



Echoes of Mercy

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHER HOME OF MERCY • WILLISTON, OHIO

SUMMER 2025



STIRRING UP NEW SKILLS

READ MORE ON PAGE FIVE

Luther Home of Mercy is a Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Affiliate

Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

Celebrating the Passion Behind Our Mission

During the summer months our agencies spend some dedicated time recognizing and thanking staff for their work and dedication to ministry. Whether it is an all-staff training day, a special lunch, or even a few games of SINGO, we come together to recognize staff efforts and give thanks for the impact they make each and every day.

Our staff often wear many hats – counselor, advocate, mentor and problem-solver – as they work to adapt to meet the ever-changing needs of those they serve. Staff coordinate resources, provide care, navigate complex systems and often do more with less, relying on creativity and compassion to overcome countless hurdles. These amazing staff are blessed with the ability to find meaning in challenge and fulfillment in service. The blessings they carry are reflected in the lives they touch: a family connected to food, a client given comfort and care in times of distress, a young artist “Soaring” in a day program.

This work may seem to go unnoticed by many, yet we know that behind each of these stories are countless hours of often unseen labor. Day after day and all through the night, this work of dedicated staff is fueled by their resilience and a deep compassion for others.

Our staff do the hard, human work of caring. And, while we take some time this summer to say thank you, their service is genuinely recognized and appreciated all through the year. Through their commitment, they show us that the greatest measure of success is the good we do for others.

Thank you to our staff and all those who join us in this work!

Sincerely,



Terri Rodriguez
President and CEO

YOU'RE INVITED!

We would love to have you join us at one or more of these events!

September 27 | Festival of Tables Luncheon at Filling Homes, presented by Women's Guild of Filling Homes. Doors open at 11. Lunch at Noon.

October 5 | Fall Festival at Luther Home of Mercy: Outdoor gathering for worship, family activities, and dinner. Event begins at 2:30.

November 1 | Fall Fling at Filling Homes: A celebration including a live and silent auction, luncheon and raffle. Doors open at 11.

November 8 | Breakfast with the Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men & Women, Emmanuel Lutheran Center, Lindsey Ohio. Doors open at 9.

A SUMMER SEASON OF GIVING

The generosity of our donors in time, treasure, and prayer has allowed us to remain on the cutting edge of program delivery, while investing in staff and volunteer ministries. Across our organization, children, adults, seniors, and families receive vital services that support their health and well-being.

There is always more work to be done—and that means balancing our strong foundation with a renewed sense of mission. Right now, we are working together to raise funds for our summer campaign, **Together Toward Tomorrow**. This annual appeal offers a meaningful way to express your faith while meeting your personal giving goals.

We gratefully accept one-time or recurring gifts by cash, credit, retirement distributions, stock, or life insurance. *Thrivent Action Teams* and *Thrivent Choice Dollars* also help fuel our mission through service and generosity.

If you want to learn more, visit our website at lutheranministriesofmercy.org, call Jeanette, Director of Planned Giving, at 419-972-4373, or email her at jhrovatich@luthmin.org.

Together, we can make a difference for those in our care.

Standing Together to Expand Hope and Healing

by Megan O'Brien, Vice President

*A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
Proverbs 18:24*

It has been twelve years since Lutheran Ministries of Mercy was established as a cost savings measure between Luther Home of Mercy and Filling Homes and ten years since Lutheran Social Services (LSS) joined this administrative partnership. Together, the three affiliates have saved millions in shared services. While each dollar saved extends the care we are able to offer, the deep meaningful relationships have proven to be just as valuable. Carol Slight and the team at Filling Homes are people we trust. Whenever we find that Luther Home needs a second opinion or a sounding board, Filling Homes is our first call. And the same goes for Lutheran Social Services. Anytime there is a need beyond the scope of our mission, we know that Traci Jaksetic and our friends at LSS can be counted on. We share in each joy, triumph and sorrow; knowing that we are stronger because we care for our neighbors together. Luther Home of Mercy is blessed to have many faithful partners and companions, but the love we receive from our LMM affiliates feels just like family.

And so, in this issue, I am excited to share with you that our sister affiliate, Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio, is working to impact even more lives through the expansion and renovation of their Toledo office. This 7,000 sq. ft. of additional space will offer larger training rooms; doubling the size of critical group services such as Re-Entry and Workforce Development programs. Private offices will also be added to meet the ever-growing need for mental health counseling. Currently housed in the basement, the Emergency Choice Food Pantry will have a new home on the main floor which will provide increased access to individuals who use wheelchairs.



At Luther Home of Mercy, our close relationship with Lutheran Social Services makes a daily difference. Counseling services at no cost to the employee, and success coaching through the Employer Resource Network, offer support to our staff so they can continue to provide compassionate care while facing life challenges. LSS also supplies intake and training for our Advent day program so clients are able to serve the Sylvania community through the operation of their own personal needs pantry. These are just a few examples of the thousands of lives touched by LSS each year.

I invite you to join me in supporting our sister organization through the Lutheran Social Services building project. Working together, a stronger Lutheran Social Services means a stronger Luther Home of Mercy and a more vibrant community.

Learn More



**Lutheran Social Services
Expansion Project**

www.lssnwo.org

Jeanette Hrovatich
Director of Planned Giving
419-779-4193
jhrovatich@luthmin.org



Gifts

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**Monthly gift in memory of
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Terry Bossert
Maumee, OH

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Lists in this issue acknowledge gifts from April 1 - June 30, 2025. 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.



Stirring Up New Skills

Andy's Culinary Milestone

When Andy was growing up, he helped his mom prepare meals and spent time fishing and grilling with his dad. He's always loved Italian and Chinese food, and today, his favorite dishes to prepare are fish and seafood of all kinds. As a kid, Andy worked for Luther Home of Mercy, cutting grass at the supported living homes. Now, he lives in one of those homes with three roommates and will celebrate 15 years of independence in his own house next year.

On June 20, 2025, Andy was one of nine graduates of the Inspiration Kitchen Workforce Development Program. He completed 100 hours of intensive culinary training held at Lott Industries—attending class every day after finishing his shift. Over the last 20 years at Lott, Andy has worked performing janitorial duties and currently works on the production floor.

Eager to learn new skills, Andy embraced the opportunity to join the culinary program. While he didn't have a single favorite part, he said he learned something new in every class. Each session involved preparing a meal as a team. "All of the dishes we made were brand new to me or different from what I've eaten or made in the past," Andy shared. He has a binder of every recipe they prepared!

The Inspiration Kitchen provides a supportive environment focused on culinary training, personal development, and job placement—empowering participants to overcome employment barriers and build brighter futures. "Andy is a great guy who absolutely loves and is passionate about culinary," shared Sandra Irvine, Director of The Inspiration Kitchen.

Andy especially enjoyed the real-life experience. He worked alongside professional chefs, catered an event, and served meals to community members. He recalled prepping until 10 p.m. the night before an event, then returning the next day to help finish and serve a meal that included shrimp scampi and lemon cake with blueberry sauce.

When asked what's next, Andy said, "I definitely want to keep learning." He's working with the Owens Community College TRIO Student Support Services program to explore further educational opportunities. Although class is over for now, Andy stays busy as the assistant to Sandra, the Inspiration Kitchen's Director, helping prepare for the September class.



"It's never too late to be what you might have been."

George Eliot



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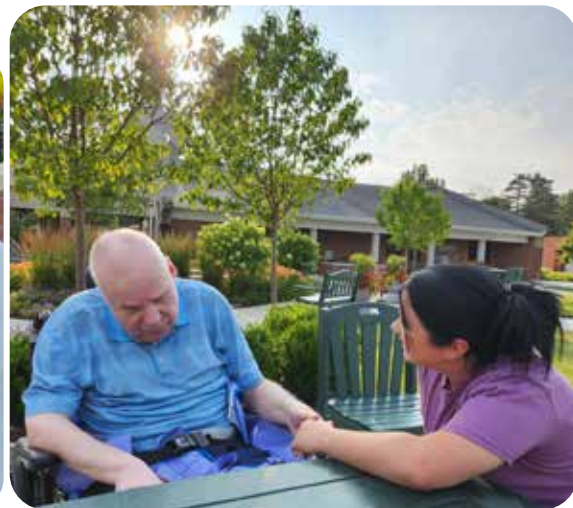
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kwiatkowski
Maumee, OH

Celebrating the Garden of Compassion



We're celebrating the two-year anniversary of the Garden of Compassion which was dedicated on September 17, 2023.

The Garden is a place where people come together and enjoy outdoor activities. It is a peaceful space where the presence of God, reflection and nature touch. The garden has been treasured and enjoyed by many for snacks, rest, a visit, Scout awards and boat races... just to name a few. We are grateful for the generosity of others who made The Garden Of Compassion a reality!



Memorials continued

Pastor Donald Wukotich

Rev. Rita Bair
Cincinnati, OH
Mr. & Mrs. George Beery, Jr.
Bellevue, OH
Mr. Richard Bosse
Perrysburg, OH
Rev. & Mrs. Charles Campbell
Toledo, OH
Mrs. Darlene Carstensen
Williston, OH
Mrs. Sharon Dailey
Northwood, OH
Mrs. Colleen Dotson
Whitehouse, OH
Eastwood Elementary School
Pemberville, OH
Ms. Richelle Gargas
Oregon, OH
GenoaBank
Genoa, OH

Mrs. Elaine Gruetter
Curtice, OH
Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Hartman
Williston, OH
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Hetrick
Oak Harbor, OH
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Salem, OH
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kapp
Curtice, OH
Mr. & Mrs. Vasilis Karayannis
Millbury, OH
Mr. & Mrs. Marcus C. Lohrman
Sylvania, OH
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Meyer
Napoleon, OH
Mrs. Lola Nelson
Perrysburg, OH
Mr. & Mrs. James Porea
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Mrs. Jo Elaine Schimming
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Virginia Beach, VA
Alan Yackee
St. John Lutheran Church Women
Williston, OH
Frank Zaenger
Mr. Allan Zaenger
Worthington, OH
Roy and Frieda Zunk
Mrs. Darlene Carstensen
Williston, OH

Ask About Our Volunteer Opportunities!

Contact Melissa for details: mgregg@lutherhome.org or 419-972-4338



Caring Starts Here — Join Our Team!

Compassionate individuals wanted to support our ministries for adults with disabilities! Employee benefits include health, dental & vision insurance; paid time off; and, premium pay for holidays worked. *Open positions are located in Williston, unless otherwise noted.*

- Direct Care Support, 2nd & 3rd shift
- DSP (Supported Living Provider), 2nd & 3rd shift, *Oak Harbor*
- Community Engagement Specialist
- Licensed Practical Nurse, 2nd & 3rd shift, **\$3,000 Sign-On Bonus**
- Maintenance, 2nd Shift
- Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional

Apply now at www.lutherhome.org!



Kenny is a great nurse who has a wonderful relationship with the residents. He talks and listens to them daily. He is a kind, warm and loving soul who jumps in to help; he is definitely a nurse that I count on daily.
- Krystle, Cottage Two Supervisor



Honor Roll

Deborah Craze

Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Craze
Sterling Heights, MI

Father's Day

Mr. & Mrs. Mitch Hoyles
Genoa, OH

Cottage 6A Friends, Residents & Staff

Dr. & Mrs. Charles Austerberry
Omaha, NE

Debbie Hawk

Mr. & Mrs. Wagner
Fremont, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Moore

50th Wedding Anniversary
St. John Lutheran Church Women
Oak Harbor, OH

Mr. & Mrs. James Recker

60th Wedding Anniversary
Mr. William Welling
Phoenix, AZ

Larry Sass

Mr. & Mrs. Max Hoetzel
Toledo, OH

Larry & Cindy Skinn

50th Wedding Anniversary
Mr. & Mrs. John Flick
Rock Falls, IL

Jane Swartz

Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Hartman
Williston, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tallman

St. John Lutheran Church Women
Oak Harbor, OH

Harold & Carol Tewers

Ms. Elaine Money
Plano, TX

Greatful for Generosity



Luther Home is honored to be one of thirty-three nonprofit organizations to receive a 2025 grant from the Ottawa County Community Foundation! Thank you OCCF for investing in our ministries and inspiring brighter tomorrows for our residents.



Join Us for God's Work. Our Hands

Local congregations are invited to partner with Luther Home of Mercy on September 7, 2025, for the ELCA's annual day of service. We're hosting an afternoon of fishing in Williston.

If your congregation is interested, please contact Melissa Gregg at 419-972-4338 or mgregg@lutherhome.org.

A Legacy of Service

The Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men & Pastors (PVFLM) was founded in 1927 to encourage Christian fellowship and provide support—especially to the Luther Home of Mercy. In 1932, the Federation voted to make the Luther Home of Mercy the sole focus of their benevolent work. Over time, membership expanded to include anyone interested in joining their mission.

The Federation has supported countless special projects over the years totaling over \$100,000, including equipment purchases (trucks, washers, dryers, mowers, generators, freezers), building improvements (fences, porches, decks, HVAC systems, blacktop, and clinic upgrades) and specialized medical and audio/visual equipment.

The group meets twice a year, in April and November. All Lutherans, and those wanting to stay connected and support Luther Home, are welcome to join this group. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list, please call 419-836-7741 or email Melissa at mgregg@lutherhome.org.

Lutherans & Pastoral Care Gathering

Sponsored by PVFLM & Pastors

November 8, 2025

Emmanuel Lutheran Center
3557 US Highway 20 W, Lindsey, OH 43442

9:30 AM Social & Breakfast / 10:00 AM Meeting

RSVP by October 28. Call 419-836-7741.



In the Spring, Damien (l) introduced Theo (c) and Asé (r) to The Miracle League of Northwest Ohio, an inclusive baseball league in Northwood. They play every Sunday in September and would love to have friends come and cheer! Visit www.mlnwo.org to learn more.



Pam enjoying the Memorial Day performance by the Genoa High School Marching Band



Church Gifts

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pemberville, OH

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Bowling Green, OH

Grace Lutheran Church
Elmore, OH

Lutheran Church of the Master
Perrysburg, OH

Messiah Lutheran Church
Toledo, OH

Olivet Lutheran Church
Sylvania, OH

Resurrection Lutheran Church
Port Clinton, OH

Solomon Lutheran Church
Woodville, OH

St. John Lutheran Church
Williston, OH

St. John's Lutheran Church
Oak Harbor, OH

St. John's Lutheran Church
Montpelier, OH

St. Mark's Lutheran
Wapakoneta, OH

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Lima, OH

St. Michael Lutheran Church
Ottawa Lake, MI

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sulphur Springs, OH

Zoar Lutheran Church
Perrysburg, OH



A 96-Year Tradition

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 5, 2025, as we celebrate Fall Fest—a cherished tradition at Luther Home of Mercy since 1929!

Originally known as the Annual Festival, this beloved event was renamed Fall Fest in 2004, but its spirit of fellowship and fun remains the same. Fall Fest continues to bring together those served by our ministries and their families, staff and friends for an unforgettable afternoon.

- Outdoor Worship at 2:30 pm
- A barnful of friendly animals to visit
- Crafts, treats and t-shirts for sale
- Outdoor games
- Costumed characters and a photo booth
- A picnic dinner to enjoy with loved ones

Join us as we celebrate faith, friendship and fall fun in a setting filled with joy and gratitude.

We can't wait to see you there!

Bridging Classrooms & Careers



Recently, we hosted educators from the Ottawa County Teacher Business Boot Camp to share our mission, workforce needs, and the many career paths we offer.

We discussed the importance of real-world skills like communication, teamwork, and critical thinking—insights the teachers are taking back to their classrooms.

Emma, one of many in her family who've worked at Luther Home, shared her experience of providing direct care with the teacher's during their tour.



Comfort on Four Hooves

The Day Programs joined residents for a visit with miniature horses, Bourbon and Storm. These gentle companions from Paws & Hooves Animal Therapy brought comfort, peace and joy!

Pictured: Tavon & David



Employee Appreciation Week

Each year, we take time to honor the heart of our organization—our dedicated staff! Staff enjoyed daily gift card drawings and a grand prize drawing for a big screen TV. We shared a delicious catered lunch, indulged in 24+ hours of ice cream, and kicked off one morning with a pancake breakfast. Everyone received a commemorative t-shirt and popcorn. Spirit Week is our way of saying thank you for the passion, care, and commitment our team brings every day.



Honoring Years of Dedication

We are proud to recognize the incredible dedication of our team members who are celebrating milestone anniversaries this year. Their years of service reflect a deep commitment to our mission and the people we serve. We are grateful to each of them for being the heart of our organization!

35 Years of Service

Denise Dreyer

30 Years of Service

Deborah Martin
Darlene Schimming
Deborah Wehner

25 Years of Service

Teresa Allgier
Kimberley Auxter
Sara Chavez
Kimberly Pierce

15 Years of Service

Kimberly Cole
Serina Drake
Melissa Grimes
Ashley Mangus

10 Years of Service

Michelle Burkey
Francisca Cantu
Jessica Coleman
Kelly Davenport
Zulma Figueroa-Ortiz
Tamianna Fisher
Terry Jones
Alyson Lee
Mallory Lee
Juanita Mendoza
Christina Morehead
Edith Okoyomo
Boma Orlumkpo
Lena Worrell
David Zyski

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Sarah Cruz
Amber Dages
Norma Guerra
Colleen Hickey
Cynthia Johnson
Amanda Lissner
Schnelle Lyons
Kenneth Reno
Janet Smith
Ashton Taylor
Kristin White
Linda Woyame

20 Years of Service



Heather Cable



Michelle Groll



Talmadge

Tonya Brecht
Diane Dabney
Dawn Mullens
Amanda Osmon



Raquel Helle



Kristi Hoeft



Yvonne Kelsey



Gary Moody Jr.

Our Mission

We are a ministry *Enriching Lives and Individual Abilities*

Our Values

Faithfulness
Stewardship
Ethical Behavior
Integrity
Diversity

Our Ministries

Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)

Williston Campus

Supported Living Homes & Services

Lucas, Ottawa & Wood counties

Day Programs

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Emmanuel, Lindsey
Emmaus, Oregon
Genesis, Northwood

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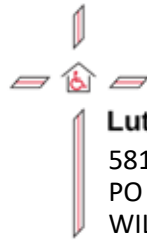
Please send address changes:

Email: info@lutherhome.org

Echoes of Mercy
5810 N Main St, PO Box 187
Williston, OH 43468

Main Office - Williston

Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm
419-836-7741
www.lutherhome.org



Luther Home of Mercy

5810 N MAIN ST
PO BOX 187
WILLISTON, OH 43468-0187



Scrapbooking is Back!

GET CREATIVE WHILE SUPPORTING A GREAT CAUSE

Unleash your creativity and help us make a difference, in the lives of adults with disabilities, through crafting!

November 15, 2025

9 am - 9 pm

\$40 /person, 4' space

Add \$10 for 8' space

**Enjoy Breakfast,
Lunch, Dinner &
Snacks**

**REGISTER AT
LUTHERHOME.ORG**

Contact Melissa at 419-972-4338 or
mgregg@lutherhome.org if you have
questions about sponsoring or
attending.

