

Echoes of Mercy

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHER HOME OF MERCY • WILLISTON, OHIO

HOLIDAY EDITION 2024



**MILLION
DOLLAR
SMILE**

Luther Home of Mercy is a Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Affiliate



Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

The Power of Partnership

So many years ago, our LMM agencies were founded by the goodness of others. Partnerships with churches, and with individual donors who had a greater vision of service, were the cornerstones of our early beginnings. Over the last century, as these community partnerships have continued to flourish, we are reminded that this support resonates deeply with the teachings of compassion and service found in Scripture.



Terri Rodriguez, President and CEO

Today, these collaborations - not only with churches, but with businesses and other service organizations, with volunteers and donors - amplify our efforts to provide supportive services. We work not only to offer immediate assistance, but also foster a sense of connection and empathy, transforming the ways our communities view our most vulnerable citizens.

Our agencies are committed to the value of partnerships as we continue to seek ways to best address the complex needs of those we serve. Serving individuals with developmental disabilities, helping thousands in need of food and nutrition, providing comfort to those experiencing trauma - these programs have been made better through the many contributions and collaborative work of others. The act of working side-by-side strengthens our agencies and serves to prioritize the well-being of others in effective ways.

Just as the Gospel teaches us that true faith is expressed through service, non-profit collaborations and partnerships showcase how, together, we can foster hope and create change. We are truly thankful for the many community partners that join with our agencies in service to others.

In Gratitude,



Gifting the "Leftovers"

Planned giving is a gift that requires more than a check or credit card. As the recipient of donations, our ministries receive gifts from donors during their lifetime and after the donor has passed away. We are grateful for the generosity of those who are able to remember our clients and residents as they make donation decisions. In the coming months, you might be wondering how to include your family, your church and your friends with gifts at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We want you to know that after you have done that, we would be honored to be the recipient of what we like to call the "leftovers."

Leftovers are wonderful gifts. After those you love are cared for, and you find that there is just a little more to give, remembering Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy or Lutheran Social Services with a small donation lets us know that you love us too! Please contact Jeanette at 419-972-4373 or email her at jhrovatich@luthmin.org if you have other questions related to types of giving or would like more information on making a year-end donation.

Every gift is special, because every gift makes a difference.



Lutheran Ministries of Mercy, founded in 2013 in partnership with Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy, and Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio, continues to find new ways to meet the demands of our clients and residents. Administrative services, information technology, and planned giving services are combined, shared and designed. Together, our organizations impacted 31,874 lives during 2023 and we look forward to working together in the years ahead.

lutheranministriesofmercy.org

Stronger Than Ever by Megan O'Brien, Vice President

It's hard to believe that Lutheran Ministries of Mercy is now in its eleventh year of operation. What started as a conversation over coffee between the leadership of Luther Home of Mercy and Filling Homes has grown in so many unique and meaningful ways. Joined with Filling Homes and Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio, our ministries are now stronger than ever; touching thousands of lives each day.

At Luther Home of Mercy, the daily impact is not only evident in the significant cost savings realized by sharing ministries, but the quality of resources we are able to offer the LHM family. Through our relationship with LMM affiliates:

- Chaplaincy services are shared by Luther Home of Mercy and Filling Homes; ensuring that those entrusted to us have Bible Studies, worship services and end of life care that is tailored to the unique needs of individuals.
- In collaboration with Lutheran Social Services, participants who attend our Advent day program are able to operate a personal needs pantry. Clients who are part of this program experience the joy of community service and giving back to others.
- LHM employees have no-cost access to Lutheran Social Services programming. A success coach, counseling services and financial planning classes are just a few of the opportunities that help our staff today and for the future.
- Shared leadership in the areas of Planned Giving, Human Resources, Fiscal Services, Support Services and Information Technologies enable Luther Home of Mercy to work alongside field experts to stay on top of ever-changing industry regulations and ministry needs.



LMM & Luther Home staff enjoyed a potluck and were invited to support the LSS Pantry by donating items or money.

As an affiliate of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy, we are blessed to have partners who have become trusted friends. Together, we are proud to offer vital ministries that make a difference!

Larry's Million-Dollar Smile



On August 6, 2024 Larry's dream of throwing out a ceremonial first pitch at the Toledo Mud Hens came true! His million-dollar smile was on repeat upon entering the stadium, seeing his family, getting on the field, throwing the pitch and watching the game.

Larry LOVES baseball and his family who came from near & far to cheer him on, witnessed first-hand his excitement. After throwing the first pitch, Larry and others served by Luther Home, enjoyed a picnic dinner along with our friends from Genacross Lutheran Services and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Larry proudly displays his commemorative baseball in a special case in his room at his LHM supported living home. Thank you to everyone who made this special evening possible!

Front Cover Photo: Larry at the Toledo Mud Hens stadium with Diana, his Supported Living Coordinator

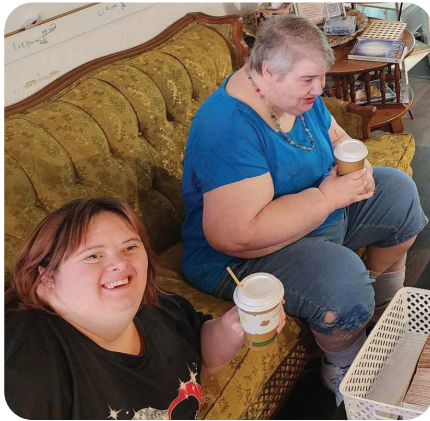


A Sweet Community Partnership

Creating connections, skill-building and expressing creativity are just a few of the focus areas at Luther Home of Mercy's day programs. Recently, our State Street Options Day Program, in Fremont, partnered with locally-owned, Outpour Coffee, to share their artistic talents.

Almost weekly, staff take a small group to the coffee shop to pick-up cup sleeves and baked goods bags. Upon returning to the day program, small groups stamp Outpour's logo, then express their creativity using stamps, stickers and markers to decorate the cup sleeves and bags for the sweet

treats. Typically, day program participants decorate up to 300 items each week! The decorations change seasonally.



This community partnership is a team effort and includes all day program participants who wish to get involved. Once the art is complete, another group delivers the finished products back to Outpour Coffee. Enjoying a drink during pick-up and deliveries is a fun perk!

Guests of the coffee shop have the opportunity to contribute towards the cost of supplies (stamps, ink pads, stickers, and colored sharpies) when checking out. We are thankful for Michael and Natalie Hasselbach, Outpour Coffee owners, for their willingness to collaborate!



2024 Golf Outing



Thank you to new and longstanding friends who supported Luther Home of Mercy at our 39th Annual Golf Outing! The weather and company on August 23 at Maumee Bay State Park were perfect. Mike, a client at Genesis Day Program, joined in the fun by passing out popcorn to golfers.

Presenting Lunch Sponsor: GenoaBank

Driving Range Sponsor: The Dotson Company

Champion Sponsors: CLA & Venture Visionary Partners

Hole Sponsors: Asset Protection Corporation, Pastor Chuck & Jeri Campbell, Chipmatic, CWS Environmental, Edward Jones: Austin S. Dean, GEM Service, Greer Group Construction, PNC Financial Service Group, P.T. Services, Sandrock Farms, Gary Schumaker LLC, Voya Financial: Tobias P. Cardone

Breakfast Sponsors: Pastor Chuck & Jeri Campbell, Voya Financial: Tobias P. Cardone, TESCO, Thrivent Action Team, Tim Titgemeyer

Goodie Bag Sponsor: Dimech Services Inc.

Golf Cart Sponsor: Voya Financial: Tobias P. Cardone

Donors: Blackberry Corner Tavern, Pastor Chuck & Jeri Campbell, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Condado Tacos, Hollywood Casino, The Keg, Mancy's Steakhouse, Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center, Meijer, The Mockingbird on Mill Road, Ralphie's, The Sandpiper, TESCO, Toledo Mud Hens, Toledo Symphony





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Blissfield, MI
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Martin, OH
Trinity Lutheran Church
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Trinity Lutheran Church
Sandusky, OH
Zoar Lutheran Church
Perrysburg, OH

Charitable Gift Annuities

Monthly gift in honor of
Rev. Don Wukotich
Terry Bossert
Maumee, OH

Lists in this issue acknowledge gifts from July 1 - September 30, 2024. 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 Melissa Gregg at 419-972-4338, mgregg@lutherhome.org.





Memorials

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Toledo, OH
St. John Lutheran Church Women
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Mr. Richard Bosse Family, Robert
Bosse, Ruth Peters Family, Marshall
Family, Gayle, Yolie, Gloria
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Williston, OH

Curtis Royster

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Sandusky, OH

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Norwalk, OH

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Boose

Norwalk, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Rex G. Dunn

Sandusky, OH



Memorials continued

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Monroeville, OH



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**Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Maike's 55th
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St. John Lutheran Church Women
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Joe Merrilees' 92nd Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Roger R. Scheid
Monroeville, OH
**Mr. & Mrs. Bob Rank's 60th Wedding
Anniversary**
Mr. and Mrs. G. Robert Rank
Perrysburg, OH
**Mr. and Mrs. Warren Schlievert's
50th Wedding Anniversary**
Mr. and Mrs. Lowell L. Hartman
Williston, OH
Harold and Carol Tewers
Ms. Elaine Money
Plano, TX
Marsha Vandemark
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Salhoff
Hagerstown, IN

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Endowment Fund**
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The Ehman Family Trust
Rocklin, CA
**The Martin and Helen Fahncke
Memorial Fund**
Minneapolis, MN
J. Henry Huseman, Endowment Fund
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Chicago, IL
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Cincinnati, OH
Christine Siefert Trust
Cleveland, OH
Kermit F. Stroh Estate
Cincinnati, OH
Mrs. Velma L. Sundermeyer
Sylvania, OH

Corporate Gifts

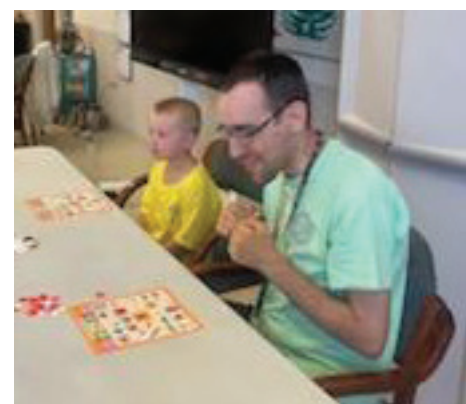
**ConocoPhillips Company
Owner Relations Unit**
Bartlesville, OK
Ecolab
TX
Thrivent Choice
Minneapolis, MN



Pickleball at Advent Lutheran Center Day Program was a big hit!



Rickey was overjoyed during worship at St. John - Williston!



Twice this Summer, Emmaus Day Program had special guests join them from Thrive Childcare to play Bingo. It's never too early to teach that we're all different and want accepted!



We All Fit Together in God's Perfect Puzzle



Attendees of Fall Fest, Luther Home of Mercy's annual tradition to celebrate the season, were greeted with a warm and sunny day on September 15. The beautiful weather was perfect for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and faith.

The day began with a heartfelt worship service under the big tent featuring special blessings by Chaplain Denise Brown, uplifting music from The Church of Grace and a special message, "We All Fit Together in God's Perfect Puzzle," from Pastor Sarah

Schaaf. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect and express gratitude as we head into the busy holiday season.

After the worship service, residents, clients, staff, family and volunteers had fun visiting the animals in Micki's Barn, shopping for crafts, baked goods and plants and meeting Ernie & Minnie Mouse. A picnic dinner was served by the Ginny's Kitchen team with clean-up assistance from Boy Scout Troop 66.

Thank you to everyone for joining us for the celebration! We appreciate our volunteers for making sure all residents could participate.



Personal Needs Pantry Celebrates 5-Year Anniversary

In the Fall of 2019, Luther Home of Mercy's Advent Lutheran Center launched a personal needs pantry. The idea came out of the desire of the individuals who attend the day program... they love to give back! The pantry offers them an opportunity to volunteer thru stocking shelves, filling orders and distributing personal needs items to over 30 people a month.



The pantry is a team effort with other individuals with disabilities coloring pictures to put in the bags. Our Lutheran Ministries of Mercy affiliate, Lutheran Social Services, screens pantry guests and makes appointments. As grocery prices continue to rise, keeping up with the demand for items from the Advent Personal Needs Pantry has been challenging. During this season of giving, we invite everyone to pick-up a few extra items to support this work.

Drop-Off Locations

Mon-Fri, 9a-3p
Advent Lutheran Center
3941 N McCord Rd
Sylvania, OH

M-F, 8a-4p Admin Building
24/7 On Call Office
Luther Home of Mercy
5810 N Main St
Williston, OH





Help Us Get There on December 3, 2024

GIVING TUESDAY

On Giving Tuesday, the whole world comes together to give back through acts of kindness, gifts of voice, time, talent or treasure. We invite you to join us for this day of giving back to help us move our mission forward—quite literally.

Now Hiring

Every day a new memory is created. LHM is built on family.
- Malik, 15 year veteran

Start a rewarding career with Luther Home of Mercy! Current open positions:

- Housekeeper/Laundry
- LPN/RN
- Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP)
- Supported Living Provider, Oak Harbor
- Supported Living Team Leader, Perrysburg
- Van Driver

Various shifts are available depending on the position. Visit www.lutherhome.org for complete details.

Employee benefits include:

- Competitive pay
- Health, dental & vision
- Paid time off
- Premium pay for holidays worked

Apply Today! lutherhome.org

Support Our Transportation Fund on December 3! Reliable transportation is essential for everything we do in serving adults with disabilities. Whether we're getting them to their day program, a job, to volunteer, for fun or making sure they can access the care they need, transportation is the backbone of our efforts.



Chris loves to go bowling! Your support makes his passion a reality.

Through the generosity of our partners, the first \$4,000 donated for Giving Tuesday will be matched!



Thank you Hylant, an Insurance, Employee Benefits & Risk Management Consulting company, for their continued generosity with a \$3,000 match and to our new \$1,000 matching sponsor, Lee Terry Holdings, LLC: Terry L. Bossert, CEO.



We need your help to keep our wheels turning! Your donation will: Support vehicle purchases; Provide safe rides for those who rely on us several times a day; and Repair and maintain our fleet, ensuring no trip is left undone.

How to Help:

- Donate: Visit www.lutherhome.org or mail a check with Giving Tuesday in the memo line.
- Share: Spread the word by sharing our appeal.
- Engage: Follow us on social media and see the impact.

Thank you for standing with us and supporting our mission to keep our community on the move!

Generosity gives everyone the power to make a positive change in the lives of others and is a fundamental human value anyone can act on.



Adopt A Resident



Thank you to Faith Lutheran Church, Fremont, for kicking-off our Adopt A Resident program with a truckload of items from our wish list!

With the help of caring individuals and groups like Fremont Faith, it is our hope that each individual served by our ministry will have a present under the tree this Christmas.

We invite you to get involved in Adopt A Resident one of the following ways.

Adopt an Individual

A shopping list is provided based on the individual's needs/wants. We ask the person adopting a resident or client to purchase a maximum of four presents from the list (to keep things fair). To request an individual, contact Lisa at 419-972-4431 or lmcnary@lutherhome.org.

Shop Our Wish List to Support All

Individuals and groups may purchase items from our wish list available at www.lutherhome.org and we'll share them with all we serve. If you'd like us to email the list, please email lmcnary@lutherhome.org.

Our community makes Christmas a blessed time for all those served by Luther Home of Mercy. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



God's Work, Our Hands

Thank you to our friends, from St. John - Williston and St. Peter - Blackberry, for joining us on September 8, for the ELCA's annual day of service. The afternoon included an awards ceremony for residents who participated in baseball this Summer, playing baseball, coloring and crafts!

An Evening of Fishing

It was a joy to have Boy Scouts of America Troop 9066 and Pack/Troop 66, from Bethel Lutheran Church, help residents go fishing and watch them having fun too!

Attendees caught sunfish, blue gill and bass at the LHM Pond. There was a lot of laughter and some may have kissed a fish!

Hawaiian Luau

Everyone received a leis when they arrived at the luau. The smiles were big at the photo booth and continued while playing games including fishing and pineapple bowling! The beach-themed cupcakes were delicious. Thank you to our volunteers from Mercy College's nursing program and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church!

Christmas Worship



Join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ!

Christmas Worship
December 15, 2024
2:30 p.m.
Habilitation Gym

The service will include scripture readings and residents portraying the Christmas story followed by light refreshments.

Sharing Our Ministry

Luther Home was invited to St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (Upper Sandusky) to share our ministry during worship in late September. We're thankful to Pastor Barry Halter, Jr. for the invite and also featuring Luther Home of Mercy as St. Paul's mission for the month. If you'd like us to share our ministry with your church or group, please contact Melissa Gregg at mgregg@lutherhome.org or 419-972-4338.

Garden Party

In August, we celebrated our ministry accomplishments with leadership donors, businesses, pastors and staff. Guests enjoyed mingling, lunch and an update from President/CEO Terri Rodriguez.



Sue Tate, Director of Supported Living, enjoyed visiting with Mrs. Diane Hartman and Mrs. Barbara Beery

Safety Grant Recipient



Tina is assisting Elizabeth using one of the new lifts.

Luther Home of Mercy and the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation are committed to the safety of our staff and those we serve.

Through the BWC Safety Grants program, Luther Home was recently awarded \$40,000 to purchase new floor lifts and shower chairs for our Williston campus. This equipment provides additional comfort and security, along with significantly reducing the risk of workplace injuries.

Thank you for your support in our safety BWC!



Advent Day Program participants had fun picking apples & learning about them.

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



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. - 4:00 p.m.
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!**

