

Seeds of Change

lutheran metropolitan ministry

2023 Volume XXX Issue 3

National Guardianship Awareness Month

LMM plays essential role as aging population grows

Each year during the month of October, LMM celebrates National Guardianship Awareness Month. Seen as a model program, LMM's Guardianship Services has significantly affected the health and well-being of adults who cannot care for themselves.

The agency's history in aiding adults in need of guardianship began nearly 35 years ago. In 1989, community partners, along with LMM staff, recognized that older adults and individuals living with dementia are a population who need special assistance in making major life decisions. As a result of these discussions, Guardianship Services (formerly known as Adult Guardianship Services) was established. In 1993, similar discussions were happening in Lorain County and LMM expanded to serve this community as well, primarily through volunteer guardians at the time. Fast forward to present day and the need for guardianship interventions have increased as we see our nation aging.

> The aging of the baby boomer generation means older adults will outnumber younger generations. By 2025, one in four Ohioans will be 60 or older; by 2040, one in three will be 50+ years old. Safety net services for older adults are already strapped, and as the number of seniors increases as the baby boomer

GUARDIANSHIP continued

VOLUNTEER AS A GUARDIAN

generation ages, the number of vulnerable adults needing an advocate and guardian will also increase.

Impacts will be seen not just in the world of legal guardianship, but for some of us, it will impact the way we live our lives, and might be doing so already. For many families, the adults in the workforce will now be sandwiched with caring for their children while at the same time, caring for their parents and/or grandparents. Baby boomers understandably want to remain in their own homes and communities, and not move out of state to where their children live. Thus, for some, they might be aging alone or isolated from family support.

Guardianship is a multifaceted relationship that reflects both legal commitments and social connections with a vulnerable adult in our community. The clients we serve generally have no family in the area, or have experienced neglect and exploitation from people in their family or social circle. A trained LMM staff member or volunteer is appointed to make life-enhancing decisions and to advocate for the health, safety, and overall well-being of the ward.

LMM is committed to being a trusted partner by providing guardianship as a path towards improved quality of life for economically disadvantaged, frail, and vulnerable adults in Ohio.



Kendra Daniel

"This volunteer opportunity isn't specific times and days. I can do this when I need to, and yet I still can give back to the community and volunteer. This is a very one-on-one volunteer opportunity. I get to be impactful to one person's life. They're really out there alone, so volunteering really allows us to connect with them and bring a quality of life for them."

– Kendra Daniel, Volunteer Guardian and Program Director



Meet our mother/daughter volunteer team

Interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer guardian? Reach out to Brian Stevens at bstevens@lutheranmetro.org.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

If you'd like to be a light in the dark for an adult in need of guardianship, please consider sponsoring a ward for one year. It takes \$3,700 to serve each ward, annually. Your gift will enable an LMM guardian to provide advocacy and make major life decisions on behalf of their ward, stabilize medical issues, and obtain the safest and least restrictive housing option that best suits their needs. You'll also be making a difference in preserving dignity, as the guardian will be able to make end-of-life decisions for their beloved ward, because of you.



Please reach out to Marcella Brown, Vice President of Development & Communications, at mbrown@lutheranmetro.org, if you'd like to give the gift of guardianship.

DID YOU KNOW?



The adult guardianship process for LMM begins with probate court. When adults become incapable of reasonably making their own decisions, the court will make the determination that an individual lacks the full capacity or ability to make such decisions and will appoint a guardian from LMM

Judge James T. Walther

who will have the authority to make such personal decisions on behalf of the individual. Judges put great faith in our guardians, and their confidence in us means stability for those desperately in need of our services.

To learn more about the process and partnership, scan the QR code to meet Judge James T. Walther from the Lorain County Court of Common Please Probate Division.





WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FACTS

Chopping for Change culinary graduates who are less than a year away from release have the opportunity to gain work experience, giving the students a chance to work in a high-pressure culinary environment, preparing them for employment in Cleveland restaurants. The students may be placed in fine dining restaurants just prior to their release, with partners intent on hiring upon release, when possible.

Culinary Internship Partners

- MARBLE ROOM
- LOCKKEEPERS
- GREAT LAKES BREWING COMPANY
- CITY CLUB OF CLEVELAND
- CLEVELAND CLINIC





Central Kitchen

has achieved regulatory excellence across federal, state and local agencies Since the program's 22 inception, we've welcomed Chopping for Change cohorts and



Culinary Training Program cohorts

Five culinary graduations

are held each year, and students select their own class speaker In the first six months of 2023, our students turned

216,070 pounds

of food into delicious, healthy meals

Since the food service industry is amicable to people impacted by the justice system, LMM's vocational training focuses on culinary arts.

KEEP ON TRUCKING 2

LMM's Metro45 Mobile Kitchen & Catering (food truck) has been serving meals, increasing food security and spreading the mission of LMM across Greater Cleveland for nearly two years. The idea for the food truck first came about in the fall of 2020, after the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown plans for a Metro45 Café inside LMM's headquarters.

Almost two-thirds of the Workforce Development (WD) program's budget is self-funded through social enterprises like LMM's Central Kitchen (CK). At the time, CK was serving meals to 13 different shelter locations and they had to come up with an effective way to keep feeding people facing homelessness during the pandemic. The WD team knew they had to get creative. After securing funding through a grant and an exhaustive search for a truck, it took another three months of cleaning and repairs to make the truck operational. The truck officially launched in November 2021 to rave reviews.

Since then, the truck has been a regular at Lakewood and Beachwood Truck Parks, children's birthday parties, corporate events, and has even catered a wedding in Cuyahoga Valley National Park! Although all this business has generated great revenue that supports LMM programming, it does take a toll on the truck and kitchen equipment.

Ian Marks, VP of WD, says that what most people might not realize is that you have both a vehicle and kitchen with mechanical pieces that need upkeep. With every journey the truck makes there are commercial kitchen appliances being bounced around in the truck. "Between fuel and repairs, we spend approximately \$1,000 a month in maintenance, says Marks. A significant challenge is when the truck has to go in for a major repair. Currently LMM only has one food truck, so when it needs maintenance, the whole operation must pause.

To alleviate this problem, the WD program is seeking \$125,000 in funding to assist with the purchase of a second food truck.

"This new truck would expand us to be considered a fleet and bring in more dollars, not serve as a replacement to the original," emphasizes Marks. Currently, the food truck has to



turn down about 10 opportunities a month due to schedule constraints or repair issues. The second truck would allow the team to book more events around town and cut down on the amount of unfortunate cancellations due to unforeseen maintenance. A second truck would also create new jobs and opportunities for WD's culinary students to gain work experience. At the minimum, a second food truck would require hiring a supervisor to oversee operations and 2-3 staff to work the enterprise.

Please consider supporting this initiative to expand the Metro45 Mobile Kitchen & Catering venture, and continue to share our purpose of food security, workforce development, and creating a path towards financial independence for our students.

For more information, please contact Brian Sturgeon, Director of Individual Giving, at 216.696.0370 or bsturgeon@lutheranmetro.org.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT METRO45 KEEP ON TRUCKING 2 APPEAL

LINE ITEM	BUDGET	
Maintenance & Repair of Metro45 Truck 1	\$25,000	
Purchase of Metro45 Truck 2	\$70,000	
Appliances & Built-Ins for Truck 2	\$25,000	
Wrap/Marketing for Truck 2	\$5,000	
TOTAL BUDGET:	\$125,000	



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Seek justice. Love mercy. Serve with humility.

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Latest news at www.lutheranmetro.org

Contacting LMM

LMM Main Office 216.696.2715

Development & Communications 216.696.1724

Office of Advocacy 216.658.4627

Housing & Shelter 216.566.0047

Workforce Development 216.658.4608

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.

Do you need to change your name, address, and other contact information we have on file?

Please send changes to mail@lutheranmetro.org.

It's National Guardianship Awareness Month!

LMM staff and volunteer guardians make life-enhancing decisions and advocate for the health, safety and well-being of vulnerable adults in our care.

Learn more about Guardianship Services by scanning the QR code.











