



A Message from our President & CEO

We welcome the new year with the promise of a season of new beginnings!

The generosity of our many donors and volunteers has allowed us to witness transformation in the lives of the many individuals and families we have supported in the last year. Some of the stories that have inspired me are:

- Five youth achieved a major milestone: graduating from high school! Walking across the graduation stage was not just a personal triumph but a reflection of the support and resilience that define our programs.
- One of our culinary arts students who owns a hot dog stand was unable to operate because she did not have the proper certification. With support from our staff, she passed the test and is now ServSafe certified and can take pride in running her own business.
- Through LMM's Flex Fund, we helped an individual secure stable housing for just \$19.09 – that amount covered a bus ticket to reunite them with friends who could house them in a nearby county. No one should remain unhoused because they don't have \$19. Thanks to this fund, they didn't have to.
- An older adult participant enjoyed walking the halls at her nursing home but was at risk for falls due to a failing pacemaker. Her guardian was able to consent to the procedure to replace the device, so she could continue to walk safely, thereby enhancing her quality of life.



As we look ahead, in the coming year we remain committed to providing transformational services and sharing stories like those mentioned above. In the current climate, there remains a significant risk that the safety net will not be adequate to support those in our community who are in crisis. Demand will increase in all of our service areas, and LMM's role to provide for basic needs and achieve positive housing, employment and health outcomes will be more important than ever. In response, LMM will continue to demonstrate love and compassionate service to those most in need. Our organization will use our communication platforms to raise awareness of the implications of public policy on people in our community, and lift up voices of people with lived experience, highlighting stories of resiliency, redemption, and hope.

At LMM, we recognize that we cannot fulfill our mission alone. I invite your involvement in LMM in whatever way is most meaningful to you – through volunteering, making a financial contribution, or responding to civic engagement action alerts. Your involvement shows you stand with LMM, and our vision ***that everyone can thrive in a community of dignity and respect.***

Maria Foschia,
LMM President & CEO

Solar Ribbon Cutting



Tuesday, November 18, 2025 will always be a historical day in LMM history as our organization continued its commitment to providing solutions to affordable housing throughout our community! LMM staff, local dignitaries and supporters gathered to cut the ceremonial ribbon and open up the first 4 units of LMM's Solar Housing Project.

LMM's mission with this initiative is to bring clean energy and affordable housing to Cleveland, as well as to provide net-neutral emissions through innovative solutions.

"We have the opportunity to reshape this neighborhood and the lives of those who will call these houses their home," said Maria Foschia, LMM President & CEO. "Today is just the beginning of our next phase of new housing."

LMM could not be more proud to have unveiled the Solar Houses to the public. As Michael Sering, LMM Chief Program Officer, so eloquently said to the large crowd, "Let's celebrate today, then start to work on tomorrow."

Thank you so much to all of our community partners for helping to make this happen, and here's to even more innovative solutions to end homelessness ahead!



LMM'S WINTERLAND PARTNERSHIP SPARKS SEASON OF GENEROSITY



LMM would like to express our deepest gratitude to Downtown Cleveland, Inc. for partnering with us to host a digital goods drive leading up to their 2025 WinterLand event on November 29th. The collaboration brought an outpouring of community support that exceeded all expectations. As thousands gathered for the tree lighting ceremony and holiday activities, LMM had the privilege of sharing our mission with new audiences and showcased our work in action as the Metro45 Food Truck was on site serving up hot chocolate and delicious bites.

Our presence at WinterLand sparked meaningful conversations with visitors to the LMM booth who were eager to learn how they could make a difference during the holiday season. Staff and volunteers at the LMM booth connected with attendees of all ages, offering insight into our programs and explaining how simple acts of giving can provide comfort and dignity to those in need.

One of the most impactful outcomes of the event was a significant increase in much needed donation items from LMM's Amazon Wish List. These items, ranging from warm clothing and hygiene products to bedding and other basic household essentials, help individuals who are transitioning out of homelessness, participating in our reentry programs, or seeking stability after unexpected hardship.

Thanks to the generosity of WinterLand attendees and the visibility our partnership provided, LMM received an influx of these much-needed items in the days and weeks leading up to and following the event. Each package delivered to our offices represents someone in our community choosing to stand with our mission—and that collective support strengthens our ability to meet basic needs, restore dignity, and provide hope.

For those who were inspired by WinterLand or are looking for meaningful ways to contribute, supporting LMM through our Amazon Wish List is one of the simplest ways to make an immediate impact. Whether you're able to send a single item or several, your contribution helps ensure that your neighbors in need have access to essential supplies during a season that can be especially difficult for many.

To explore the items most needed by our programs, simply scan the QR code, which will take you directly to LMM's Amazon Wish List. Together, we can ensure that justice, mercy, and hope continue to reach those who need it most.



AMAZON WISH LIST



SAVE THE DATE:

FOUNDER'S DAY

In 1969, Rev. Richard Sering and dozens of community, civic and faith leaders came together to build the right relationships within our region. Over the years, LMM's mission has become more relevant by an unwavering commitment to championing for justice and advancing innovative programs. From that founding meeting in a church, to countless days of service and being a voice for the voiceless – LMM remains committed to justice, mercy and humility.

On February 10, 2026,

LMM will be celebrating its 7th annual Founder's Day, honoring the life and legacy of founder Rev. Sering, celebrate the founding members of our organization and shed light on what is to come in the future to best serve our community.

This year's theme, "Building on the Foundation: Framing Our Future," will touch on the programs of the past that made an impact, to the spirit that carries on in our mission today with current and future innovations all over our region. LMM cordially invites you to join us for Founders Day to enjoy lunch, a panel discussion, and induct the newest members of our Founders Circle. Stay tuned via our e-newsletter and at www.lutheranmetro.org for more details on the event and to register to attend in person or watch the ceremony online.



SUSAN AND REV. RICHARD SERING

LMM Continues to Serve the Youth in Our Community

During the year of 2025, LMM's Youth Resiliency Services served more than 250 youth across their different programs. YRS was very proud to announce that they had five youth in their Advanced Independent Living Program who successfully graduated from high school! The program was also happy to report that one of the program participants has moved out on her own into her first apartment while another youth is scheduled to move into her first apartment this month, January of 2026.

The Youth Resiliency Services Program had a very successful year fundraising through the Cleveland Marathon in May as they raised over \$10,000.00. It was such a success that YRS Program Director Benjamin Turney will once again run in 2026 to support YRS. Some of the money raised was committed to create a new fitness room before Christmas arrived, and the residents love staying in shape using the high-end commercial exercise equipment.

Join Team LMM for the 2026 Cleveland Marathon

LMM is thrilled to be an official charity partner of the Cleveland Marathon again in 2026! Taking place May 16–17, this partnership gives runners an incredible opportunity to go the distance while raising funds to support LMM's vital work. Registration is already open so if you are interested in running to support LMM or in volunteering to represent LMM on race day, please contact Brian Sturgeon at bsturgeon@lutheranmetro.org.



Housing & Shelter: A Year in Review

In 2025, LMM's Housing & Shelter service area responded to sustained community need by maintaining reliable shelter operations while strengthening pathways from crisis to housing; an approach that continues to shape our work moving forward.

Throughout the year, LMM's Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside served more than 2,800 unduplicated individuals, providing over 145,000 bed nights with an average length of stay of approximately 52 days. Family Overflow services supported an additional 775 households, delivering more than 16,000 bed nights for families experiencing homelessness while traditional shelters were full. Even during periods of peak demand, shelter capacity met need nearly every night of the year, reflecting strong operational planning and coordination across teams.

Beyond providing shelter, Housing & Shelter staff focused intentionally on housing outcomes. All shelter guests are offered individualized support designed to identify barriers early and accelerate exits to housing. These efforts contributed to more than 560 positive housing outcomes across programs, underscoring the importance of pairing emergency shelter with housing-focused services and consistent case engagement.

Looking toward 2026, LMM's priorities remain twofold: sustaining safe, dignified emergency shelter at scale while expanding access to longer-term housing solutions. Shelter programs are projected

to serve approximately 3,500 individuals in the coming year, while housing programs (including those serving youth, families and single adults) are expected to serve at least 175 individuals.

A major focus for 2026 is the completion of renovations on multiple affordable housing units through our Breaking New Ground initiative. Three units will soon be brought online with another three in the pipeline ready for families exiting homelessness. In parallel, LMM is actively exploring opportunities to expand its housing portfolio through new resources and partnerships, such as expanding our new solar homes and beginning work on our 3D printed construction project.

The year ahead brings uncertainty, from shifting federal priorities to local funding constraints, but it also presents opportunity. By continuing to invest in integrated shelter operations, innovative housing models, and income-stabilization supports such as employment and SNAP enrollment, LMM is positioning our Housing & Shelter services to respond effectively to evolving community needs.

As we enter 2026, our commitment remains clear: to ensure that people experiencing homelessness have access not only to safe shelter, but to measurable, sustainable pathways to housing and long-term stability. Thank you to each of our supporters and donors for your support in making this work possible.



2025 Reflections

At the start of 2025, we anticipated a busy year for policy and civic engagement, with state and county budgets on the horizon. What we did not envision was the level of federal activity. House Resolution 1 (H.R. 1, or the “Big Beautiful Bill”) enacted several new Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) policy provisions, which directly affect our service population.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) decided to reissue a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), radically altering the Continuum of Care program for homelessness and housing services. Congress also proposed legislation that could have stripped away nonprofit status. As these developments unfolded, LMM joined our partners across the country to safeguard the social safety net and social services sector, or at least to lessen the fallout from these policy proposals. In tumultuous times, preventing the worst effects of legislative proposals is a success.

The state and local levels of government were equally dynamic as the public and nonprofit sectors navigated the downstream effects of federal changes. We actively engaged with state elected officials through our legislative breakfast, immersive experience, and testimony during the state budget process.

In April, more than 150 people attended the Charles R. See Forum, which featured a panel discussion on housing and justice-impacted individuals. LMM hosted a conversation with the Cuyahoga Council on the current state of the social services safety net and engaged with the Ronayne Administration on criminal justice efforts. We have continued to communicate with the County Council regarding Fair Housing and other vital topics. Additionally, we built connections and engaged with the Cleveland City Council to address housing, workforce, and re-entry issues. Amid uncertainty at other levels of government, it is gratifying to know that we maintain a strong connection with our city and county leaders.

What’s Ahead in 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, we know our neighbors, particularly those experiencing homelessness, will acutely feel the ripple effects of H.R. 1’s SNAP changes. At LMM, some of those we serve have already begun receiving notices about benefit changes.

We are grateful to serve on the Cuyahoga County Hunger Response Team, which aims to streamline and coordinate our community’s outreach and support to help our neighbors access SNAP benefits and other food access resources.



The 2026 election season will be busy. At the federal level, Ohioans will vote for their congressional representative and for their choice in the special U.S. Senate race. At the state level, all statewide offices are open. Cuyahoga County residents will vote in the race for the Cuyahoga County Executive. Multiple statewide ballot initiatives are gathering signatures to appear on the 2026 General Election ballot, including a measure to abolish property taxes for all Ohioans. In the coming months, we will explore how abolishing property taxes will impact Cuyahoga County’s health and human services sector.



Get to Know LMM

How would you like to have a better understanding of LMM and the good work our staff partners provide to our community each and every day? Well, we have you covered, now more than ever!

Due to the incredible popularity of LMM's Public Immersion Event in 2025, we are adding an extra opportunity in 2026 to experience LMM for yourself and get to know our organization even better. Led by LMM President & CEO, Maria Foschia, this year we will provide three chances to get a first-hand look at what we do every day. Join us on April 15, June 17, or October 14 for a special morning as we showcase each of our organization's program areas, meet the staff who make all our good works happen, and enjoy a terrific continental breakfast made special by our Culinary Training Program students. We promise it will leave you inspired and energized around LMM's mission!

Spots are limited for each immersive experience, so save the dates and be sure to look for the opportunity in our e-newsletters and social media platforms to register for the date that best fits into your schedule.



Guardianship Success Story



Guardianship Services received a referral for emergency guardianship on Mrs. S in early June. She was placed at a local psychiatric hospital after concerned neighbors reported that she had barricaded herself in her home and she was not taking care of herself. At the time of assessment she was confused, agitated and scared. Mrs. S was also living in a house that was infested with cockroaches and bed bugs. After guardianship was awarded, the guardian began to coordinate services with other agencies. Mrs. S was able to successfully transition from the psychiatric hospital to a skilled nursing facility where she obtained intensive physical and occupational therapy along with comprehensive medication management. After just 45 days in the skilled nursing facility she was able to transition to an assisted living environment where she enjoys needed medical and psychosocial services. This allowed her to maintain her highest level of independence in the least restrictive environment.

As far as what's to come in 2026 – Guardians will continue to work to see that the needs of their wards are met by making regular visits, taking phone calls and email. We look forward to continuing to work with our funders and nursing homes to see that our services are provided in a professional and timely manner.



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Coming Up at LMM...

FEBRUARY

10 Founders Day Celebration

APRIL

15 LMM Public Immersive Experience

17 Charles R. See Forum

MAY

16-17 Cleveland Marathon

JUNE

6 Pride Parade

17 LMM Public Immersive Experience

