



Echoes of Mercy

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHER HOME OF MERCY • WILLISTON, OHIO

WINTER EDITION 2023



**Celebrating
95 Years
of Home**

Luther Home of Mercy is a Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Affiliate



THE LMM ANNUAL MEETING

Many Voices, One Story

On March 13th we hope you will join us as will gather together for the Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Annual Meeting. As is our tradition, it is a time to join in fellowship, an occasion to share the amazing work of our agencies, and an opportunity to thank all who lend their hearts and hands to this combined ministry.

As we reflect on the past year and prepare for the future, we hear the voices of those we serve, our donors, families and so many in our communities. Reflecting the rich diversity of the family of God, we recognize the unique perspectives each brings to the LMM ministry. Yet, as these voices come together, they tell the same story...only one story of love...reminding us that we are not so different at all.



Together, with faithful friends and partners, our shared purpose is bringing people and resources together to better support those we serve, their families and our communities in achieving a healthier and brighter future.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable story.

Sincerely,

Terri Rodriguez
President and C.E.O.



The Story of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy is a story of love.



You are cordially invited to attend
the Annual Meeting of the
Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

March 13, 2023

Doors open at 5:30 PM

Grazing Stations open at 5:45 PM

Meeting begins at 6:30 PM

Our Association of Congregations Pastors are encouraged to attend & bring two members for voting purposes.

The Pinnacle

1772 Indian Wood Circle
Maumee, OH 43537

Tickets: \$30

Hearty grazing, dessert
& beverage stations
(Clergy is free)

To register call Karen Shaffer at 419-972-4394 or email kshaffe@lutherhome.org.

You can also visit www.lutheranministriesofmercy.org and click on the "Many Voices" photo on the home page to register. We look forward to seeing you there.



CELEBRATING 95 YEARS OF HOME

Recently, a father stopped by our campus to check out this Home of Mercy. New to the area, he is looking for a place his adult son with Down Syndrome might come to live “when the timing is right”. After meeting with several members of our staff and a quick tour of facilities he remarked, “when you walk through the doors, it just feels like home.” We often hear this theme from first-time visitors who are not only amazed when they see the breadth of our ministry, but the everyday love that is so evident and freely given.

For those who are served by LHM, home means more than just four walls; it means living in an environment that is safe and comfortable, engaging in meaningful relationships and having opportunities to be an active member in community. For our staff, providing this kind of home is a way to use our gifts and talents to live out our faith. And this “faith-living” not only looks like daily devotions and visits from our Spiritual Care team, but also a lot like freshly cleaned sheets...shoveled sidewalks...and making the time for an extra round of Bingo.

We know that for families and loved ones, there is no greater decision than who to trust to provide care. As we have been for the last 95 years, we’ll be here “when the timing is right”. And we’ll do our best to feel just like home.



Thareze loves time spent with her beloved Al (Cottage Supervisor, Alex Purtee) who always makes sure that there are plenty of papers to color...YouTube videos of her favorite princesses to watch...and companionship from a trusted friend.

MEET JOLENE

My name is Jolene and I live in a Luther Home of Mercy group home with my roommates; Martha, Mindy and Darlene. We like to go shopping together for clothes and games and out to eat. I like it when we go to Bob Evans for pot roast. In the summer, we go on vacation. We have been to Dollywood and even Florida to see Mickey Mouse!

During the week, I go to my day program at the Genesis Community Center. At Genesis, I have coffee with my friends. I also play games on my Kindle; Pac Man and Candy Crush are my favorites.

When I am by myself, I like spending time in my room watching Golden Girls on my tv. I also work hard at moving around the house in my wheelchair for exercise. I am proud that I can do things for myself and make choices for my life.

We invite you to meet Jolene at the Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Annual Meeting (details on the opposite page).



After work, I like visiting my roommates. Sometimes I sit with Darlene while she colors.



I am one of the first people from Luther Home of Mercy to go on vacation. I love going to Florida to see Mickey Mouse!



I have lots of fun doing activities with my friends at Genesis.

KEEP THE BELL RINGING

During the holiday season we are overwhelmed with the generosity of donors who contribute resources and time to make the season special for those in the care of LHM. Presents appear under the tree, special treats are lovingly made, Santa arrives amid much anticipation and we gather to tell the story of our Saviors birth with family and friends. It is a time when our thoughts and hearts turn to others and, for many, a time when we truly prefer to give than to receive.



And so it was this past December, several of the clients attending the Genesis Day Program stepped forward to lend a helping hand to the Salvation Army. Bundling up and braving the cold weather Betty, Ralph, Mike, Cheryl, Laura and Charlie kept the bell ringing for hours as part of the Red Kettle Campaign. The work of these enthusiastic volunteers raised just over in \$181.00 in a two-hour period. Money used to help others, "doin' good" as our bell ringers might say.



As we welcome in the new year, we wish you and all those who volunteer continued joy in serving others.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

It's amazing what a small group of friends can accomplish with a little bit of coffee and some conversation. The Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men, Women, and Pastors held their Fall meeting at Zion Lutheran Church in Luckey, Ohio. As always, a time for refreshments and fellowship was enjoyed along with a program delivered by a guest speaker. Joel Burg treated the group to a discussion of our local history dating back as far as the late 1700's.

President and CEO, Terri Rodriguez, provided an update of the Home and progress on the current PVFLM project. Currently, the group is working to raise \$10,000 for the purchase of new medical beds. To date, they are over halfway to their goal! Plans are underway for the Spring meeting with details to appear on our social media pages and additional mailings. **For more information, contact Victor Schuerman, vschuer80@gmail.com, 419-287-4452.**



Guest Speaker, Joel Burg (L), took President, Victor Scheurman and the crowd on a journey through the history and early settlements of northwest Ohio.



BEQUESTS

**Carl and Barbara Dierksheide
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St. John Lutheran Church

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This list acknowledges gifts from October – December 2022. While we strive to acknowledge all gifts accurately, it is possible that errors have been made. If any are discovered, please accept our apologies and notify Megan O'Brien, Director of Mission Advancement, at 419-972-4436, mobrien@lutherhome.org.



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SHARING RESOURCES

Did you know that the affiliates of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy share an IT Department? As one of the initial endeavors of LMM, this partnership allows for the sharing of expertise at a reduced cost. In the developmental disabilities field, the documentation and reporting of many daily tasks require specialized computer equipment. Working together under LMM; Filling Homes and Luther Home of Mercy are able to make bulk purchases at a lesser rate and share staff who are knowledgeable in this unique work. Lutheran Social Services also benefits from this affiliation by having direct access to skilled technicians. Working together under one ticketing system, the IT Technicians of LMM are able to handle many daily requests from LMM employees across Northwest Ohio in a timely manner right from their remotework location.



L-R With their home office at LHM, Josh Buhrow and Andrew Walsh work as part of a team to meet the needs of individuals and staff at Luther Home and across Lutheran Ministries of Mercy.

PUTTING ON OUR DANCING SHOES

What would we do without staff like Joanne! A supervisor at the Emmaus Community Center, Joanne Allred not only brings fun to individuals at the workplace, but also invites them to her evening Zumba class. Nino, Beth and Jennifer meet Joanne at a local gym each week for an hour of dancing and movement to lively Latin music. Here, they have been embraced by friends from the community and get the chance to participate “just like everyone else”. It is through this kind of inclusion and acceptance that we are able to carry out our mission of enriching lives.



(L-R) Beth and Joanne keep the back row lively and energized



Jennifer (in purple) and the group are welcomed by their Zumba friends.



Nino proudly dances front and center where he can show off his moves.



Class always begins with a Nino hug for instructor, Sharon.

WE CAN ALMOST SMELL THE FLOWERS!

Throughout the fall and early winter months, progress has continued on the LHM Garden of Compassion. Newly poured cement walkways along with planted trees have us excited for the days ahead when we can join friends for bird watching and smell the beautiful spring flowers. We also can't wait to add the centerpiece of the Garden, a Dancing with the Angels sculpture.

We would like to thank all of our friends who joined us on Giving Tuesday in support of this project. In partnership with \$5,000 Presenting Match Sponsor, Hylant, over \$17,000 was generated in support of this picturesque outdoor gathering space.



As a member of the Planning Committee, Bob took the first official stroll through the Garden. Taking a look at the nearly finished garden beds, he spotted several places where we could put feeders for his favorite birds. When asked what was his favorite part, Bob says, "all of it". Several sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information, contact Megan O'Brien: 419-972-4436, mobrien@lutherhome.org or visit our website, lutherhome.org.

RIDING IN STYLE

Did you know that having equitable access to transportation is one of the biggest barriers people with disabilities face when trying to participate in their community? For a passenger who uses a wheelchair, vehicles are often built from scratch to meet specific needs. Ramp entry, proper restraints and floor space are just a few of the necessities that come at a much greater cost. Needing specialized mechanics and parts, repairs to vehicles of this nature are also vastly more expensive. In addition, the physical demands and extra training required of drivers for this population makes filling employment vacancies challenging work.

Giving a voice to these needs both here at Luther Home of Mercy and in Ottawa County, our ministry takes part in regular meetings with the Ottawa County Transportation Committee. Together with local stakeholders, we discuss the unique obstacles of meeting significant need in a rural area with no local taxi or ambulette services. Through this collaboration, we have partnered with the Great Lakes Community Action Partnership to tell our story in a video project. Narrated by LHM resident, Nadine, the video has been shared at the state level to shed light on the joys and trials of this important work.



Barbie is able to wheel in for her next adventure in our new accessible minivan.



Funded in part by the Ohio Department of Transportation, the new vehicle offers foldable seats and ramp entry making it ideal for a variety of passengers.

In addition to Committee participation, Luther Home continues to utilize resources from the Ohio Department of Transportation Specialized Transportation Program. Since the early 2000's, Program funding has offered significant assistance to LHM for the purchase of multiple campus buses and vehicles. Recently, Luther Home was awarded a brand new minivan to be used for resident outings. We look forward to expanding opportunities for shopping trips, dinner out and a chance to go to the movies. Though there is still much work to do, we are thankful for these valued partnerships that help our residents ride in style!

THE GIFT OF LOVE AND CARE

We know it's getting close to Christmas when vehicles overloaded with presents make their way to our administration building. This was an exceptionally bright holiday as our phones kept ringing with offers to "adopt" those we serve and grant their Christmas wishes. Coloring books, coats and Buckeye gear were just a few of the treasured items that made the season bright. Several groups provided items from our needs list including toiletries that will be used in our community homes and gift cards for a night on the town. These items not only help to supplement the scarce income of those we serve, but are a reminder that they are cared for and loved.



Sometimes it's just the little things that can make the season bright. Carol is all smiles with her new bottle of shampoo; an item from a stack of gifts picked just for her.

LUTHER HOME OF MERCY
5810 N MAIN ST
PO BOX 187
WILLISTON, OH 43468-0187
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Lutheran
Services
in America



Luther Home of Mercy

"Enriching Lives and Individual Abilities"

5810 N. Main Street, PO Box 187,
Williston, OH 43468-0187
419-836-7741 · Fax (419) 972-4357

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Visit our Web Site: www.lutherhome.org

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Luther Home of Mercy is an ICF/DD (Intermediate Care Facility for Developmentally Disabled) - the main campus is located in Williston and Community ministry serves clients in four NW Ohio counties.



Find us on Facebook!



Oh Holy Night: For the first time since 2019, we were able to gather with families and friends to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Pictured L-R Meghan, Jim, and Jason portray the shepherds and wise people as friends gathered for worship and fellowship.