needed a bed.

**DIRECT CASH TRANSFER IMPACT**

- **250** individuals served
- **90%** success with the initial 60 days
- **87%** success at month 3, and 0 returns to shelter after that

**BREAKING NEW GROUND SUCCESS**

- First two BNG families move in just before the holidays
- The BNG Welcome Home Celebration allows LMM the opportunity to show supporters the homes as a result of their support
- LMM partners with Humble Design, who fully furnishes homes before families move in

- Team-Up to Clean-Up returns and residents, staff and volunteers pitch in to beautify the area surrounding the Men’s Shelter.

- LMM launched a Transition in Place (TIP) model in which LMM master leased units from property owners and were able to immediately place people from the shelter. Once the lease transitions to the individual, they have successfully “Transitioned in Place.”

- LMM successfully develops one of the most cost-effective solutions to homelessness we’ve seen. The Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) program provides up to $600 so individuals can quickly move out of shelter and in with friends or family.
GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES

Staff guardians work compassionately with their wards while navigating a changing safety net system. This duality of work is challenging at the best of times, but the staff guardians are not deterred from the work they need to do.

Intake Staff strategically worked with Cuyahoga and Lorain Probate Courts to ensure timely guardianship appointments or less restrictive alternatives.

- Guardians compassionately work with case managers and medical personnel to advocate for quality services for wards
- GS experienced higher than usual deaths of wards in 2021 due to COVID, and guardians worked hard to compassionately advocate for their wards in end-of-life decisions
- 13% increase in referrals since previous year
- 10 new volunteer guardians were trained and matched to a new ward
2021 Honor Roll of Donors

The Honor Roll of Donors represents all cash gifts made between January 1 and December 31, 2021. Every effort has been made to ensure online and future lists are complete and accurate. If you have questions or wish to be removed from the list, please contact Development & Communications at 216.696.1724. Please accept our sincere apologies for omissions or misspellings.

Thank you for your commitment to LMM.

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Shore Haven Lutheran, Euclid

*deceased
FRIEND-TO-FRIEND

Friend-to-Friend (F2F) is a program that matches volunteers with women residents of Northeast Reintegration Center and with men at Grafton Correctional Institution. The purpose of the match is to establish a friendship. The volunteers commit to visiting once a month and writing a letter or card once a month. Volunteers are matched with residents who receive few or no visits and are in need of a friend to communicate with as they navigate the criminal justice system.
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www.lutheranmetro.org • mail@lutheranmetro.org

Impact Statement:
LMM seeks that people who are oppressed, forgotten and hurting be empowered, valued, and healed by our unwavering commitment to addressing chronic needs, enabling people to self-sufficiency, and advocating for system change. We seek to change the social, political, and religious conversation about justice from one of limitations to one of possibilities.

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