



Lake
Christian
Ministries

1st Quarter, 2023

Heart&Hope

SML Gives Day and a Generous Challenge Match Will Help Local Families in Need!

Lake Christian Ministries will participate in and benefit from the **SML Gives Day** on March 15. This year, Innovative Wireless Technologies is stepping forward with a very generous \$10,000 challenge match to encourage community support for Lake Christian Ministries and local families who are struggling during these difficult times.

Now in its second year, **SML Gives Day** is administered by SML Good Neighbors and raises funds for Bedford and Franklin County nonprofits. This online giving day gives local nonprofits an opportunity to raise awareness for their services while giving the community a way to come together with support that will make a big impact for the lake community.

"Inflationary costs are affecting us all, and low-income families are being particularly hard hit as they struggle to pay rising prices for food, gas, housing and utilities," explains Jane Winters, executive director of Lake Christian Ministries. "We are so excited to have a generous challenge match offered by Innovative Wireless Technologies that will provide a \$1 match for every \$1 donated up to \$10,000. Donors have the choice of designating their donations to general LCM services or our facility expansion project. We hope this challenge match will encourage supporters to give to LCM through this year's **SML Gives Day**. Together, we can make a huge impact on poverty in our community now, when it is needed the most. Our goal is to generate \$30,000 during the one-day giving event."

LCM will have its own online giving page on the SML Gives site, smlgives.org. Donors can visit smlgives.org any time on March 15 to make online contributions to LCM with the donation window closing at 11:59 PM. While donations can be made through the SML Gives online site by credit or debit card, checks and cash can also be dropped off at a Donor Hospitality Event that will be held at the SML Pavilion in Downtown Moneta from 11 AM – 2 PM on March 15. Assistance in processing online donations will also be available at this event.

"A growing number of vulnerable families need our help right now," Winters adds. "We ask supporters to take advantage of this generous matching opportunity to double your gift to LCM by participating in **SML Gives Day**."

**\$1 for \$1 Challenge Match offered by
Innovative Wireless Technologies**



IWT®



Donation Wish List

We appreciate your donation support. Our neighbors need the following items and our supplies are running low. We do not have the volunteer coverage to pick-up donations at this time. We encourage donors to drop off donations at LCM from 9 am until noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mattresses & Box Springs (clean and gently used)

Queen & King Sheets and Blankets

Bath Towels

Appliances

Microwaves

Crock Pots

Household Cleaners

Laundry Detergent

Dishwashing Liquid

Shampoo

Toothbrushes

Deodorant

Diapers – Size 4 Needed



Thankful for Grant Support for 2023

We would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to the following foundations that have made grant awards to date to support LCM's 2023 programs and services.

Bedford Community Health Foundation awarded a **\$15,000** grant for health services for Bedford County residents who are working to overcome health barriers through our New Tomorrows Program.

Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation awarded a **\$11,000** grant for Food Assistance and Financial Aid to assist Bedford County residents who are struggling with poverty.

The LCM staff and volunteers are submitting spring applications to several other foundations. As other grants are confirmed, we will share the news with you throughout the year.

2022 Service Impact

During 2022, Lake Christian Ministries volunteers and staff responded to a growing number of service requests. The year brought a number of set-backs for families struggling to make ends meet – the ending of temporary government rent and utility relief assistance that was in place during the pandemic directly followed by months of rising inflation which impacted food, gas, rent and utility service. Forty-two percent of the families who came to LCM were seeking assistance for the first time. The number of families who were assisted with financial aid to prevent housing evictions and keep the utilities on grew by 48%. A record number of individuals turned to New Tomorrows Program services to overcome barriers toward building stability for themselves and their families.

During 2022, LCM fulfilled

Food Assistance to Fulfill

8,603 Food Requests

15% increase over 2021

Financial Aid in the amount of

\$276,472 to assist 494 families

48% increase over 2021

New Tomorrows Program Services

Helped 213 Individuals Build More Secure Lives

64% more than 2021

Gifts and Warm Clothes through

A Child's Christmas for 460 Children

5% increase over 2021

Building Hope for Tomorrow



Facility Expansion Update

We are happy to announce that Price Buildings Inc. has been selected as the contractor for the Lake Christian Ministries' additional facility that will be constructed on the property adjacent to the current center. The new building will address the growing need for service space by housing a warehouse, clothing area and classrooms. Moving the warehouse and clothing area to the new facility will free space in the existing center to add additional meeting rooms. This new space is badly needed as demand for LCM's services has dramatically grown. During the first quarter of the year, final adjustments will be added to the facility building plans by Balzer & Associates. Once building plans are complete, building permits will be issued and site work is scheduled to start in March/April. In February a building permit was issued for improvements to the property on the corner of White House Road and Old Moneta Road to clear an acre of land to expand the volunteer parking lot, create a fenced area to house LCM's service vehicles and clear a site for a future community garden.

Capital Campaign Update

We are happy to report that the **Building Hope for Tomorrow Capital Campaign** has received \$900,000 to date. The initial campaign goal of \$700,000 was increased to \$950,000 as building costs significantly increased due to inflation over the past year.

"We are hopeful that the community will help us generate the remaining \$50,000 needed by June of this year so the facility can be completed by year end," said Jane Winters, LCM Executive Director. "With the increased demand, more space is required to accommodate the growing number of families who are seeking LCM services. When this facility expansion project is completed, the benefits to the families we serve will be truly life-changing."

How Can You Help?

Donors can give online through the LCM's website, lakechristianministries.org, by clicking the Donate tab at the top of the homepage and following the easy instructions to direct donations to facility expansion. Donors can also give through SML Gives Day on March 15 and take advantage of the Innovative Wireless Technologies \$1 for \$1 challenge match for gifts up to \$10,000. Go to smlgives.org on March 15 and designate your donations for LCM facility expansion. Checks can also be mailed to Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121 with a memo designation for facility expansion.

Successful 2022 Year-End Challenge

2022 YEAR-END CHALLENGE UPDATE

During the last two months of 2022, two anonymous LCM volunteers who assist in our food pantry and with financial aid generously offered a \$20,000 year-end challenge to all supporters. The challenge provided a \$1 for \$1 match for donations up to \$20,000 with a goal of generating \$40,000. Donors had a choice of earmarking their gifts for facility expansion or LCM services. As we closed 2022, we were thrilled to receive a total of \$47,920 through the year-end challenge with \$21,070 devoted to general services and \$26,850 for facility expansion.

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2022 Year-End Challenge. And, thank you to our challenge donors for their generous matching donation that made this effort a huge success for local families in need during a very difficult year.

Participation in New Tomorrows Program Grows Dramatically

As demand for Lake Christian Ministries' services grows, so has participation in the New Tomorrows Program. During 2020, 73 individuals participated in the New Tomorrows Program. Last year, a total of 213 neighbors actively participated in the program representing a 192% increase over the three-year period. The New Tomorrows' featured class series, Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World, returned in 2022 following a two-year closure during the COVID Pandemic.

Getting Ahead is a 14-week class series that helps neighbors journey toward positive change. Class participants examine barriers to moving forward, identify strengths and areas for growth, chart a course for a more secure future, and learn practical skills such as time and resource management. Seventeen New Tomorrows Program neighbors graduated from two Getting Ahead classes in 2022. Both 2022 classes were taught by New Tomorrows volunteer and retired educator Rusty MacMullan. The current Winter 2023 class is taught by New Tomorrows Director Susan Hughes. At the culmination of the Getting Ahead class, each individual is asked to illustrate his or her "future story" through a personal narrative or visual. 2022 Getting Ahead graduate Danielle Kirkwood graciously agreed to share her meaningful future story.

Yet to Come an essay on My Future Self by 2022 Getting Ahead Class graduate Danielle Kirkwood

Though the future appears so far in the distance, in reality it is always lingering on the edge of my consciousness. Seemingly so close that all I need to do to change my life is to reach out. Grabbing hold of it like it is my last hope, the life line that anchors me here.

Whenever I used to think of my future, I always believed that it was static, predestined to be exactly what I never dreamed. My childhood was filled with wishes and plans, anything to get away from the life I was living. It was always, "Once I grow up ..." but it seemed as if the growing happened and there was never any up. My days were littered with downs and the off-casts of others. Always settling for what was comfortable, for barely enough.

I have come to realize that my future needs me NOW. It needs me to let go of my misconceptions about myself and those around me. It needs me to take care of myself and honor my desires. My future needs my bravery and trust in my own strength.

My future needs me to take back my life. To revel in experiences that will bring me growth, to push through the discomfort of change and cling to hope. My future needs permission to feel ALL my feelings. The ones that fill me with warmth and joy, but especially the feelings that make it hard to breathe.

My future needs me to accept the apology that is never coming, to know that even if it did it would never be enough. My future needs me to release the things that no longer serve me to make way for a new life. New experiences, new possibilities, a new me. A version of myself that I am proud to show up for every day. The woman who can scream her truth to the sky, who smiles back at the face in the mirror.

I will fill my future with moments, tiny as they may be. Small blips that build upon each other into a lifetime. I will continue to strive towards the brightness that dissipates the grey around me. I will allow the caring embrace of my own soul to enwrap my mind and push me forward, towards the life I have always deserved. A life full of living, deepened with love and success.



12 graduates from the Fall 2022 Getting Ahead Class are pictured with New Tomorrow's Staff, Facilitator and Volunteers.

Concerts at SML Pavilion Benefit Lake Christian Ministries

In a new partnership with Downtown Moneta's SML Pavilion, Lake Christian Ministries is among the local charities that will benefit from entertainment scheduled for this spring and summer. LCM's first Pavilion benefit will be a Country Music Jubilee on Saturday, May 20, featuring Nashville recording artist Glen Shelton. Glen is a Franklin County resident whose hit single "Writing You a Love Song" brought him country music fame. He will perform country favorites and music from his new album release.

The show will open at 6:30 pm with the amazing talents of local musicians Annalyse Marie and Tim Roulette. Annalyse Marie is a local seventeen-year-old whose unbelievable talent has become well known in the lake community. Kick off the Pavilion's Summer Concert series with great music, good food and an opportunity to support Lake Christian Ministries and local families in need. ML Realty – Mary Lou MacDonald, Broker, is the event sponsor and has underwritten the artists' expenses so ticket proceeds can benefit Lake Christian Ministries.



Then, in a musical change of pace, LCM will join Bedford County Food for Kids as co-benefactors of "Soaring into Summer," a concert featuring SML's own Parrot Pan and Toucan Pan Steel Drum Bands, which are donating their performances. Held from 3-5 pm on Saturday, June 17, the show will re-establish the SML Steed Drum Band tradition of presenting a Father's Day weekend concert. The show will feature Island favorites performed in toe-tapping fashion that the entire family will enjoy. As a bonus for concert-goers, a number of area restaurants will be offering dads a free dessert Saturday evening or Sunday just for showing a receipt from a concert ticket purchase. This "Soaring into Summer" concert is organized and promoted by the Fraternal Order of Eagles' Ladies Auxiliary.

"Shows held on the SML Pavilion stage typically benefit local charities," said SML Pavilion Manager Fred Sylvester. "We are proud to team with Lake Christian Ministries, Food for Kids and other local non-profit partners. We hope our neighbors and the thousands of visitors that come to our area take advantage of our safe, family-friendly facility and enjoy the events we offer while helping raise funds to assist those less fortunate within our community."

Advance tickets for both concerts can be purchased online at the SML Pavilion site at www.smlpavilion.com/events. If events are not sold out, tickets can also be purchased at the gate on the day of the event. Several LCM volunteers will be needed to assist at the venue on the day of the performances. Those interested should contact Jane Winters at lcmeindr@gmail.com to sign up for either or both.

Lane Chest Raffle Winner is Beverly Sann

We are happy to announce that Beverly Sann was selected as the winner of the Lane Cedar Chest Raffle that was conducted by Lake Christian Ministries during December. This one-of-a-kind chest was one of the last 20 cedar chests crafted by the Lane Company in Altavista. The chest is unique as it is autographed by the employees who helped create it as well as by the Lane family members. The raffle generated \$2,000 for LCM's facility expansion project. Congratulations to Beverly! Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets to support our facility expansion efforts.

Welcome

Welcome to the new volunteers who recently joined LCM. The following volunteers are now part of the warm and generous LCM family!

Jeff Blumenfeld

Lisa Kidwell

Bob Miller

Deborah Garraghty

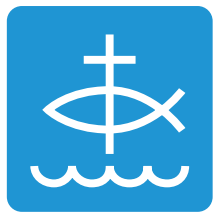
Donna LaBuda

Susan Shrewsberry

Dean Hunt

Debbie Metcalf

We would like to welcome James I. Gilbert, IV to the LCM Board of Directors. Jim is the founding attorney for Gilbert Law, PC and will serve a three-year term on the LCM Board from 2023 to 2025.



**Lake
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Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #78
Roanoke, VA

13157 Old Moneta Road

PO Box 695

Moneta, VA 24121

Return Service Requested

Special Note: If you are away for a time and are planning a "Temporary Hold" on your USPS mail, please send your email address to lcmdonblanchard@gmail.com so we can send our newsletters to you electronically.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR and JOIN US for the
LCM VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Noon on Wednesday, April 26
Bethlehem United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall

As we honor and give thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers

Lunch will be provided; random prizes shared; and the special awards will be presented to volunteers.

Please confirm your attendance by April 19

Email Don at lcmdonblanchard@gmail.com or Sign up at the LCM volunteer check-in desk.