

SEEDS of

CHANGE

LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRY

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lmm

LMM Receives Historic \$1 MILLION GIFT!

“We support LMM because no one should be without the basic necessities of life; food, clothing, and shelter.”

Those are the powerful words of an ardent supporter as Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry is excited to announce the receipt of a \$1 million anonymous donation — the largest single gift in LMM’s 56-year history.



This unprecedented philanthropic gift will allow LMM to continue its mission of serving those underserved in our community with an unwavering commitment

to addressing critical needs while strengthening our workforce by investing in our staff partners. The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, made the gift in support of LMM’s ongoing commitment to workforce training, affordable housing, and our staff who carry out the good works of LMM every day.

“LMM is doing great work to move people out of homelessness, helping people take steps toward permanent housing, stable employment and the skills that lead to lasting independence,” said the donor.

“We are deeply grateful for this extraordinary act of generosity,” said Maria Foschia, LMM President & CEO. “This gift will have a transformative impact on the lives of those we serve and stands as a powerful vote of confidence in the work our staff and volunteers do every day to carry out our mission.”

The \$1M donation will support several areas as LMM continues to be proactive and innovative in assisting our neighbors in need throughout our community. This includes expanding workforce training resources and housing for participants enrolled in LMM programs, create an “Innovation Lab” for staff pilot projects, upgrade systems and our technology infrastructure and invest in our staff partners and their commitment to our mission.

“We give because we know that change is possible and will continue to support LMM to help people in need,” said the donor. “We encourage others to generously support these efforts as so many people can be helped with additional funding.”

A portion of the \$1M gift will also be used to support LMM’s Workforce Training Center Capital Campaign. These funds will elevate the total funds raised for the campaign to \$1M, which will be leveraged through a matching funds challenge, as LMM seeks to raise \$3.5 million for the project.

For almost 6 decades, LMM has provided innovative and effective services in the areas of Guardianship, Housing and Shelter, Workforce Development and Youth Resiliency. This milestone gift ensures that LMM will be able to continue and expand its vital work for years to come.



By the Numbers

Addressing Youth Homelessness as Students Head Back to School

As students across Ohio sharpen pencils, pack backpacks, and head back to school, thousands of others are facing a different kind of challenge: finding a safe and stable place to sleep at night.

Homelessness and housing instability continue to deeply impact youth across Cleveland and throughout the state. At LMM, we know that no young person can thrive in the classroom or in life without the basic foundation of safety, stability, and support.

This back-to-school season, we invite you to reflect on the realities young people are facing and learn how you can be part of the solution.

At LMM, our Youth Resiliency Services (YRS) program provides a holistic continuum of care to help youth build resilience and achieve long-term stability. Services include:

- **Emergency Shelter**
A 24/7 facility licensed by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, providing safe shelter for youth ages 13 to 17 who are in crisis.
- **Independent Living Continuum**
Program designed for transition-aged youth ages 16-24 to develop the skills needed to live independently prior to exiting the foster-care system.
- **Trauma-Informed Staffing**
Accessible 24/7 and after-hours for support, and provide weekly oversight to remove any barriers that may arise to fulfill independent living transition planning requirements.
- **Drop-In Center**
Opening soon, this center will serve as a safe space for youth ages 16-24 in need of basic resources, support, and community.

Together, we can ensure every student has not only the tools they need to learn, but also the stability they need to thrive. Here's how you can support:



SUPPORT THE LMM
AMAZON WISH LIST



MAKE A GIFT
TO YRS

Sources: <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/article/2025-fact-sheet-educating-children-and-youth-experiencing-homelessness#:~:text=Public%20Schools%20Identified%20Nearly%201.4,in%20rural%20and%20suburban%20areas.> (1), <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Homeless-Youth> (2), <https://www.ideastream.org/government-politics/2024-01-29/cuyahoga-county-announces-plan-to-reduce-youth-young-adult-homelessness> (3), <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/homelessness-and-housing-instability-among-lgbtq-youth-feb-2022/> (4)

**1.4
MILLION**

students in U.S. public schools experienced homelessness during the 2022 to 2023 school year

25,550

students experienced homelessness in Ohio during the 2023 to 2024 school year

8 PERCENT

of individuals experiencing homelessness in Cuyahoga County are youth

5,000

people are affected by homelessness in Cuyahoga County annually

8 PERCENT

of LGBTQ youth have experienced housing instability at some point in their lives

Housing That Heals: Supporting Youth Through YHDP

Shelters

 **1,773**
Persons Served
at 2100 Lakeside Ave

 **199**
Families Served

343
Persons Served
through Family
Overflow 

Outcomes and Services

 **89.3k**
Meals Served

5.77k
Loads of
Laundry 

Length of Stay

 **40.9**
NIGHTS

68
Secured Employment 

 **348**
Positive
Housing Outcome

 **534**
SNAP Enrollment

LMM Housing

123
Persons Served
through TIP Programs 

10
Persons
Served through
Coventry House 

 **41**
Persons
Served through LMM
Family Programs

JANUARY 1ST - JUNE 30TH 2025

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is a federally funded initiative led by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It helps communities across the country create innovative, youth-driven solutions to end homelessness. In 2023, LMM was selected to receive YHDP funding to support our Youth Resiliency Services and Housing & Shelter programs.

The Youth & Young Adult Transition in Place (YYA TIP) initiative was launched with YHDP funds in 2023. It is operated by LMM Housing & Shelter, in partnership with Family Promise and FrontLine Service. YYA TIP is based on LMM's successful Transition in Place (TIP) housing model, which was originally adapted from a program developed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This model helps place formerly homeless single adults and families into secure, affordable housing.

TIP uses a master leasing approach. LMM leases apartments in our name, removing a common barrier for individuals who may face hesitation from landlords, especially when using resources like housing vouchers. Over time, renters assume the lease themselves, turning what began as temporary support into long-term, sustainable housing they can afford on their own.

In the first half of 2025 alone, LMM served more than 50 youth households through the TIP model. Most of these were single young adults, many of whom were raising children. Our goal is to

serve 75 households per year, and we are well on track to exceed that number by the end of 2025.

One young father's journey highlights the heart of the TIP program. After spending years in foster care, he was adopted as a teenager but put out of the home when he turned 18. By age 22, he was a father of two, working hard and saving what he could, yet unable to find stable housing. He and the mother of his children shared space when possible, and at other times, he relied on couch surfing. Earlier this year, he arrived at LMM's Men's Shelter on Lakeside Ave., exhausted and uncertain about staying in a shelter. That's when our YHDP case manager stepped in.

With support from the Housing & Shelter staff, the father was connected to a housing unit funded through the YHDP program. **Today, he and his children have been stably housed for more than two months.** With ongoing support from his case manager, he is working consistently, pursuing his GED, and saving toward his long-term goal: **homeownership**. His story is one of resilience, determination, and hope. It reflects the experiences of many young people LMM serves.

Behind every number is a story like his. **YHDP is not only providing safe housing; it is opening doors to education, employment, and independence.** With stable homes as a foundation, young people are building brighter futures for themselves and their children.

LMM is deeply grateful to our housing partners and community supporters who make this work possible. Together, we are proving that, with the right resources and a shared commitment, ending youth homelessness in Cleveland is within reach.

SUPPORT LMM FOR DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND'S WINTERLAND 2025

Winterland returns!

Mark your calendars for the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, November 29. Join Downtown Cleveland, Inc. in Public Square for music, food, ice-skating, fireworks, and holiday cheer as they kick off WinterLand! Enjoy all that Downtown Cleveland has to offer during the holidays!

This year, LMM will be the beneficiary of a donation drive held by Downtown Cleveland, Inc. at the WinterLand event. Stay tuned for more information about the donation item wish list and drop-off locations.

In the meantime, you can visit LMM's Amazon Wish List on our website at www.lutheranmetro.org/donate.



AMAZON WISH LIST



DONATE TO LMM



Work That Transforms Lives

Celebrating National Workforce Development Month at LMM

In September, LMM celebrated National Workforce Development Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the critical role workforce programs play in transforming lives and communities. At LMM, workforce development is about more than job training. It is about restoring dignity, building stability and creating real pathways to independence.



Over 40 students graduated and earned culinary and/or hospitality certificates through LMM's Culinary Training Program and Chopping for Change



88% job retention rate among Chopping for Change participants



Less than 3% recidivism rate among all LMM workforce students throughout 2024



230,000 meals prepared and distributed by Central Kitchen, 230k supporting community shelters and providing job training



72 total individuals served through all LMM Workforce Development services

Through our Culinary Training Program and Chopping for Change initiatives, we serve individuals facing some of the most significant barriers to employment including incarceration, poverty, and housing instability. Our students graduate not just with skills and credentials but with confidence support and a renewed sense of purpose.

We see the difference our programs make every day in the lives of our students and the numbers back it up.

Why This Matters

Behind every one of these numbers is a person working to build a better life. Workforce development at LMM provides more than a paycheck. It creates hope, opportunity, and long-term change.

As we observe National Workforce Development Month, LMM invites you to join us in supporting these vital programs that change lives every day. Your donations help cover the cost of uniforms, transportation, job placement services, and hands-on experience through LMM's social enterprises.

By investing in workforce development you are helping people reclaim their futures, support their families, and contribute to a stronger, more equitable Northeast Ohio.



To learn more or support LMM's Workforce Development programs, scan the QR code.

Your Vote, Your Voice:

What You Need to Know About Ohio's Upcoming Election

At LMM, we believe that voting is not just a civic duty. It is an act of compassion and civic engagement for those whose voices are too often forgotten.

This year, voters in Cuyahoga County have another opportunity to influence leadership and policy during the November General Election. These decisions matter deeply to the people LMM serves, individuals experiencing housing instability, reentering society after incarceration, living with disabilities, or navigating systems that were not built with them in mind.

Key Election Dates

General Election Day: November 4

Voters across Ohio will cast ballots for key local and statewide races.

Early Voting Starts: October 7

Vote early in person at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

Address: 1803 Superior Ave, Cleveland

View full early voting hours at boe.cuyahogacounty.gov

Voter Registration Deadline: October 6

Register or check your status at olvr.ohiosos.gov

ID Requirements

To vote in person, you must bring an accepted form of photo ID, such as an Ohio driver's license, state ID, passport, or military ID. For a full list, visit the Board of Elections website.

Voting by Mail

Request your absentee ballot by October 28.

Ballots must be postmarked by November 3 and received by November 8 to be counted.

Why Voting Matters to LMM

LMM's mission is rooted in challenging injustice and promoting systems change. Local elections determine how resources are allocated, which services are funded, and how communities like ours are represented. When you vote, you help shape policies that affect affordable housing, reentry programs, food security, guardianship services, and more.

You also stand in solidarity with our program participants, people who know firsthand how policies can either hold them back or help them move forward.



Make your voting plan today and help build a more just and compassionate community for all.



Answering the Call for Ohio's Aging Adults

Ohio is aging, and quickly. In Cuyahoga County alone, nearly 30% of residents are over age 60. Many face declining health, social isolation, and poverty, with few or no family members to turn to for support. When older adults can no longer make decisions for themselves, they are especially vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, or neglect.

That is where LMM's Guardianship Services steps in. For more than 35 years, LMM has provided trained legal guardians for indigent adults in Cuyahoga and Lorain counties who have been deemed mentally incompetent by the courts. Our guardians champion the well-being, dignity, and rights of the people we serve, ensuring they live in the least restrictive environment possible.

But the need is growing, and so is the waitlist.

With a simple commitment of just one to two hours a month, you can make a life-changing difference. Volunteer guardians and friendly visitors play a vital role in this work. They offer care, compassion, and consistency to individuals who might otherwise have no one. From making medical decisions to offering a kind word or presence, volunteer guardianship is a powerful way to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Training and ongoing support are provided. No legal background is required, only a willingness to be a voice for someone who cannot do it alone.

As our population ages, we must prepare not just with policy or funding, but with human connection. This is your opportunity to show up for a neighbor in need.

Become a guardian. Become a lifeline.

Learn more at www.lutheranmetro.org/guardianship-services
Or call 216.696.1132 to speak with our Guardianship Team.





lutheran metropolitan ministry
seeds of change
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www.lutheranmetro.org



ATTENTION LMM Faith Partners!

Thank you to everyone who has already responded to our faith partner mailer from earlier this year to update contact information! Your response helps us stay connected and continue our shared mission.

As a follow-up to our first mailer, we sent a postcard out a few weeks ago asking all of our faith partners to participate in a brief survey. If you did not receive the postcard or have not yet completed the survey, it is not too late. To participate in the survey simply scan the QR code to get started. The survey is also available on our website. Look for the "Partners in Faith" graphic near the top of our homepage at www.lutheranmetro.org. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the survey in the mail, please contact us at mail@lutheranmetro.org.

Your feedback is crucial as we continue to strengthen our partnership and serve the community together. We truly appreciate your involvement!

