



# Echoes of Mercy

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHER HOME OF MERCY • WILLISTON, OHIO

SPRING 2024

## TREATING OTHERS



Luther Home of Mercy is a Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Affiliate



# Lutheran Ministries of Mercy



## The Call of Compassion

In the quiet, and not-so quiet corners of our LMM agencies, volunteers have, for decades, stepped forward to offer so much more than their hours. Not driven by paychecks-but by purpose-volunteers have long-served as pillars of strength for our agencies. Their motivations are as diverse as the colors of the rainbow, yet they share a common purpose; to serve without expectation.

For some, it's a personal experience – a family member needing care, a neighbor without food, or a friend battling addiction. Others simply believe in the power of kindness. They see unmet needs...their empathy fuels commitment...and they step forward, ready to make a difference.

Every volunteer act carries a ripple effect. Their actions touch not only the immediate beneficiaries of this compassion, but also their families, friends and communities. A single act of kindness multiplies and their deeds reverberate far beyond what meets the eye.

Within our agencies we have been blessed by generations of volunteers who have passed the torch to others, each adding a chapter to our story. From those who stood with us when the first shovel of ground was turned-to now the third and fourth generations blending tradition with innovation-they have formed an unbroken chain. This legacy is etched in the smiles of those we serve and the continued health of our agencies.

Yesterday, today and tomorrow the spirit of volunteerism endures and we are thankful to all those who contribute their time-and their hearts-in service to others.

Sincerely,

Terri Rodriguez  
President/CEO



## Planned Giving Document Preparation

Jeanette Hrovatich  
Director of Planned Giving

Having everything in one place always provides peace of mind for you---and your family. Spring is the perfect time to update and prepare. Here, we highlight a few documents that will help your loved ones have the details they need to be at peace and celebrate your life with love.

1. Last Will and Testament and designate an executor of your estate.
2. List of Important documents and instructions.
  - Marriage License; Military Documents
  - Vehicle, Property titles or loan information
  - Investments (life insurance, IRA, etc.)
  - Bank accounts with named beneficiaries
3. Power of Attorney (ends upon death)
4. Health Care Directive and a HIPAA release so your family can receive your health information.
5. Statement of Desires. This letter from you would list items and passwords for things like social media, cloud storage, cell phone photos and more. These items are your property, and creating this list will be valuable.

As always, consulting with a trusted financial planner or accountant would be helpful.



June 17-July 30, 2024

In 2023 the Together Toward Tomorrow Campaign raised funds for the programs and services of all three affiliates. We remain committed to continuing our services and collectively working to create new opportunities and innovative solutions for those in our care. In June, a request will be made to ask for your support! We hope you will help our clients and residents continue to find success by making a gift to this campaign. Thank you!



Sharing Resources • Enhancing Lives

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](http://lutheranministriesofmercy.org)

## Mike's Popping Pals by Megan O'Brien, Vice President



A few "Popping Pals" celebrating with OCTA

One of Mike's favorite television shows is "Shark Tank". Viewers tune-in to watch competitors present a business idea to a panel of judges in hopes that the experts will invest in their dream.

Inspired by the show, Mike recently created a proposal to start a popcorn cart with his friends at our Genesis day program. Working with staff and participants at the site, Mike prepared and delivered a presentation to "judges" from our administration team. His enthusiasm and charm won over the panel who gifted Mike and his friends with the requested cart.

Today the "Poppin Pals" bag up and deliver freshly popped treats for our monthly orientation classes and staff appreciation events. They also love to be invited to pass out the snacks at community happenings. For Mike

and his friends, the shared experience of enjoying popcorn is a way to meet new people and work together to accomplish a common goal.

From the Poppin Pals...the Advent Personal Needs Pantry...and countless other volunteer projects, those we serve are eager to connect with others and make a difference. This human connection is possible with thanks to the support of friends just like you. Thank you for sharing your care and compassion for others by joining us in this important work!

## Partnering = Shared Blessings

In April, we partnered with Sylvania's McCord Junior High for *Tartan's Pitch In*. In one week, the school collected 957 items including food, personal care and art supplies! Donations from students, staff and the Sylvania community were shared between Luther Home of Mercy's Advent Center *Personal Needs Pantry* and Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio's *Choice Food Pantry*.



Thank you to McCord Junior High and all who give back to Luther Home of Mercy and our community! When you give back to someone in need, you're a difference maker.

# Friends from the Valley

*"Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy." Proverbs 27:9*

Our rich ministry would not be possible without the help of steadfast and caring friends. Since our beginning in 1928, the Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men and Pastors has walked alongside us; providing countless volunteer hours and financial support. Painting...building and purchasing items from our needs list are just a few of the ways their enthusiasm has made our ministry feel like home. Recent projects have included assisting with the renovations in our Pfeifer hospitality house and the purchase of medical beds.

Members of the group gathered at our Genesis day program for their spring meeting. LHM Director of Community Habilitation and Quality Improvement, Amanda Esquivel, shared information about the services offered at our day programs. Our sincerest thanks today, and always, to this wonderful and inspiring group as we continue our journey together! If you would like more information on the Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men and Pastors, we encourage you to be in touch with the group's President, Mr. Victor Schuerman, at vschuer80@gmail.com.



# Cub Scout Pack 3928

The energy at Luther Home of Mercy's Pinewood Derby was big! Cub Scout Pack 3928 with 21 members, who are also residents, and their leaders, Cheryl Smarkel & Colleen Hickey, welcomed friends & family to the derby. Over 40 people attended with several residents trying out the race track for fun.

We're thankful for the volunteers who joined us and our derby experts Jeff Smarkel, Michael Smith, Charlie Horn, Larry Faunt and Bob Neubert.



# Church Gifts

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Uniontown, OH
- Advent Lutheran Martha Circle**  
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Monthly gift in honor of  
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## Giving Tuesday

**Mr. & Rev. Walter Getzinger**

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**Chris & George Glinski**

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**Ms. Sandee Sledd**

Union City, GA



Lists in this issue acknowledge gifts from January 1 - March 31, 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 419-972-4436, [mgregg@lutherhome.org](mailto:mgregg@lutherhome.org).



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*Alesia Frerichs, President & CEO of Lutheran Services in America, was the guest speaker at the 2024 LMM Annual Meeting.*

# Luther Home of Mercy

## 2024 Bid For The Roses



Presented by:



Almost 200 friends joined us for the bi-annual Bid for the Roses Dinner Auction on April 26. They came dressed for the derby and ready for fun!

Guests enjoyed grazing stations, entertainment by Distant Cousinz Acoustic Duo and had the opportunity to support Luther Home of Mercy by bidding on over 60 baskets donated by our generous community.

Master of Ceremony, Tom Cole, made sure everyone was aware of all the activities and having fun! The evening concluded with a live auction featuring auctioneer, Maria Rodriguez, who worked the crowd and kept the paddles raising!

Thank you to the sponsors, event guests and auction donors who supported the Bid for the Roses Auction & Dinner! The event supports programming for all those served by Luther Home of Mercy.



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**Auction Item Donors:** African Safari Wildlife Park, Ag Pro, Alan Miller Jewelers, AllCare Pharmacy, Angry Irishman, Appliance Center, Basil Pizza & Wine Bar, Bench Farms St. Rt. 2, Bennett Enterprises, Biggby Coffee *Northwood*, Blackberry Corners, Doug & Tami Blackburn, The Blarney, Bowling Green State University, The Buckeye & Wolverine Shop, Buff City Soap, Carolyn's Personalized Catering, Casa Las Palmas, Catawba Island Club, Chateau Winery & Vineyard, Cincinnati Reds, Cinemark, Cleveland Cavaliers, Coastal Swing Golf, Condado Tacos, Dana Open, DeSTAZIO's Pizza, Detroit Tigers, doTERRA *Dawn Balduf*, El Camino Sky, The Employers' Association, Flat Rock Speedway, Frickers, Friends of LHM, GenoaBank, Genoa Jewelers, Cindy Getzinger, Christine Heidt, Hirzel Farms, Hong Kong Restaurant, House of Meats *Oregon*, John & Jeanette Hrovatic, IBEW Local #8, Imagination Station, J&M Cruise Lines, The Keg, Pastor Juli Lejman-Guy, Jeanne Lesniewicz, Luther Home of Mercy: *Cottage 6B, Mission Advancement, On-Call, Payroll &*

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PO BOX 187  
WILLISTON, OH 43468-0187  
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### **Luther Home of Mercy**

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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!**

# Save the Date August 23, 2024

## 38th Annual Golf Outing Maumee Bay State Park

8 a.m.  
Shotgun Start

More details coming soon  
to [www.lutherhome.org](http://www.lutherhome.org)