



Lake  
Christian  
Ministries

# Heart & Hope

## A Child's Christmas is a Holiday Tradition for the SML Community

Over the past 26 years, Lake Christian Ministries' A Child's Christmas program has become a holiday tradition in the lake community. Each year, LCM collaborates with churches, businesses, civic groups, and individuals to bring joy to local children through this special holiday effort. This program helps ease the financial strain that many low-income families face when they cannot afford holiday gifts for their children.

"During a year when inflationary costs are affecting us all, a growing number of low-income families will have to choose between paying bills and buying Christmas gifts for their children. Most are unable to afford both," explains Jane Winters, executive director of Lake Christian Ministries. "A prolonged pandemic and rising costs for food, gas, housing and utilities have had a devastating impact on families struggling with poverty."

Parents and guardians can register children ages 16 years and younger for gifts at Lake Christian Ministries on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon through November 23. Last year, this program brought holiday joy to 447 local children.

"A Child's Christmas is truly a community effort," Winters adds. "This year we expect the number of children assisted to be greater than last year as we have seen a 42% increase in the number of families seeking assistance this year. We make it easy to participate. Lake-area businesses provide collection bins for new toys. Churches, businesses, civic organizations and individuals purchase personalized gifts for children with direction from Angel Cards or provide cash donations. Libraries collect new books for children. LCM volunteers organize the children's sign-up; assign Angel Cards to those who want to purchase gifts; and organize the distribution to families on the Saturday before Christmas. The continued success of this program is possible because of the generous support that our SML community traditionally provides."

Newly appointed Program Director Dianna Weiner added, "Many dedicated volunteers help each year to shop, sort and distribute gifts to ensure that every child experiences the joy of Christmas. We welcome new volunteers who want to experience the spirit of Christmas at work in our community."

**HOW CAN YOU HELP MAKE CHRISTMAS MERRY FOR CHILDREN IN NEED?** Purchase a new toy and drop it off at one of the collection locations shown inside this newsletter, or stop by one of Lake Christian Ministries' Angel Card partners, also shown, and purchase and donate gifts indicated on the personalized Angel Card for each child. For a growing list of A Child's Christmas toy collection sites and Angel Card Partners, visit [LakeChristianMinistries.org](http://LakeChristianMinistries.org). To learn how you can help, contact the program coordinators Dianna Weiner, [diannaelaine57@yahoo.com](mailto:diannaelaine57@yahoo.com), or Lynda Imirie, [fredlynda@aol.com](mailto:fredlynda@aol.com). Cash donations to support A Child's Christmas can also be sent to Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA, 24121 with a memo designating "Children's Programs."



# Support Holiday Programs

Lake Christian Ministries' volunteers are working to make this holiday a joy-filled time of year for vulnerable children and families. A Child's Christmas provides warm clothes and a toy/gift for babies to children up to age 16 who live in homes where finances are often not enough to pay bills and never enough to buy Christmas gifts.

LCM also provides food supplies to prepare a Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Breakfast for approximately 450 food- insecure families. LCM's discounted cost to provide a holiday meal basket for a family of four is approximately \$25.

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

LCM, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121

Note: Children's Programs or Holiday Meals.

Thank you for making this holiday bright for our neighbors who are struggling with household expenses during this difficult time of high inflation!



## Donation Wish List

We appreciate your support. During the cold winter months, our neighbors need the following donations. At this time, LCM is not able to pick-up donations. Donations can be dropped off at LCM from 9 AM until noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

- Clean gently used mattresses – all sizes
- Appliances in good working order
- Towels
- Blankets
- Sheets – all sizes
- Children sweatshirts and coats

## New LCM Volunteer Coordinator

A warm welcome goes to Amy Bird who joined LCM as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Amy started her volunteer service on October 24. She will respond to volunteer inquires; schedule and conduct LCM tours; and coordinate the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event in April.

*Photo: Amy Bird, LCM Volunteer Coordinator*



## Holiday Potluck Luncheon for LCM Volunteers

All volunteers are invited to bring their favorite dish, a side or dessert, and join us for the annual Holiday Potluck Luncheon at 12:15pm on Friday, December 9, at Lake Christian Ministries.

To confirm your attendance, call 540-297-3214 or email [lcmdonblanchard@gmail.com](mailto:lcmdonblanchard@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!

# Building Hope for Tomorrow

## Facility Expansion Update

Plans are moving forward to build an additional facility adjacent to the current Lake Christian Ministries' center. The new building will address the growing need for service space by housing a warehouse, clothing area and classrooms. This new space is badly needed as demand for LCM's services has dramatically grown. Building plans for the new facility were completed in June by architects at Balzer & Associates. Five local contractors submitted bids that were higher than expected due to the rising cost of building supplies. The Facility Expansion Committee is reviewing references for two preferred contractors with a plan to select a facility contractor in November. Construction is expected to begin the first quarter of 2023.



## Capital Campaign Update

We are happy to report that the Building Hope for Tomorrow Capital Campaign has received \$790,000 to date. The initial campaign goal of \$700,000 has been increased to \$950,000 as building costs have significantly increased with inflation.

"We are hopeful that the community will help us generate the remaining 17% of the funds needed for the project by the first quarter of 2023 so we can begin construction as soon as possible," said Jane Winters, LCM Executive Director. "With the increased demand, we desperately need more space to accommodate the growing number of families who need our services. When this facility expansion project is completed, the benefits to the families we serve will be truly life-changing."

## How Can You Help?

A year-end challenge (details in this newsletter) is underway that provides \$1 for facility expansion for every \$1 donated by our supporters for a total of \$20,000 in matching donations. Donors who respond to this challenge can choose to have their donation earmarked for facility expansion or general services. The goal is to generate \$40,000 to better serve growing community needs.

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 the Year-End Challenge. Checks can also be mailed to Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121 with a memo for Year-end Challenge: facility expansion or Year-end Challenge: general services.

# 2022 A Child's Christmas Toy & Book Collection and Angel Card Partner Sites

## Toy Collection Sites

Mayberry Furniture & Antique Mall  
Body Shoppe Fitness  
Dollar General Stores (Route 122; Scruggs Road locations; and Union Hall)  
Westlake Automotive  
Hot Shots Family Fun Center  
SML Coffee House (Bridgewater)  
Rehab Associates (Route 122)  
Mama Ann's  
Napoli By the Lake

## Book Collection Sites

Westlake Library  
Moneta Liberty

## Angel Card Partner Sites

Bethlehem United Methodist Church  
Epworth United Methodist Church  
Patmos United Methodist Church  
Resurrection Catholic Church  
Trinity Ecumenical Parish  
Mayberry Furniture & Antique Mall  
Mariners Landing  
Moneta Library  
Westlake Library  
Order of the Eagles, Moneta #4344  
The Landing Love Project

*Sites as of 11/1/2022*

# Neighbors in Crisis *Stories of Lake Christian Ministries' Neighbors*

Local demand for crisis assistance has soared to historic levels. We are sharing stories about our neighbors' struggles in a social media series called Neighbors in Crisis. You can read these stories on LCM's Facebook page. Two of these stories are provided below. With LCM's assistance, some of these neighbors are building secure lives while others continue to struggle daily.

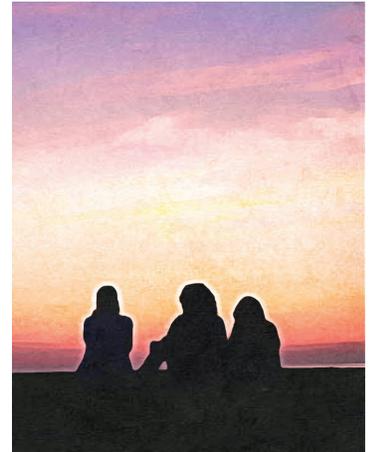
## Mary's Story

Mary and her two daughters moved to Franklin County to flee a domestic violence situation. For the first few months, Mary was able to live with a family member. She came to Lake Christian Ministries for food and clothing and learned about the New Tomorrows Program. LCM helped Mary secure a full-time job and enrolled her in the 16-week Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World course to help build resources and create a plan for the future. Mary worked a full-time schedule and attended the three hour Getting Ahead classes each Wednesday evening. In just a few months, she saved enough funds to rent a home for her family, and secured afterschool childcare that helped with specialized needs for one of her daughters. Then the COVID pandemic shut down schools for several months and Mary had to reduce her work hours to a part-time schedule to accommodate her daughters' childcare schedule and online home studies. It became very difficult for Mary to make enough money to handle the rent, utilities and childcare. Lake Christian Ministries worked with Mary to provide financial aid assistance to help with the family's rent so they would not lose their housing.

"The rental assistance from Lake Christian Ministries was a huge help to keep my family secure during the pandemic and enabled me to stay on a path to build a safe life for my children," Mary said.

## Malachi's Story

Malachi, a divorced father, unexpectedly received full custody of his teenage son after the boy's mother suffered a stroke. Not long after the teenager came to live with him, Malachi found himself \$1,900 behind on rent, low on food, and making \$8 less per hour because he had to change jobs to work around his son's school schedule. During the pandemic, Malachi and his landlord applied for Virginia Rent Relief to secure rent assistance and Lake Christian Ministries helped Malachi sign up for SNAP (food benefits). Rent relief was awarded and SNAP benefits have helped stabilize food needs for Malachi's family of two. Both father and son are doing well now. Malachi was recently promoted to a management position that provided a pay raise. With assistance from LCM, he is working on budgeting and improving his credit score with the goal of purchasing a home in a few years.



## Service Impact

During the first three quarters of 2022, Lake Christian Ministries volunteers and staff responded to a growing number of service requests. Forty-two percent of the families seeking services were coming to LCM for the first time. A record number of individuals are turning to New Tomorrows Program services to overcome barriers toward building stability for themselves and their families.

**From January 1 – September 30, LCM fulfilled**

Food Assistance Requests for  
**6,055 individuals**  
*14% increase over this time in 2021*

Financial Aid in the amount of  
**\$200,323 to assist 420 families**  
*54% increase over this time in 2021*

New Tomorrows Program Services  
**Helped 198 Individuals Build  
More Secure Lives**  
*More than double the number in 2021*

# One-of-a-Kind Lane Company Cedar Chest Donated for LCM Raffle

How fitting it is that a rare “Hope Chest” with historical significance would help Lake Christian Ministries in its mission of bringing HOPE to local families who are struggling with poverty. That is exactly what has happened, thanks to a generous donation from the L.B. Lane Family Foundation and the extended E.H. Lane family, formerly of Altavista.

“As one of the last 20 cedar chests crafted by the Lane Company in Altavista on August 31, 2001, its final day of operations, this item is truly a part of our region’s history. The chest is unique as it is autographed by the employees who helped create it as well as by the Lane family members,” said LCM Executive Director Jane Winters. “This beautiful cedar chest will make a “one-of-a-kind” Christmas gift for someone special. We hope this raffle will generate \$10,000 for LCM’s facilities expansion with a plan to sell just five hundred \$20 raffle tickets.”

The drawing for the lucky winner will be held at noon on Saturday, December 17, as part of LCM’s A Child’s Christmas gift distribution. Nearly all 20 of the last Lane cedar chests made in August 2001 have been donated to help charitable non-profits generate support.

“The Lane Company was founded in 1912 by Edward H. Lane Sr. and operated factories in Altavista and Rocky Mount for 89 years,” said Landon Lane, Jr., president of the L. B. Lane Family Foundation. “Most of the Lane family were born and grew up in the Altavista area. Although many of us have re-located to other places, we still think of this area as our home and heritage.”

Explaining the reason behind this donation, Mr. Lane continued, “Many Lane Company employees lived in Franklin, Bedford and Pittsylvania Counties, and we regarded them as extended members of the family. LCM’s mission aligns with the Lane Foundation’s mission—assisting families and children in need. Needs are growing for families who are struggling with poverty, and LCM has to have more space to offer the collaborative services to address hunger, unemployment and family stability. Our Foundation is impressed with the programs and services that LCM provides to families in need, and we are delighted that one of our last cedar chests has become a ‘Hope Chest’ for the families in the SML community.”

Raffle tickets can be easily purchased online at LCM’s website by clicking on the Lane Chest tab at the top of the homepage, stopping by LCM from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, or mailing a check to LCM, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121 with a note for Lane Raffle. Tickets will be available for purchase until December 16.



*One-of-a-Kind Lane Cedar Chest is Being Raffled to Support LCM’s Facility Expansion.*



*Edward Lane, Jr. autographs the bottom of one of the last cedar chests made by the Lane Company in Altavista.*

## Welcome to Our New Volunteers

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

Ken Britske

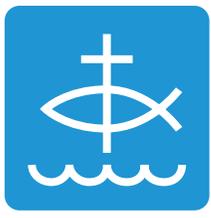
Barbara Hargrove

Scott Kuhfahl

Gabrielle Kuhfahl

Mary Coffey

Frances Viemeister



Lake  
Christian  
Ministries

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](mailto:lcmdonblanchard@gmail.com) so we can send our newsletters to you electronically.*

## \$20,000 Year-End Challenge Offered by LCM Volunteers

Local demand for Lake Christian Ministries' crisis assistance has soared to historic levels. A prolonged pandemic, rising inflation, and the ending of government relief efforts have all had a devastating impact on low-income families. During a year when the demand for our services is higher than ever, two dedicated LCM volunteers have issued a generous year-end challenge.

**YEAR-END CHALLENGE:** Two LCM volunteers who assist in our food pantry and with financial aid have generously offered a \$1 for \$1 year-end challenge to all supporters. These donors will provide a \$1, up to \$20,000 in matching donations, for facility expansion for every \$1 donated for LCM services or facility expansion (donor's choice). If we work together, this challenge can provide \$40,000 for LCM's efforts to assist vulnerable families during these challenging times.

*"Volunteering at LCM has really opened our eyes to the great needs of so many of our SML neighbors. Spend a few hours at LCM on Monday, Wednesday or Friday and you will quickly realize there is a major shortage of space available to effectively provide services. commented the one of the Year-End Challenge anonymous donors. "We are excited to have this opportunity to support LCM's facility expansion and their vital services during this season of giving. We hope you will join us in year-end support."*

**How Can I Help Meet the Year-End Challenge?** To help us make the most of this generous challenge, donate online through the LCM website at [lakechristianministries.org](http://lakechristianministries.org) by clicking on the Donate icon at the top of the home page and checking Year-End Challenge on the donor form. There is an option to designate your donation for facility expansion or general services. If you prefer to make a donation by check, mail the check to Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121 with a memo that states Year-End Challenge: facilities or Year-End Challenge: services. Donations can also be dropped off in the LCM office. The deadline for the challenge is December 31, 2022.