

Heart and Hope

4th Quarter, 2021

Lake Christian Ministries

A Child's Christmas Brings Joy to Children in Need



The growing economic impact of the pandemic has made it particularly difficult for families struggling with poverty. As COVID relief programs end and gas, housing, utility and food prices continue to rise, many families will have to choose between paying household bills and buying Christmas gifts for their children. Most cannot afford to do both.

Each year, Lake Christian Ministries works to ease that financial strain by collaborating with churches, businesses, civic groups and individuals to bring joy to children in need through A Child's Christmas. From October 11 through November 24, parents and guardians in families who cannot afford holiday gifts register children 16 and younger for toys, gifts and clothing. Last year, a record 431 children participated.

A Child's Christmas is truly a community effort. Organizations, churches, businesses and individuals provide cash and gift donations. Lake-area business partners provide collection bins for new toys (see collection locations inside

this newsletter). The Moneta and Westlake libraries collect new books. LCM volunteers organize the sign-up, children's gift assignments and the distribution to families on the Saturday before Christmas.

New this year, LCM is grouping Angel Cards for each sibling in a family together for the purchase of gifts so that each child in a family will have an equal gift value on Christmas morning. If you want to participate in A Child's Christmas, but feel like purchasing gifts and clothes for multiple children is cost-prohibitive, we recommend taking a family with only one or two children or sharing the shopping with other individuals.

For more information or to volunteer, visit [LakeChristian Ministries.org](https://www.lakechristianministries.org); or call Dianna Weiner at (607) 760-8311 or Lynda Imirie at (540) 493-2117. Donations to support A Child's Christmas may be sent to LCM, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA, 24121 with a memo on the check for "Children's Programs."

Building Hope for Tomorrow

LCM Friends,

It is the time of year when we reflect on our blessings and look toward the future with hope. 2021 has not been an easy year, particularly for the families Lake Christian Ministries serves. Your volunteer support and donations have enabled LCM to make a difference for 2,200 neighbors this year. We are deeply grateful for your support and dedication to our ministry.

As 2021 draws to a close, I want to share an important project that will provide hope for our vulnerable neighbors who are working to build a better tomorrow. Over the past three decades, LCM has evolved from a food and clothing pantry into a crisis support center that also provides emergency financial aid for housing, utilities, medical and dental care. Our New Tomorrows program enables neighbors to overcome barriers to a more secure future – addressing everything from childcare, housing, transportation, physical and mental health to employment. To become more effective, LCM must work with a network of community providers to coordinate relief funding and offer specialized services to families in need.

New Tomorrows meetings, classes and community services require more physical spaces than LCM can currently provide. We now require multiple rooms that provide more privacy, larger meeting rooms for educational sessions and an improved receiving facility that will enable us to acquire, store and share larger shipments of food and donations of clothing and household items.

In response to this growing need, LCM formed a facility improvement committee at the beginning of 2021. The committee's first order of business was to research all possible facility expansion options. They concluded that expanding the current facility was the most economically feasible option. With this in mind, LCM recently purchased nearly three acres of property located next to our existing facility at a significantly reduced price. An engineering company was then engaged to provide recommendations for the facility expansion project.

In the coming months you will hear more about this exciting project. And when it is completed, the benefits to those we serve will be even more life-changing. Thank you for being a part of the LCM family and for supporting us as we start the 30th year of assisting our neighbors in need in the lake community.

May your holidays be filled with joy and the new year bring health and happiness!

Jane Winters
Executive Director

Steel Drum Band Christmas Concert Benefits Lake Christian Ministries



Steel Drums

Mark your calendars for a family-friendly afternoon of enjoyable music on Saturday, December 11, from 3-5 pm at the Scruggs Fire Hall, 2130 Bluewater Drive, Moneta. You'll hear unique island-style arrangements of your favorite Christmas songs, along with a number of other lively steel drum classics. The show will include an opportunity for curious kids (and adults) to come "on stage" and see the instruments being played close-up; then, at intermission, to try playing the drums themselves.

Tickets will be available at the door for just \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. All proceeds will be shared by Lake Christian Ministries and the Scruggs Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad, who have promised to leave some of their cool fire response equipment in the building for up-close inspection.



WE NEED LCM BAKERS: We are looking for volunteers to donate home-baked holiday cookies, brownies or cakes, individually wrapped, for a Bake Sale at the concert. Send an email to Don Blanchard with the subject line: **BAKER VOLUNTEER** at lcmdonblanchard@gmail.com and let him know what you plan to donate. You can bring your baked goods to the concert or drop them off at Lake Christian Ministries on Friday, December 10, from 8:30 am until 2 pm.

Holiday Wish List

As the special season draws near, Lake Christian Ministries is working to make this holiday a joy-filled time of year for children and families in need. A Child's Christmas provides warm clothes and a toy/gift for children, ages 1 to 16, who live in homes where finances are often not enough to pay bills, much less to buy gifts.



LCM also provides food supplies to prepare a Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Breakfast for approximately 360 food insecure families. The cost for each holiday meal basket is approximately \$25 and feeds a family of four.



If you would like to make a donation to support these programs, please send donations to:

LCM, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121
with a note:
Children's Programs or Holiday Meals

Thank you for making this holiday bright for vulnerable families who are struggling with household expenses during this difficult time!

A Child's Christmas Toy, Book and Angel Card Collection Sites



Help us make Christmas merry for children in families who cannot afford gifts this holiday season.

Books and toys will be collected at the following locations. The following Angel Card Partners (as of November 5, 2021) will have families of children available for "gift giving adoption" through December 1. We are grateful for the generosity of these special Christmas elves!

Book Collection Sites

Moneta Library
Westlake Library

Toy Collection Sites

Rehab Associates
Westlake Auto
Napoli Cowboy
Dollar General Stores in Westlake, Bluewater Drive, Union Hall and Moneta in cooperation with Sea Tow

Angel Card Partners

Patmos United Methodist Church
Bethlehem United Methodist Church
Resurrection Catholic Church
Trinity Ecumenical Parish
Westlake Library

For more information on A Child's Christmas Program, visit www.lakechristianministries.org.



Thanks to Special Donors

During this time of thanksgiving, we would like to extend our deep appreciation to all who donate to Lake Christian Ministries to support our programs and services. We could not operate without your continued support. We would like to extend a special thank you to the following grantors and donors who made a big impact on our services during 2021.

Generous Anonymous Donor provided **\$100,000** for adult oral health services, food assistance, financial aid and New Tomorrows Program services.

The Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation provided **\$17,000** for food assistance, crisis financial aid and New Tomorrows Program support for Bedford County individuals in need.

Bedford Community Health Foundation provided **\$8,500** for health services for New Tomorrows Program participants and the installation of new case management software to support vulnerable Bedford County families.

United Way of Central Virginia provided **\$7,000** for food assistance and financial aid for Bedford County families in need.

Rotary Club of SML and Rotary District 7570 provided a **\$5,400** grant to create A Garden of Giving - indoor and outdoor produce displays at the LCM center.

Bimbo Bakeries donated over **125,000** pounds of bread and bakery products for our food insecure families.

SML Giving Garden volunteers provided over **8,000** pounds of fresh produce for food insecure families.

And - The generous individual donors, churches and businesses who made monetary donations and donations of food, clothing or other items to support our efforts to assist families in crisis!



SML Walk to End Poverty Generates \$48,000



More than 240 people enjoyed participating in the 2021 SML Walk to End Poverty.



As you likely have heard, Lake Christian Ministries' 2021 Walk to End Poverty, held at SML State Park on September 25, was a HUGE success. Coming off a year when the event had to be canceled due to COVID concerns, and thanks to our generous sponsors, donors and participating teams and individuals, the Walk generated over \$48,000 to help area families in need!

Team honors went to Resurrection Catholic Church for the largest team contribution (\$5,722) and to Bethlehem United Methodist for the most participants (41). Capps Home Building Center provided 25% discount coupons to each member of the winning teams as a special "Thank you!" for their support.

Capps Home Building Center and a generous anonymous supporter also provided dollar-for-dollar matching funds for the first \$15,000 donated. The fundraising effort also benefited from contributions by Supporting Sponsors: Haywood's Jewelers; Berkshire Hathaway Home Service—Smith Mountain Lake Real Estate; Body Shoppe Fitness; Centra Health; and Southside Electric.

We look forward to the 2022 Walk and hope all of this year's sponsors, team leaders, walkers and supporters will be back once again to help LCM's neighbors who are struggling with poverty.

LCM Benefits from Charity Home Tour



The 2021 SML Charity Home Tour recently found itself one charity short due to the unexpected last minute pull-out of one of the year's selected charity participants. LCM Executive Director Jane Winters was contacted to see if LCM might be able to jump in to host one of the tour's eight showcase homes.

"A BIG thank you goes out to Paul Marx, LCM treasurer, several board members and volunteers who jumped in and organized our Charity Home Tour team in just two weeks before the Columbus Day Weekend event. Paul, who served as the LCM Home Tour Volunteer Coordinator, recruited the 60-plus folks needed as parking assistants, ticket takers, in-home tour guides and dock hands for the three-day event. We truly appreciate all the volunteers who rose to the occasion so soon after most of them had helped with the Walk to End Poverty just one weekend earlier," commented Winters.

Best of all, Lake Christian Ministries will receive an unplanned funding boost of approximately \$14,000 during the Home Tour's check distribution ceremony on November 8. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this happen.

Thank You!

Welcome New Volunteers

A warm welcome to the new volunteers who joined LCM during the last quarter. The following volunteers are now part of the LCM Family!

Phyllis Behrer
Beck (Pete) Brown
Barbara Brown
Catharine Carty
James Carty
Joyce Farmer

Janet Kindy
Claire Miller
Geoffrey Perkins
Michele Perkins
Sarah Poland
Ted Puzio

James Tarantino
Diane Thuman
Gretchen Tibbs
Butch Traylor
Allen Wickey

Volunteers Are Needed



Lake Christian Ministries provides much needed crisis services on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 am to noon and the last Tuesday of each month from 5 – 6:30 pm. New volunteers are needed to help us provide the level of services required to address the growing needs in our community. Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

Front Office – Check-In for neighbors

Food Pantry – Prepare food boxes with a small group of volunteers

Financial Aid – Assist neighbors with financial aid requests

New Tomorrows – Partner with neighbors to help with job assistance, educational support, and community referrals

Clothing – Sort and display clothing donations

Consider volunteering once a week. You will find the experience extremely rewarding. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jane Winters, LCM executive director, at lcMexdr@gmail.com or complete a volunteer application under the Volunteer tab on the LCM website at www.lakechristianministries.org.



Lake Christian Ministries

13157 Old Moneta Road
P.O. Box 695
Moneta, VA 24121

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #78
Roanoke, VA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Special Note: If you are planning to move away for a time and are planning a "Temporary Hold" on your USPS mail, please give us your email address so we may send our Newsletters to you electronically.

Simple Strategies for Smart Giving

Your minimum IRA distribution can help our Neighbors in Need this Holiday

It is that time of year when many of us think about taking a Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA or tax-deferred retirement plan. If you are in the fortunate position of not needing your distribution for living expenses and are charitably inclined, you can [avoid income tax](#) on your required withdrawal by donating these funds directly to Lake Christian Ministries to help our neighbors in need during this holiday season.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution helps you and helps families in need. The distribution can lower your taxable income and your donation works to assist vulnerable families who are struggling with poverty. If you are already giving to Lake Christian Ministries, why not give from your IRA with funds that must be distributed anyway?

Lake Christian Ministries, Inc.

www.lakechristianministries.org

540-297-3214 (Office)

Operating Hours: M W F 9:00 am - Noon

Last Tuesday monthly 5:00 - 6:30 pm

