# **Echoes of Mercy**

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHER HOME OF MERCY, WILLISTON, OHIO

**SPRING 2020** 

# Taking Comfort In Each Other

Luther Home of Mercy is a Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Affiliate

# Working As One For the Good of Many

ust this past March 9th we gathered to celebrate the work of our LMM Ministries at our Jannual Dinner and Meeting. As we came together-more than 125 people-we had no idea how fast our country would change over the course of the next several weeks. The COVID-19 pandemic will stand out in history as a world-changing event. In a very short period of time, our country has taken steps to collectively combat the spread of disease - essentially putting economies on hold and changing what everyday life and work looks like for our communities in the process.





Staff from all 3 LMM affiliates have answered the call to serve wherever needed. Teaming up with LSS volunteers, Joseph Beagle, Noah Eby and Jeanette Hrovatich distribute much needed food supplies.

In the face of this unprecedented situation, Luther Home of Mercy remains committed to doing what's

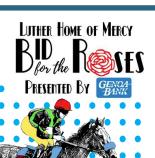
right for our residents, clients and employees. We have, and will continue to be, both proactive and reactive in taking the steps necessary to protect the health and safety of all those who are a part of the LHM family.

As most in this country, we are constantly monitoring the COVID-19 virus and continuing to adjust to any Center for Disease Control recommendations, changes in "stay at home" policies and other restrictions. Our daily communication network includes our regulatory agencies, departments of health, similar local and state agencies as well as our Lutheran Ministries of Mercy affiliates. This network has been extremely important in working together to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 within our very vulnerable resident and client population and all those staff working both directly, and indirectly, with them.

Now, more than ever before, this commitment of service and care takes us all, working as one. We see staff members going above and beyond what could have ever been expected or anticipated, others within our organization learning new jobs and responsibilities, staff — even on their days off — contributing time to sew hundreds of masks. Our volunteers and community partners have joined this effort-many securing hand sanitizer, contributing those N95 masks they may have had on hand, providing donations to help support special recognition and meals for staff, and so much more. Together, these helpful and combined efforts lift us up, encourage the spirit and help sustain this vital work.

Through good times and bad, for more than 90 years, Luther Home of Mercy has been entrusted with the care of others. We are blessed by all those who have joined us in this call to serve and dedicated to helping people, one caring interaction at a time. Thank you for your continued partnership!

Terri Rodriguez President & CEO



#### **Postponed: Spring Auction**

To protect the health and safety of our guests and comply with the governor's stay at home orders, our spring auction, scheduled for May 1, 2020, has been postponed to April **30, 2021**. We look forward to gathering at The Pinnacle with our guests and Presenting Sponsor, GenoaBank, for a night of Kentucky Derby style fun! You can help with the success of Bid for the Roses right now by:

- Marking your calendar to join us on April 30, 2021
- Inviting your friends
- Joining us as an event sponsor
- Donating an item for our live and silent auction

For more information, contact Megan O'Brien: 419-972-4436, mobrien@lutherhome.org

## The Unfamous

Following the Blizzard of '78, I was at the Preble County Home talking with Glen Ross about winter storms. Glen remembered 1918 as a harder time. "Bitterly cold, snow piled so deep the trains couldn't get through, everyone was running out of coal. I was down by the creek cutting cordwood when the blizzard hit, freezing wind and blowing snow, you couldn't see anything, I lost my way — it was the horses, took us home. My wife (Minnie) was over at the neighbors helping with that Spanish flu — everybody was helping, this was all over the world, people were dying. And we had got into that terrible war in Europe, thousands of our boys were going over there. I'll never forget how it was in 1918."



The blizzard of 1918 claimed 250 lives. More than 114,000 American Service Men and Women perished in World War I, with many dying in military camps over-run by Flu. Overall, the Spanish Flu in America claimed the lives of 670,000 people. Those tested by the sum of these challenges would never forget the winter of 1918. Pastors and Churches, the Lutheran Homes and Lutheran Social Services worked together with the Red Cross to relieve suffering and keep the light of hope alive in our community. Neighbors helping neighbors, their faithful response would affirm the sacredness of life in the midst of uncertainty.

Though we do not presently know the outcome of our current trauma or when it will end, we know who will be by our side. Like Glen and Minnie, there will be Joseph and Mark, Linda, Sue, Kim, Sharon and Toni together with many others. These are not famous people;

buildings, parks and concert halls are not named after them, their faces are not pictured on currency or postage stamps; but the Lord knows them by name. He has called them the salt of the earth, remembers their every act of kindness to "the least of these," and powers their light against the darkness.

Rev. Donald L. Wukotich Executive Director Emeritus

#### **Legacy Society**

Spring is in the air! And we are thankful to have your love and commitment to our ministry. As part of our on-going desire to learn more about you and those who are remembering us in their will or through a planned gift, we have created the *Legacy Society*.

When you notify Luther Home of Mercy that you have remembered us in your giving plans, you become a member. Our Legacy Society is really our way to say thank you, today! It's not about how much you give, but the love your gift will have for those individuals and families served by LHM for years to come.



#### **Legacy Society** benefits include:

- Special communications from our staff and President & CEO
- Invitation to events
- · Recognition in our Legacy Society Honor roll (Unless you choose an anonymous gift)

Please call Jeanette Hrovatich, Director of Planned Giving, at 419-972-4373, to share information. May God continue to shine his love on you and your family.



March 9th marked the 7th Annual Meeting of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy. Luther Home of Mercy, along with our affiliates, Filling Homes and Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio, hosted our Board of Directors and 100 other guests at The Pinnacle in Maumee, Ohio. At the Meeting, Executive Director Emeritus, Rev. Donald L. Wukotich (L) was on hand to congratulate winners of the scholarship in his name, including Filling Homes' Jacob Herold (R). Six awards, each in the amount of \$500, were given to LMM employees who are pursuing higher education in careers relevant to LMM ministries.

## Trust & Support

pastor Max and Lillian Schleicher opened our doors in 1928 with an unfailing Trust in the Lord and the generous Support of neighbors and friends. They could not have predicted that just one year later the stock market would crash, starting a Great Depression that would last nearly a decade. No one would have faulted Max and Lillian for throwing in the towel on such a fledgling ministry under these difficult circumstances. Yet, through that Trust and Support, each need was met and Daily Bread was offered. There are frequent reports in our early years of not knowing how certain bills would get paid only to have a check arrive in the mail that day to cover the debt; of worry about where the next meal would come from to feed residents, only to have a local farmer stop by with an extra hog or a bushel of fresh peaches.



Jay is not letting COVID-19 stop him from connecting with his community! Known around town as "Mr. Fremont", he is spending his quarantine days on his front lawn waving to passers-by. To add flair to Jay's setup, the owner of a local party store stopped by with some balloons and a note. The story of Jay and his balloons took off in the town of Fremont and became the all-time "most liked and shared" photo on our Facebook page.

Rickey uses a windy day in quarantine to take his kite to the skies.

Today, it is this same Trust in the Lord and the help of neighbors and friends that keep our ministry going in uncertain times. There have been days when we haven't been sure where we would find our next bottle of hand sanitizer only to discover a local brewery making their own and giving it to healthcare providers. Closed schools have sent us their gloves, volunteers have made hundreds of masks and countless members of our team have gone above and beyond their normal duties to protect the health and safety of those entrusted to our care.

COVID-19 has made a dramatic impact in our world but it has not taken away the love and generosity of those who care and have always been there in our time of need. We are ever so thankful for the many calls from those asking how they can help, for the gifts that have come in many shapes and sizes, for your simple acts of kindness and for your prayers for our health and safety. We look forward to a time when we can gather once again and celebrate our shared legacy of Trust and Support that has enriched the lives of many.



Many of those we serve in community homes use their extra time at home to take on cooking and cleaning projects and enjoy time relaxing. Cheryl, Heather and Elizabeth (L-R) crafted a sign to show their staff how much they care.



For many years, our friends at Riverview Industries, Inc. have been an important part of the engaging care our residents receive. With day programs closed across the state, staff from Riverview continue to provide quality and enriching care by providing services to residents here on our Williston campus. Joe loved making cookies with RVI staff in the comforts of his own home.



Nurses and members of our administrative team pause their typical duties to take on shifts in the screening room. Each member of our 450+ team must be cleared of COVID-19 symptoms before reporting to work. From our administrative team, sisters Brenda Allison (L) and Karen Shaffer (R), answer the call to serve by taking temperatures and keeping up with reports.



While quarantine guidelines prevent gathering, expressions of faith remain an important part of our ministry. Pastor Denise Brown continues to share the gospel with those we serve and provide encouraging messages that are streamed onto televisions in each campus building.



Remaining socially distant, the Easter Bunny hopped by to bring joy to residents; stopping at windows and the occasional doorway with a basket of goodies for each cottage.



Staff were treated to several delicious meals from the food truck, We Be Ribs, as a token of our thanks for their dedication and hard work.



St. Luke Lutheran Church



**Advent Lutheran Church** Women Uniontown, OH Amazon Smíle Anchor Church Sylvania, OH Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anson Baldwinsville, NY Ms. Judith Ann Anzelmo Columbus, OH Art Van Genoa Genoa, OH Augsburg Lutheran Church Toledo, OH Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bacon Toledo, OH Mr. Frank G. Baumgartner Whitehouse, OH Mr. and Mrs. Richard V. Beard Pemberville, OH
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Concordia Lutheran Church Toledo, OH
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Norwalk, OH
Mr. John F. Heminger
Genoa, OH
Ms. Cindy Hesse
Oak Harbor, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Hetrick
Oak Harbor, OH Oak Harbor, OH Mrs. Gaylyn Hofacker Massillon, OH Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery D. Howell Sylvania, OH Pastor Robert Johnson Stony Ridge, OH Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kieswether Englewood, FL Ms. Lorene Klingbeil Elmore, OH
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Lutheran Social Services Of NW Ohio Toledo, OH Ms. Beverly Mackey

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St. John Lutheran Church Port Clinton, OH St. John Lutheran Church Stony Ridge, OH St. John Lutheran Church Williston, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Richard M.

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St. Paul Lutheran Church Jenera, OH
St. Paul Lutheran Church Oak Harbor, OH
St. Paul Lutheran Church Prospect, OH

St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, OH St. Peter Lutheran Church Saint Clair, MI St. Peter Lutheran Church Norwalk, OH
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Sandusky, OH
United Way of Greater Toledo,
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Toledo, OH

### LMM Gifts

January 9, 2020 – April 1, 2020

Rev. and Mrs. Donald L. Wukotich Woodville, OH

TOGETHER TOWARD TOMORROW CAMPAIGN Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bockelman Port Royal, SC Mrs. Jeanette Hrovatich Port Clinton, OH
Mr. Timothy Robinson Adrian, MI

DONALD L. WUKOTICH **SCHOLARSHIP FUND** Mr. and Mrs. William Nelson Oregon, OH Mrs. Rebecca A. Sparks Martin, OH



### Gequests

January 9, 2020 – April 1, 2020

Calvin C. Damschroder Estate Elmore, OH

The Ehman Family Trust Rocklin, CA

Robert R. Heineman Trust Pemberville, OH



#### **Wemorials**

Allen Arborgast Mrs. Rebecca A. Sparks

Martin, OH **Darlene Betz ANONYMOUS** 

Mary Borchert Mrs. Mildred Maeschen Knoxville, IA

**Ruth Brohammer** Mrs. Cheryl Peterson Fort Laudérdale, FL Mrs. Verris M. Tabol Pompano Beach, FL

Harold Brossia Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Woessner Lindsey, OH Marlene Buck

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scheid Monroeville, OH

**Robert Buck** 

Robert Buck
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Monroeville, OH
Robert Buhrow
Mrs. Gaylyn Hofacker
Massillon, OH
St. Paul's Sarah Circle
Oak Harbor, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Trout Fremont, OH

**Burnard and Zafirau deceased** family members Dr. and Mrs. S. James Zafirau

Port Clinton, OH Elda Chambers

Ms. Jo Ann Capaul Ida, MI Richard Collett

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Coates Pemberville, OH Mr. and Mrs. Jim Deen Mr. and Mrs. Chris Matlack Mr. and Mrs. Chris Matlack Northwood, OH Otsego OAPSE 469 Bowling Green, OH Ms. Eleanore Overmann Perrysburg, OH Mr. and Mrs. Keith Turco Findlay, OH Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Turco

Arvada, CO
Mr. Nick Turco and Family
Northwood, OH
Rev. Paul Deppen
Mr. and Mrs. Duane Arndt
Elmore, OH

Linda Duda Ms. Heather Beshore Nashville, TN

Mr. and Mrs. Terry J. Fitzthum Port Clinton, OH Friends of Sándee Sledd Doraville, GA Ms. Elaine Hall Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mazur Pittsburgh, PA Mr. Sandee Sledd Doraville, GA Mr. and Mrs. David Sorg Port Clinton, OH Ms. Mary Spolnik McDonald, PA Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Weston Pikeville, TN Helen W. Elevick

Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Dugan, Salem, OH Ms. Barbara Risby Manchester, MD Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Straka

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Virginia Feusse

Mr. Richard H. Feusse

Waterville, OH

**Pat Florio** Mrs. Bernadine Florio Elmore, OH Brenda Gates

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scheid Monroeville, OH

Doris J. Hoesman Mr. Kermit L. Hoesman Woodville, OH Clyde and Thelma Honsberger

Mr. and Mrs. Larry K. Honsberger Elmore, OH

Christopher Jaye Mrs. Alnita Paterson Chardon, OH **David Joehlin** 

Mrs. Mary Jane Joehlin Oregon, OH Eleanore Juhnke Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W.

Dombi Fair Oaks Ranch, TX Barbara Sue (Platt) Kellog

Ms. Jo Ann Capaul Ida, MI

LaRue Kellogg

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scheid

Monroeville, OH

Fritz Lau

St. John Lutheran Church Women Williston, OH

**Loved Ones** 

Women

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Jim McDonald St. Paul Lutheran Church

Upper Sandusky, OH Glenn and Jean Moenter Mr. and Mrs. Brad Moenter

Waterville, OH Howard Moffat Mrs. Marie McCrate Barnesville, OH

**Richard Moore** Mr. and Mrs. G. Robert Rank

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Fremont, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Larry McElfresh
Fremont, OH Ms. Carole Miller Fremont, OH Mrs. Norma L. Miller Fremont, OH

Mrs. Mary Ann Mosser Fremont, OH Ms. Jill Newman Fremont, OH Mrs. Norma L. Pence Fremont, OH Mr. and Mrs. David Serwin Fremont, OH Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wasserman Helena, OH Mr. and Mrs. Craig Wendt Elmore, OH Mr. and Mrs. Les Widmer

Gibsonburg, OH Susan Rasmussen Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rasmussen Macomb, MI

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January 9, 2020 – April 1, 2020

**Deborah Craze** Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Craze Sterling Heights, MI

**First Responders and Medical Professionals** 

Mr. and Mrs. Dale W. Bockbrader Toledo, OH

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**Luther Home of Mercy** Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Bosse Millbury, OH

**Nadine Pfaff** 

Ms. Mary B. Bell Avon, OH Arnie Rodriguez

Rev. and Mrs. Donald L. Wukotich Woodville, OH

John Schleicher's 50th **Anniversary of Ordination** Rev. and Mrs. Kirk Havel New Palestine, IN

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED







