

Echoes of Mercy

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHER HOME OF MERCY • WILLISTON, OHIO

HOLIDAY EDITION 2023



A SEASON OF GIVING



Luther Home of Mercy is a Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Affiliate

IN THIS SEASON OF GIVING

At Luther Home this time of year holds a special place in our hearts. As the days grow shorter, the air turns crisp and the fields are ripe for harvest, it is a time of reflection but also of anticipation of what the new year will bring.

The Luther Home ministry has been sustained for just over 95 years by an outpouring of support from individuals, communities and businesses. The impact of these contributions through the decades has left a legacy of compassion and unity. This giving spirit has woven its way into the fabric of our organization, serving to inspire staff, enable care and sustain hope.

Gifts of prayers, time, talent and resources have been given in each donor's unique way. Through these acts of kindness, Luther Home has remained steadfast, even in the most challenging of times. As this season of giving unfolds, our hearts are open and spirits lifted by all those who make this work possible.



We are reminded that we are all connected and that our actions, both large and small, have the ability to transform the lives of others.

We thank you for your help in nurturing and uplifting the work of this exceptional ministry. This season, and in all seasons of the year, may our Good Lord bless you and your loved ones with His presence, peace, and joy in service.

In gratitude,
Terri Rodriguez

President and C.E.O.



St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jenera, Ohio, is one of many churches who would celebrate "Harvest Home Sunday", providing the Home of Mercy with harvested goods to sustain us through winter. Today, these same churches continue to bless us with countless acts of generosity. (Photo circa 1950 courtesy of Martin Grieser)

Cover: Carol takes delight in Christmas presents from our Adopt a Resident program. Each December, dozens of individuals and groups make sure that all those who are served by LHM are remembered at Christmas.

CELEBRATING 95 YEARS OF HARVESTING GOD'S GRACE

Friends and family joined our ministry for a day of fun and celebration at our Annual Fall Fest. Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Board Member, Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy, delivered a message of love at the outdoor worship service where the praise team from Trinity Lutheran Church – Toledo, offered their beautiful talents. A petting zoo, craft and bake sale, games and delicious picnic supper were all part of the festive day. Making our 95th Anniversary Fall Fest extra special was the official opening of the Garden of Compassion. Many thanks to the dedicated supporters of this meaningful project!



"Only Love": Rev Juli Lejman-Guy delivers a message of loving one another.



Rickey meets a new friend at the petting zoo.



A stroll through the brand-new Garden of Compassion was a highlight of the afternoon.

HERE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Recently, Luther Home has welcomed some of the largest new employee orientation classes in our organization's history. Fresh new faces are working alongside seasoned employees to learn the ins and outs of providing daily care and how to form bonds that make the job meaningful.



Caring for residents since 1973, we are honored to celebrate Diane's faithful service.

Joining us as a Direct Care Staff just this past August, Anthony Walls has always thought of himself as caring and empathetic. Growing up with a brother who is on the Autism spectrum, Anthony understands the unique needs of others and is excited to try a career in the developmental disabilities field. "I am blessed to be part of Cottage 3," shares Anthony, "the staff have given me tips for things to run smoothly and everyone has been extremely welcoming".



New to LHM, Direct Care Staff, Anthony Walls is learning the daily joys of spending time with Betty.

Also working in Cottage 3 is Diane Bloomfield who just celebrated her 50th work anniversary. "I love these people. They don't have anybody but us. I've seen a lot of changes over the years...good and bad...but these are God's children. When you lose a resident it is hard because they are like family. But I work with good staff. With new staff...we are here to help. All you have to do is ask and we will come."

Working together, these staff relationships enable consistency of care; enabling us to offer programs that maximize quality of life. From just a few months to half a century... we are blessed with many wonderful staff who are here to make a difference!

Planned Giving News



Jeanette Hrovatich
Director of Planned Giving

As we celebrate 10 years of working together under the Lutheran Ministries of Mercy (LMM) umbrella, know that you are a wonderful source of inspiration and we appreciate your support of those in our care.

The Planned Giving Department of LMM, in partnership with our Mission Advancement teams, continues to create new friendships and opportunities for financial stability through giving. Donations from events, gifts of stock, charitable gift annuities, gifts of property, and direct transfers from IRA and donor advised funds are just a sampling of ways we can accept gifts today.

Each donation, no matter the size, designation or "use as needed" is vital to the support we provide to more than 28,000 individuals and families we are serving each year. And, as you take advantage of gift giving, you might also receive special tax benefits all while providing for your neighbors in need.

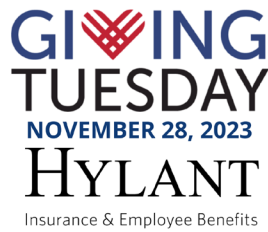
If you would like more information on planned giving or have already remembered us in your estate plans, please let us know so we can say thank you today! Contact Jeanette Hrovatich at 419-972-4373 or by email at Jhrovatich@luthmin.org.

GIVING TUESDAY

We are excited to kickoff this season of giving by joining the Giving Tuesday movement. Held the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, this worldwide day of philanthropy encourages us to remember others around the holiday season. When you remember Luther Home of Mercy this November 28, 2023, your gift will help us purchase accessible vehicles; a critical need for those we serve who use wheelchairs.

Joining us for the fourth year in a row, as \$5,000 Presenting Match Sponsor, is our friends from Hylant. A leader in the insurance and employee benefits industry, Hylant not only provides services to LHM, but actively participates in our mission through volunteering and helping us reach our fundraising goals.

You can join Luther Home of Mercy this Giving Tuesday by sending a check with Giving Tuesday on the memo line, visiting our website at lutherhome.org/donate or by calling Megan O'Brien at 419-836-7741 to learn more.



Carol and David are ready for their next adventure. When you join Hylant this November 28, 2023, you will help make sure they stay on the move all year long.

TO CONNECT AND BELONG

It's no secret that the mission of Luther Home is rooted in service to others. What often surprises those who are new to our ministry is the many ways those who are served by LHM in turn provide comfort and care to others. Each day you will find individuals hard at work coloring the perfect picture to share with a friend. Or catching up with staff about the health of friends and family. At our day program centers, monthly calendars include options to participate in volunteer projects at various local nonprofits. Just like all of us...the residents and clients of Luther Home of Mercy have a deep desire to connect and belong.



Known as the official correspondent of LHM, Nadine sends regular cards and letters to her 35 pen pals.



Darryl loves his job at our Advent personal needs pantry. Each month, he uses some of his own money to shop for supplies needed by his Sylvania neighbors.



Curt serves up some tasty treats for the dogs who are sheltered at Lucas County Canine Care & Control.

CALLING ALL SECRET SANTAS

Want to make sure that the holidays are "merry and bright" for the residents of Luther Home? We could use a little help making sure that those we serve have something special under the tree. When you "adopt" a resident for Christmas, we provide the list and you purchase a few of the suggested items. For more information, contact Lisa McNary: lmcnary@lutherhome.org, 419-836-7741.





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Cloudy skies and a few sprinkles didn't get in the way of another successful day of golf! Maumee Bay Golf Course was the scene of our 38th Annual Golf Outing where 116 golfers took to the greens in support of our ministry. A total of \$13,000 was raised in support of our transportation fund. Many thanks to golfers and sponsors for putting with a purpose.



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LUTHER HOME OF MERCY
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PO BOX 187
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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“Enriching Lives and Individual Abilities”

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Developmentally Disabled) - the main campus is located in Williston
and Community ministry serves clients in four NW Ohio counties.

 **Find us on Facebook!**

Save **THE** Date

Bid For The Roses



*A Kentucky Derby
themed auction
and dinner
for Luther Home
of Mercy*

**April 26
2024**



**The Pinnacle
Maumee**

**Look for details in our next issue
and at lutherhome.org**

