



LAKE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COLUMN

Chuck Murphy

“God Will Provide”

I cannot count the number of times Mike Bond told me this in the years I worked under him. Once again in 2015 we found his words to be true. The outstanding efforts of our fundraisers coupled with responsible management by our operations and department managers allowed us to finish the year with a modest surplus. More importantly, think of the people with heat in their homes, food on their tables, clothing for their children to wear to school, and even in some cases teeth!

Lest I not forget, the only thing more precious than donations of money is the time so many people give in so many ways to make the ministry successful. You weather frigid temperatures in the warehouse, spend long hours programming computers and entering data, maintain pleasant smiles while assisting neighbors- and all for rewards we hope to reap in another life.

I wonder though if we look so successful in the eyes of those we serve. Empathy is an important quality but a difficult one when our lives are so much different than those of the people we see each month. Food for 5 days, heat for a month or two does not resolve the day-to-day struggle faced by most we serve. Our dedicated “New Tomorrows” coaches offer an increasing number of neighbors their best chance to improve their lot. Our recent decision to restrict financial aid to “emergencies” per our mission statement only effects a few neighbors this year. However, we do want everyone to understand that our financial assistance is not intended to be an annual event.

The “Bridges Out of Poverty” initiative being pursued throughout Bedford County provides some unique insights regarding our neighbors in need. Those of us who have taken the training have found it enlightening in terms of building better relationships with neighbors and in seeking ways to collaborate with others doing similar work. I am hoping we will have a volunteer willing to undertake the train-the-trainer course in March so we can spread this understanding throughout our volunteer ranks.

Ours is an outreach ministry. In 2016 we will continue to seek opportunities to maximize our impact in the community by directly helping neighbors in need. We will also continue to look for ways we can offer help in other ways, such as our current distribution of bread products from Heiners’ Bakery to 8 other pantries and the food outlets. By focusing on the intended outcome of our ministry we can be sure we are doing what Christ called us to do in His Name.

Chuck Murphy, Executive Director
540-420-3026 lcmexdr@gmail.com

Are We Reaching You?

As a supporter of LCM's mission and ministry, you are important to us. We want to make certain that we are communicating effectively with you. Currently, we are redesigning the data base systems containing your name, address, email address(es), etc. We would like to make certain that we have everything correct, including your preference for how we communicate with you.



Please let us know of any changes we need to make . If you are currently receiving the newsletter in hardcopy format and would like to receive it by email, please let us know that as well. (Obviously, if it is convenient for you to receive the newsletter by email, it would save us money that can be used to providing services to our neighbors.)

Please send all updates to: lcmcontact1@gmail.com

God bless and thank you for your continued generosity and support.

A Salute to the Penhook Pantry Crew!



Like clockwork every month under the direction of Amy Fedak, volunteers from 3 churches come together to provide food for more than 50 families along the Franklin/Pittsylvania County border. More than 30 workers from Crafts Community Church, Crafts Ford UMC, and host Penhook UMC serve up breakfast, staff the LCM remote pantry truck, and offer seasonal items like hats and gloves in the winter and garden seeds in the summer.

In addition to food sent from LCM, local funds are raised for additional items provided the monthly neighbors who attend.



Last year was a record performance for the Jim Cameron Memorial Walk. We are looking for people who want to help lift it to a whole new level in 2016. The key to raising money (and to more people having more fun!) is more neighborhoods and organizations entering teams to walk on September 17.

We have formed a “TEAM” TEAM to contact neighborhood associations, schools, service clubs, etc. to encourage them to form and enter teams of walkers in our fun-filled event. Would you like to help? Call either Teresa Gabrielson (540-721-4438) or Lynda Imirie (540-493-2117) to join the TEAM TEAM.

BIG SMILES

If you ask Claude Wimbush, Vickie Hill and Bruce DeHart what’s new, they’re likely to simultaneously flash a wide grin in response.

What’s new for these Lake Christian Ministries’ (LCM) neighbors is that each of them was a recent recipient – along with nearly 20 others – of new dentures provided by grants to LCM from the Bedford Community Health Foundation and the Foundation for Roanoke Valley.

Last year, denture services were offered to individuals registered at LCM whose severe dental needs, precluded other treatments. With no financial resources and no assistance available from local free clinics or Medicaid (who considers dentures to be cosmetic) there really wasn’t much to smile aboutor with.

Now, after completing preliminary dental exams and extractions, Wimbush, Hill and DeHart are happily enjoying healthier and more nutritious meals.

In fact, the benefits of new dentures go way beyond a big smile, say counselors at LCM. Improved nutrition, dental health and self esteem also help to stimulate socialization and renewed confidence for job seekers.

And that’s a lot to smile about.



MEET OUR NEWEST BUSINESS PARTNERS



LCM'S Business Partners do more than help meet our financial needs, but just as importantly, they are a jobs resource for our NEW TOMORROWS program designed to help our neighbors become more self-sufficient. We encourage you to support all our Business Partners, including our most recent:

- ◆ *Haywood's Jewelers*
- ◆ *Innovative Wireless Technologies*
- ◆ *Seven Oaks Landscape Hardscape*
- ◆ *Subway*
- ◆ *Homestead Creamery*
- ◆ *Ringmaster Services*
- ◆ *SML Farm Alpacas*
- ◆ *Wendy's Restaurant*



A HUGE THANK YOU!!!

Running the wide array of programs and services (from food pantry to the coaching and job placement services of New Tomorrows) requires both volunteers and money. We are so grateful to all those who donated to our Annual Year End Appeal. Thank you for making the 2015 Appeal so successful!

Letter from Santa



Just wanted you to know how much I appreciated the help I received from all of you for “*A Child’s Christmas.*”

My Christmas list included 557 children - ages newborn through 16 years old - living around Smith Mountain Lake in families that were struggling to heat their homes and put food on the table. These 247 families, all registered at **Lake Christian Ministries**, had expectations for Christmas morning that were slim and grim. Given the state of the world, I admit I

was worried about bringing them all joy and goodwill.

But thanks to over 75 hard-working-volunteer elves, numerous cash and toy donations, and dozens of angel tree participants, every one of those children received warm clothes, toys and other gifts. Indeed, you helped make their Christmas morning merry and bright.

I continue to be grateful for the generous spirit that flows from your small community in SW Virginia. Your volunteers are a model of dedication and determination that mirrors my own multi-tasking work crews: they registered, shopped, sorted, bagged and tagged during those exhausting, busy weeks before Christmas with nary a break. Others, like heavenly messengers, “lifted” individual children from angel trees featured at the local post offices, churches, and businesses in the area.

Following the lead of Alice and Lynn Swain, owners of the Virginia Dare Cruises, Inc., a parade of toy donors contributed to the Flotilla For Toys, resulting in hundreds of toys, about four for each child. Other business owners helped by providing drop-boxes for toys. Individuals and home owner associations promoted toy-giving at their holiday parties.

Countless other individuals, businesses, churches and civic organizations donated cash from their year-long fund-raising efforts, all helping to share the spirit of Christmas.

Things here at my workplace have quieted down for a while, but I can still feel the kindness and generosity that glows in the hearts of the people at SML. To borrow a greeting from a small friend of mine, “God bless us, every one!”

Santa



LCM Volunteers (and Friends):

We are in need of your help! (You say: “So what else is new?") In March, LCM will be participating in a VERY exciting community-wide event that we are hoping will be one of the hugest (?) blessings for our Ministry ever! Keep tuned to Facebook, the LCM website and the media over the coming weeks for the announcement and details of this special event.

Please read on to see how your help is critical to this event being a success for LCM.

Have you been checking out the postings from the LCM Facebook account lately? If you have, you've seen timely stories about A Child's Christmas, LCM's latest Business Partners, our distribution of Holiday Meals, notices of "critical needs," and more.

The success of the upcoming special event will depend on how widely our Facebook postings about our ministry are read in the SML community. This is where you come in. Here is how you can help us with this huge undertaking.

First, if you have not already "Liked us" on Facebook, please do. Just type “Lake Christian Ministries” in the search bar at the top of your Facebook screen, click on our page, and hit the thumbs up button to like our page.

Next (and very importantly), please take a few minutes to invite your Friends to "like" our Lake Christian Ministries Facebook page. To do this, go to our FB page and on the left side of your screen you will see the option, "Invite Friends to like this page", click here and your Friends list will populate. On the right side of the box with your Friends name, you will see a button that reads "INVITE". Click on that box for each one of your Friends. You can always go back later by following the above steps and see which of your Friends have accepted your request to "Like Lake Christian Ministries".

Lastly, we recognize that not everyone is a Facebook user. We are willing to bet that everyone at least knows a Facebook user or two: kids, grandkids, doctors, friends, hairdressers, etc.). Please spread the news that the organization that you are proud to be a part of is on Facebook and ask that they take a minute to view our page and invite their Friends to join them in liking us.

As always, you have our sincerest "thanks" and "gratitude" for helping us to continue our Ministry of making a world of difference to so many needy families in our community. May your New Year be blessed!



Give Where YOU LIVE



In 24 hours of online giving you can support nonprofit organizations servicing the Roanoke Valley through **Roanoke Valley Gives** Day.

It's as easy as point-click-give, for as little as \$10
Only on March 16, 2016
rvgives.givebig.org

An initiative of Foundation for Roanoke Valley

The event, "Roanoke Valley Gives Day" on March 6th, is exciting. LCM will be one of the charities benefiting from this Roanoke - wide event. Thank you!

EVERY DONATION IS APPRECIATED!

Please mail this form and make all checks payable to:

LAKE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES PO Box 695 • Moneta VA 24121

ALL DONATIONS are tax deductible and will be acknowledged
in the next LCM newsletter.



Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

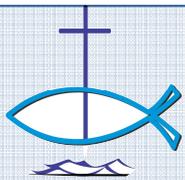
Email _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$25. \$50. \$75. \$100. Other _____

In Honor Of / In Memory Of (circle one) _____

(Names will be printed in next quarter's newsletter.)

Lake Christian Ministries is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization which has been serving families in Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania counties since 1992.



LAKE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

**P.O. Box 695
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Winter 2016

LAKE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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Hours of Operation:

Monday, Wednesday or Friday

9 AM—12 Noon

Last Tuesday Evening 5:00—7:00 PM

Visit our website:

[www. LakeChristianMinistries.org](http://www.LakeChristianMinistries.org)

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LCM is a United Way Partner Agency.

A financial statement for Lake Christian Ministry is available upon written request from the Office of Consumer Affairs, Commonwealth of Virginia. PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218