



Lake
Christian
Ministries

Heart&Hope

Volunteer Appreciation Event Recognizes Many

Nearly 100 Lake Christian Ministries volunteers, board members and staff enjoyed the 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 26 at Bethlehem United Methodist Church. Jane Winters, LCM Executive Director, and Jon Atchue, LCM Board Chair, welcomed the group and extended their deep appreciation to our volunteers for their dedication and service to LCM and our neighbors in need. Jim Bennett, LCM Facility Expansion Committee Chair, provided a short update on LCM's facility plans and capital campaign.

Jane Winters presented the LCM Hall of Fame awards to the following volunteers who have devoted 20 plus years of volunteer service to LCM: **Lynda Imirie (1992 to current) | Al Lorent (1999 to current) | Clara Ebert (2000 to current)**

The 2023 Paul Eveland Extra Mile Awards were presented to volunteers who go "above and beyond the call of duty" in volunteer service to LCM and families in need. The 2023 award winners were:

- **Jack Harrison** for his volunteer support as the LCM Technology Manager and his customization of the Apricot case management software.
- **Rusty MacMullan** for his vision and support of the New Tomorrow's Program. For many years, Rusty has served as a class instructor for LCM's "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World" class series as well as a partner for our neighbors and pioneer for the New Tomorrows Program.

Jane recognized a number of "behind-the-scenes" volunteers who work on LCM's behalf to pick up food at our grocery partners and devote skills and volunteer hours to a variety of special committees and projects including A Child's Christmas. Linda Strup, A Simple Gesture Coordinator, gave an update on the program's growth. More than 300 donor households now donate nearly 10,000 pounds of food and cleaning supplies each year. Linda recognized the many pick-up drivers who collect A Simple Gesture donations each quarter in their neighborhoods and deliver the items to LCM.

"We thank all our volunteers who donate their time and talent to assist Lake Christian Ministries and local families struggling with poverty," said LCM Executive Director Jane Winters. "We have the best volunteers in the lake community. They are the heart and hands of LCM!"

Top photo: Volunteer Hall of Fame Awards were presented to Clara Ebert, Al Lorent and Lynda Imirie.

Middle photo: Jack Harrison receives the 2023 Paul Eveland Extra Mile Award.

Bottom photo: Rusty MacMullan receives the 2023 Paul Eveland Extra Mile Award.



Donation Wish List

We appreciate your donation support. Our neighbors need the following items and our supplies are low. Unfortunately, we don't have the volunteer coverage to pick up donations at this time and are asking donors to please drop off donations at LCM from 9 a.m. until noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month.

Mattresses & Box Springs (clean and gently used)

Sheets - Full, Queen, and King

Comforters – Queen and King

Appliances

Microwaves

Crock Pots

Vacuum Cleaners

Laundry Detergent

Dishwashing Liquid

Diapers – Size 4, 5, and 6 Needed

Dog Food

Cat Food



Penhook Food Remote Moves to Christ Community Church

Each month LCM sends food supplies to support the Penhook Remote Food Assistance Program for families who live in Penhook and Pittsylvania County and have a difficult time traveling to LCM in Moneta. For many years, Penhook United Methodist Church hosted the Penhook Remote Food Day on the second Thursday morning of each month with volunteer assistance from Christ Community Church and Crafts United Methodist Church. In April, the Penhook Food Assistance Program moved to Christ Community Church. Church volunteer Anne Woods serves as the Penhook Remote Coordinator. Assisting her are nearly 30 Christ Community volunteers who are working each month to help LCM meet the food needs of nearly 45 families in this area. Thank you to all the Penhook Remote Food Assistance volunteers!

Service Impact January – April 2023

During the first four months of 2023, Lake Christian Ministries volunteers and staff continued to see a growing number of service requests. Rising costs for gas, rent and utility service have significantly impacted low- income families who are struggling to make ends meet. Many are working in our New Tomorrows Program to overcome barriers toward building stability for themselves and their families.

From January – April 2023, LCM Provided:

Food Assistance to Fulfill

3,125 Food Requests

31% increase over the same period in 2022

Financial Aid in the amount of

\$97,272 to assist 232 families

27% increase over the same period in 2022

New Tomorrows Program Services

**Helped 115 Individuals Build
More Secure Lives**

11% increase over the same period in 2022

Building Hope for Tomorrow



Facility Expansion Update

The first quarter of the year has been devoted to site and building plan review meetings with Bedford County Community Development Office. A few adjustments to the site plan were made to comply with easements on the building site. A second Technical Review Committee meeting will be held soon. We are hopeful that the site and building plans will be approved in the next 30 days and construction can begin in June/July. 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 grown by 31% in the first half of this year.

Capital Campaign Update

We are happy to report that the **Building Hope for Tomorrow Capital Campaign** has received \$927,000 to date. The initial campaign goal of \$700,000 was increased to \$950,000 as building costs significantly increased due to inflation.

"We are hopeful that the community will help us generate the remaining \$33,000 needed by fall so the new facility can be completed by early 2024," said Jane Winters, LCM Executive Director. "With growing needs from our neighbors, more space is required to accommodate a much larger number of families seeking LCM services. When this facility expansion project is completed, the benefits to the neighbors 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 the upcoming SML Walk to End Poverty that will be held on September 16. The first \$20,000 of donations made through the Walk will be doubled with a \$1 for \$1 challenge match provided by the 2023 SML Walk sponsors. Go to smlwalktoendpoverty.com to give. Donors can designate their donations for the facility or services. Checks can also be mailed to Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121 with a memo designation for SML Walk -facility expansion or general services.

Congratulations to Our Spring 2023 Getting Ahead Class Graduates!

On April 26, five New Tomorrows Program neighbors celebrated completion of the 14-week Getting Ahead In a Just-Gettin'-By-World class with an honors ceremony at Bethlehem United Methodist Church. The Spring 2023 Getting Ahead class was taught by Rev. Susan Hughes, New Tomorrows Director.

Congratulations to Alyssa Dixe, Angie Selfridge, Cynthia Dudley, Florence Kunnas and James Shively. With LCM support, these five neighbors are now on a journey toward building more secure lives for themselves and their families.

Welcome

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

Denise David

Debbie O'Dell

Betty Wetmiller

Eric Neder

Greg Smith

Anne Wood

Save the Date: 2023 SML Walk to End Poverty \$1 for \$1 Challenge Will Double Donations

The annual SML Walk to End Poverty will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, at SML State Park. Proceeds from the Walk enable Lake Christian Ministries to provide vital programs and services to address the growing number of families who are struggling with poverty in our community during this difficult year. Walkers, runners, individuals and teams participate in a 5K or 10K walk or run, and a free lunch and music follows.

This event gives donors a great opportunity to double their gifts. Event sponsors are offering a \$1 for \$1 challenge match for the first \$20,000 donated. Donations can be made online at smlwalktoendpoverty.com. Donors can designate their donations for the facility or services. Checks can also be mailed to Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121 with a memo designation for SML Walk - facility expansion or general services.

Volunteers are always needed to serve on the Walk planning team, which meets from June to September. If you're interested in serving, please contact Jane Winters, LCM Executive Director, at lcmevdr@gmail.com. More information about this important event will be provided later this summer. Until then, save the date and plan to join us for a fun morning in the park on September 16.



Bridges Out of Poverty Class Offered on July 18

Lake Christian Ministries, in partnership with Bedford County Department of Social Services (DSS), is offering a Bridges Out of Poverty class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 18 at Trinity Ecumenical Parish. Bridges Out of Poverty is a national training program that examines the dynamics that cause and sustain poverty. Anyone who works with people in poverty will benefit from a deeper understanding of their strengths and challenges. Lessons learned from this class will also help make us better partners in creating opportunities for our neighbors' success.

The training will be facilitated by Andy Crawford, Bedford County Department of Social Services Director and Lake Christian Ministries Board Member. Andy is an excellent instructor and shares first-hand experience and hands-on group exercises to broaden participants' understanding of life in poverty.

"July 18 sounds like a long time away, but this class will fill up quickly," said LCM Executive Director Jane Winters. "Go to the LCM website, lakechristianministries.org, and click on the Bridges Out of Poverty tab on the top of the home page for easy directions to register. Working together as a community, we can do so much more than any one of us can do on our own."



Island Music at the SML Pavilion on June 17 Benefits LCM

Island music will be presented under the SML Pavilion tent on June 17 to benefit Lake Christian Ministries and Food for Kids. The "Soaring into Summer" concert will feature SML's own Parrot Pan and Toucan Pan Steel Drum Bands and ukulele ensemble. The 3-5 p.m. show will present breezy island favorites that the entire family will enjoy.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 6-12. Children under age 6 are admitted free of charge. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the SML Pavilion website, www.smlpavilion.com. Tickets for any remaining seats will be sold at the gate on June 17.

Free Dessert for Dining Dads. As a Father's Day weekend thank you to concert-goers, several area restaurants are offering dads a free dessert with the purchase of a meal. Dads just need to show a receipt from the June 17 concert ticket purchase at participating restaurants on Saturday evening, June 17, or Sunday, June 18. Participating restaurants include: Bull Docks, Copper Kettle, Cilantro Mexican Grill, Jake's Place, Los Amigos, Magnum Pointe, Mangos, Napoli Cowboy, Napoli by the Lake and Vinny's.

The "Soaring into Summer" concert benefit is organized and promoted by the Fraternal Order of Eagles' Ladies Auxiliary #4344, which supports local charities in the SML community.



Make Plans for the LCM Fun Raising Cruise: February 17-24, 2024

Ken Davis, Touch of Paradise, has created a wonderful and economical Caribbean islands cruise for LCM Volunteers and their friends and families. There is no better place to be in February than the white sand beaches and warm crystal clear waters of the Caribbean islands with your favorite people. The MSC Cruise leaves the Miami, FL, port on February 17, travels to Nassau, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Ocean Cay and returns to Miami on February 24.

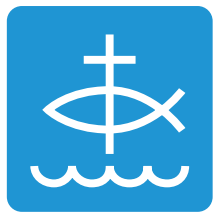
For more information on the MSC Cruise itinerary, pricing, amenities and cabin options, contact Ken Davis, Touch of Paradise, at (540)293-1124 or touchofparadise2@aol.com. Be sure to tell Ken that you are with the LCM Fun Raising Cruise group to receive the group discount and for LCM to benefit from a percentage of the booking fees.



Lake Christian Ministries Receives 2023 Most Valuable Partner Award

GOOD NEWS!! Lake Christian Ministries was recently awarded the 2023 Most Valuable Partner Award from United Way of Roanoke Valley. LCM was nominated by our Community Health Worker, Lashara Wade, who serves in partnership with LCM, Piedmont District Health Department and United Way of Roanoke Valley, and sees first-hand the impact LCM services make each day for families in need.





**Lake
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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.

A Simple Gesture Program Helps Those in Need & Reduces LCM Expenses

Donations from A Simple Gesture SML are helping our neighbors in need and helping to reduce LCM expenses during a time when food costs continue rising for all of us. This neighborhood donation pick-up program provides thousands of pounds of food, cleaning supplies and personal care items each year. In the first quarter of this year, the collection provided 2,104 pounds of canned fruit from 158 donors.

The second quarter collection day is Friday, June 2, with a wish list for shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes. The next two quarterly pick-ups are scheduled for Friday, August 4, for canned green beans, corn, and carrots; and Friday, November 3, for laundry detergent and dishwashing liquid.

If you haven't already registered for A Simple Gesture, send an email to asimplegesturesml.org to let us know that you want to donate and/or serve as a neighborhood pick-up driver.