



Echoes of Mercy

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHER HOME OF MERCY • WILLISTON, OHIO

Winter Edition 2022



*The Smile of
Belonging*

By Grace... With Gratitude...

Dear Friends, Families and Supporters,

As we come into a new year, 2021 will be remembered as the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. A pandemic that changed our world and impacted our health care organizations more than any other. Not only the devastating health consequences suffered by so many right here at home and across the globe, but the economic, social and political aspects that have affected us all.

Despite these hardships, the ministries of LMM have been sustained by faith and the steadfast commitment to our work in this world. We know that God's grace has been present in our organizations, with the people that toil beside us and with those that we serve not only this year, but for as long as we have been doing this crucial work. He has made us exactly who we are meant to be and placed us in this moment, surrounded by people who we are intended to be with, and given us the gifts to be free to care for one another.

Through teamwork and trust, our LMM affiliates have come together to reach across organizational boundaries, to learn from one another and gain insights from a broader perspective. This point in time is one that has tested our resiliency, but will reshape our organizations and position us to better empower and care for those we serve.

We want to thank you for your continued devotion and we are blessed by your trust and support...gifts that make our work possible. Your generosity and commitment to the work of these ministries has enabled us to continue to fulfill our missions though this uncertain yet critical time.

In Gratitude,



Terri Rodriguez
President & CEO



Charles Winters
Board Chair



By Grace With Gratitude

Join us on March 14 • 5:30pm

Lutheran Ministries of Mercy and our affiliates; Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy, and Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio invite you to attend our Annual Meeting. Join us at The Pinnacle, 1772, Indian Wood Circle in Maumee, OH. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for grazing stations and conversation with the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Association of Congregations members are encouraged to send a pastor and guest or two (2) members of your congregation. You play a vital role in our success and your presence for voting enables our work to continue.

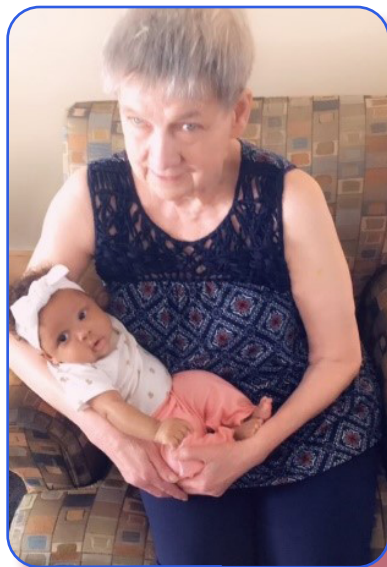
We are honored to have Reverend Dr. Niklaus (Nik) Schillack, Pastor of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Bloomfield Hills, MI as our Guest Speaker.

**RSVP by March 10, 2022
to Karen at:
kshaffe@lutherhome.org or
419-972-4394.**

Visit lutheranministriesofmercy.org or any LMM affiliate's website
For questions, contact Karen Shaffer at the number above.

We're All Just One Big, Happy Family

Just this past December, one of the very first individuals to live in our outreach community, Sue Straub, passed away after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Many of our earliest program leaders learned from Sue's company, in this fledgling ministry, how to provide quality care that extends beyond our Williston campus. Working with Sue, we learned that as caregivers we did not have to be perfect in meeting the needs of others. Sue was willing to accept us, as long as we did not want her to be anyone other than her true self.



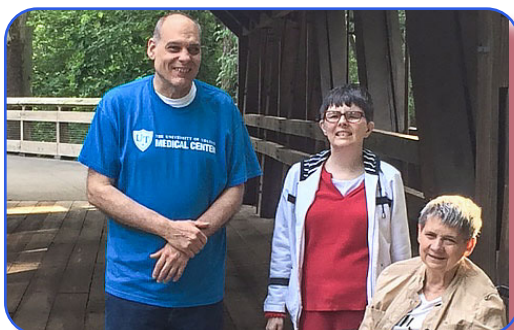
Sue's abundant love touched friends of all ages.

Community living came at just the right time for Sue, who always had places to go and people to visit. Never one to miss an adventure, she loved getting together with her lifelong friends from Central Catholic High School and was a regular in the pews of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns. Sue thrived at various LHM day program centers where she loved to go on outings, chat with friends and take a spin on the exercise bike. She loved her roommates, Talmadge, Tamara and Ted whom she lived and traveled with for decades. It seemed as though most of Toledo knew Sue, as simple trips to the

grocery store would turn into friendly conversations with passersby. Wherever she went, Sue brought people together; showing interest in their lives, forming common bonds and sharing her love and friendship.

After living with us for so many years and loving her life at Luther Home, Sue became a champion of our ministry and like part of the family to many of our staff. She wanted to hold our babies, ask about our hobbies and pray for us when we are sick. She was always happy to provide a quote for a newsletter article or talk to our volunteers about the love she had for her care providers and LHM friends. "We're all just one big happy family," she would say.

Near the end of Sue's life, as her health declined, she continued to teach us lessons about how to provide care alongside Hospice so she could spend her final days in the peace of her home. She also taught us how to say goodbye to someone who felt just like family. As we enter our 94th year of ministry, and our



Always ready for adventure, Sue (R) was a regular participant in LHM recreation programs.

23rd year of community living, we find that the saying goodbye to longtime residents and clients like Sue has not gotten any easier. We cry... we mourn...sometimes we even question why God has allowed us to face another difficult loss. But we also come together to grieve...to pray and to celebrate that one day we will be reunited with beloved individuals like Sue once again. Perhaps that's what being part of "one big happy family" is all about.



A favorite monthly outing; Sue attended Graceful Friends, a special Bible study offered by Grace Lutheran Church, Toledo where she befriended Pastor Al Swartz and the people of Grace.

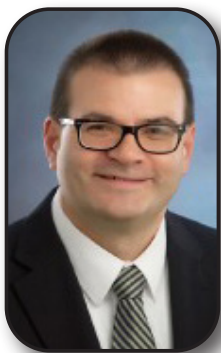


Staff like Coordinator, Gale Holloway, became treasured friends.



At the inception of our community ministries, Sue was one of the first clients to be served by outreach founder and current President & CEO, Terri Rodriguez.

Luther Home Announces New Vice President



Steve Tucker
Vice President

Since mid-2017, the position of Vice President here at Luther Home of Mercy has been vacant. We have delayed filling this position for a number of reasons, but are now ready to have someone serve in this capacity. We are pleased to let you know that Steve Tucker has joined LHM as Vice President. Steve has nearly 20 years of experience in the developmental disabilities field, in the areas of business, compliance, Medicaid services, operations, and management. Prior to entering the field of developmental disabilities, Steve spent 14 years in the private sector as an Accountant and as a practicing Certified Public Accountant.

Steve received his Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy from the University of Akron and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Cleveland State University. In addition, Steve holds a Superintendent license issued by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and is a Certified Public Accountant.

"The death of a friend's daughter and, shortly thereafter, the events of 9/11 made me question my career path at the time. I fell into the developmental disabilities field quite by accident. My wife worked as a developmental specialist with the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities and a position, in the business office, became available. Without the slightest idea of what a Medicaid waiver was I was hired. I served as the Medicaid Services Manager/Assistant Director of Business before becoming the Director of Operations at the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. In 2017, I became Superintendent of the Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities which had the added benefit of allowing me to be closer to family in the Toledo area.

"I enjoy history and I find the history of Luther Home of Mercy intriguing. We tend to think things pretty much stay the same but when we look back everything is constantly evolving. That's where I find my passion, in working to be, and do, better. I enjoy the challenge to be more efficient, learned from my experience in the private sector, while improving the outcome. In our field that outcome is improving people's lives."

Steve along with his wife, Donna, live in Liberty Center. Steve and Donna have a son, Kurt and daughter-in-law, Jessica, who live in Holland, Ohio. When not working, Steve spends most of his time keeping up with his grandchildren, Karsyn, Kinsley, and Easton.

We hope you will join us in welcoming Steve to Luther Home of Mercy!



Cinco de Derby

After four years of hiatus, we are excited to bring back (what was) our bi-annual auction! To be held, the day after Cinco de Mayo and the day before the Kentucky Derby we hope you will join us Friday, May 6th, for Cinco de Derby presented by GenoaBank. For the first time in our history, we are moving this party to the Pinnacle in Maumee, Ohio; enabling us to host our biggest fundraising event yet! Plans are underway for live and silent auctions, hearty grazing and dessert stations, live music, raffles and more.

There are several ways you can help to make this dynamic event a great success:

Join Us: Whether you bring one date or a table of eight, we hope you will wear your derby or fiesta attire and help us party.

Become a Sponsor: Opportunities to highlight individuals, groups and businesses are available at a variety of sponsorship levels. Our team would be happy to help you select a package that meets your needs.

Donate an Auction Item: Help us to curate items that will be attractive to our bidders. Whether you have one item of interest or put together a basket of surprises, we welcome items at all price points! New and gently used baskets and cello wrap are also needed!



To buy your tickets or learn more about Cinco de Derby, please visit: www.lutherhome.org, or contact Megan O'Brien: mobrien@lutherhome.org, 419-972-4436.



FRIDAY, MAY 6TH @ 6PM

**THE PINNACLE • MAUMEE, OH
1772 INDIAN WOOD CIRCLE**



Luther Home of Mercy
A Ministry Enriching Lives
And Individual Abilities

GRAZING STATIONS & DESSERT



LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

CASH BAR • RAFFLES

MUSIC BY : ACOUSTIC DISTANT COUSINZ

\$50 TICKETS // \$350 TABLE OF 8

**TICKETS @ LUTHERHOME.ORG
OR 419-836-7741**

Don't forget your fiesta or derby attire!

Prizes for the best dressed.



Memorials

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Toledo, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas McBride
Defiance, OH
Ms. Lucille Knehr
Clyde, OH

Norm and Lucile Atkinson

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Fremont, OH

Cindy Aurand

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Mr. Eugene Davidson
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Wyoming, OH
Ms. Cari Hotchkiss
Naperville, IL
Ms. Teri Nau
Cincinnati, OH
Mr. James Schwab
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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sherman
Cincinnati, OH

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Mrs. Beckman
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Williston, OH

Agatha Dekreon Benadum

Mrs. JoElaine Schimming
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Maumee, OH
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Bellefontaine, OH
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Harold and Alta Bockbrader

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Mr. Robert G. Buehler
Carleton, MI

Todd H. Buehler

Mr. Robert G. Buehler
Carleton, MI

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Galion, OH

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Uniontown, OH
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Naples, FL

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Maumee, OH

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Dennis & Jan Schell

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Pemberville, OH
Ms. Mary Ann Bockbrader
Pemberville, OH
Mrs. Diane Bostdorff
Perrysburg, OH
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Pemberville, OH

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Maumee, OH

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Fostoria, OH

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Carmel, IN

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Gibsonburg, OH

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Saugatuck, MI

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Grolle

Perrysburg, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Guthrie

Genoa, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Haas

Stony Ridge, OH

Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Hartman

Pemberville, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Heber

Delaware, OH

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Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Henline
Pemberville, OH
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Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kehl
Columbus, OH
Ms. Sharon Knitt
Perrysburg, OH
Mrs. Mary Kuhlman
Pemberville, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kuhlman
Pemberville, OH
Ms. Marcia Lafferty
Perrysburg, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Denny Layman
Pemberville, OH
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Pemberville, OH
Mr. & Mrs. Gayle Lohrbach
Maumee, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Losez
Perrysburg, OH
Ms. Jayne Marcum
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Bowling Green, OH
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Ms. Karen Reinke
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Mr. Ehrlichman
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Dolores Schimming

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Lester and Cora Schimming

Mrs. JoElaine Schimming
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Carl Schimming

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Mrs. JoElaine Schimming
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Milton Schimming

Mrs. JoElaine Schimming
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Mrs. Norma Schneiderbauer
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Mrs. Carol Henschen
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Rev. Robert Sheets

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Rev. Dave and Jean Shugert

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Powell, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Siek

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Williston, OH

Clarence Smithers

St. John Lutheran Church Women
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Debra Burnett Zajac

Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Henzler
Northwood, OH

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Louis Zorn

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Monroeville, OH

Roy and Frieda Zunk

Mr. and Mrs. Gary J. Carstensen
Williston, OH



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Oregon, OH

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Uniontown, OH

Amazon Smile

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Woodville, OH

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Mr. and Mrs. William J. Buckenberger
Perrysburg, OH

Rev. and Mrs. Chuck Campbell
Toledo, OH

Ms. Deanna Cedargren
Maumee, OH

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Bowling Green, OH

Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Whitehouse, OH

Mr. and Mrs. William K. Cook
Sylvania, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Garrett J. Crane
Sylvania, OH

Croghan Colonial Bank
Fremont, OH

Mrs. Sharon Dailey
Northwood, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Jason DeVault
Toledo, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Dierksheide
Bradner, OH

Ms. Marian Dobkin
Pompano Beach, FL

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St. John's Lutheran Church
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This list acknowledges gifts from October 1- December 31, 2021. 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.

Helping Our Gardens Grow

This past November, friends of Luther Home joined millions from across the globe on Giving Tuesday; a day of giving aimed at making our world a better place. Joined by \$5,000 Presenting Match Sponsor, Hylant, over \$17,000 was generated to help establish a Garden of Compassion on our Williston campus. Coming in 2022, this beautiful space will be a place where all who are part of Luther Home can participate in outdoor activities and reflect in the picturesque natural scenery.

Many thanks to all who helped make this lasting impact!

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

HYLANT
Insurance & Employee Benefits



As an avid nature lover, Bob is looking forward to watching the birds and planting seeds in the raised garden beds.



We are blessed by many donors who contribute to our individual affiliates and to our collective work, sharing gifts of time, talent and treasure. We gratefully acknowledge the followings faithful supporters who contributed to our work from June 15, 2021 to December 15, 2021. We remain committed to continuing our services and working together to create new opportunities for those in our care. Together, and by His Grace, your gift moves us toward a brighter tomorrow.

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Pastor Donald J. Wukotich Scholarship**Mrs. Rebecca Sparks**

Martin, OH

Lutheran Men in Mission

Raised \$3,510 for our combined ministries

Bobcats on the Prowl

It's official! The sixteen residents who are part of Pack 928, our Cub Scouting Pack of the Boy Scouts of America, recently earned their Bobcat



Badge. Requiring knowledge in seven areas of the fundamentals of scouting, this is the first rank that is earned by all Cub Scouts. The men

and women of Pack 928 worked hard and to the best of their abilities to earn this achievement and take great pride in belonging to this national organization.



The smile of belonging: Doug receives his Bobcat certificate and patch along with congratulations from Pack leader, Colleen Hickey

This project was made possible in part by a grant from Ottawa County Community Foundation, Ohio.

For more information, visit the Foundation's website at www.ottawaccf.org.

From Volunteer to Career



When he was a bright-eyed third grader, Michael Moll began volunteering at Luther Home. Guided by his mom, Cottage Supervisor, Marlene Moll, Michael learned at an early age how to interact with residents while helping at Fall Fest and various cottage activities. Today, Michael is getting ready to celebrate his one-year anniversary as a member of our Direct Care Staff. In his first year as part of our team, Michael learned the importance of providing the same care he would want for his own family and appreciates the community spirit of our ministry. Going on outings with residents has made the job fun and for the first time, Michael says he feels happy at work, "I love this job" he says. What brightens Michael's workday? "When I walk into a cottage to resident smiles and excitement to see me," this is why I am here.

Are you considering a career in a healthcare related field? Joining Luther Home as a volunteer is a great way to gain onsite experience. For more information, contact Arielle Semer: asemer@lutherhome.org, 419-972-4431.

Sharing Resources

Did you know that one of the ways Luther Home of Mercy partners with Lutheran Ministries of Mercy affiliate, Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio, is through participation in their Employer Resource Network? Joined by other small and mid-sized businesses, Lutheran Social Services serves as the lead agency; employing a Success Coach to improve workforce retention through employee support and training. Success Coach, Latanya Ridley, provides resources to employees who may be struggling to secure childcare, transportation, or may need additional support to flourish in a professional workplace.



Christmas in the “In Between”

While Christmas activities weren't quite back to the normal of our pre-COVID world, countless friends took time to make the holiday special for those we serve. Holiday outings, Christmas worship and an abundance of presents from our Adopt-A-Resident friends rendered the Christmas Season a time filled with joy. These acts of kindness brightened spirits and remind us of the One whom we celebrate.

Many thanks to all who helped to make the season merry and bright!



Pictured: Rev. Cindy and Mr. Andy Getzinger bring Christmas cheer to Williston with gifts for residents. Dozens of congregations, community groups and friends “adopted” 150 individuals who are served by Luther Home of Mercy to ensure that everyone had a special package under the tree.



With the help of a donation from the Zenobia Shriners of Perrysburg, Santa was able to deliver a cozy gift to Anthony and all of those who are served by Luther Home.



Friends from the Northwestern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America joined residents for an evening of fun at the Lights Before Christmas at the Toledo Zoo. This trip was made possible thanks to a Microgrant from the Synod.

Christmas worship on our Williston campus was a highlight of the season. Cottage Supervisor, Orianna Brown, and Tharese share a special moment while they read the Christmas story together.



The Gingerbread Man came to life and shared special cuddles with Brian.

Heather baked up tasty treats in her Oak Harbor home.



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"

53810 N. Main Street, PO Box 187,
Williston, OH 43468-0187
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Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Visit our Web Site: www.lutherhome.org

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES 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.



While some folks at Luther Home wear maize and blue, others are buckeyes through and through! An avid Ohio sports lover, Jim recently had the chance to cheer on Ohio State right at The Shoe. O-H!