

Heart and Hope

2nd Quarter, 2021

Lake Christian Ministries

Finding New Ways to Help the Area's Food-Insecure Population

During the first quarter of 2021, Lake Christian Ministries continued to see growing numbers of cars lined up for curb-side food assistance, due in part to the COVID pandemic's lingering economic impact. From January through March, LCM provided food assistance to 2,051 individuals in 710 households – a 59 percent increase over the first quarter of 2020.



LCM volunteers and staff members help with food distribution.

To meet the ever-growing needs of food-insecure families in Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania counties, LCM continues to find innovative ways to address the ongoing crisis. Two new partnerships include LCM's recent collaborations with both Piedmont Community Services in Franklin County and with the Central Virginia Alliance for Community Living's Bedford Ride Program in Bedford County. LCM provides food and household goods for these agencies to pick up and deliver to qualifying individuals and families shut-in during the pandemic due to age, health, disability or lack of transportation.

In Franklin County, Piedmont Community Services case workers visit LCM to pick up food for Piedmont clients. Kat Heredia is a Crisis Stabilization Resource Specialist with Piedmont Community Services. "I can't praise Lake Christian Ministries enough for what they've done to help our community," Heredia said.

"Individuals with physical disabilities and [many] families were hit really hard by COVID. They lost resources, and couldn't leave the house to get food because of a lack of transportation and also because single parents couldn't leave their children home alone for safety reasons. LCM alleviated a lot of food stress, and without them, I don't know what our clients would have done," she continued.

Many LCM clients expressed gratitude for the food assistance they received during the pandemic. Mickie, an LCM neighbor, said she "would like to give a huge thank you to all the Lake Christian Ministries volunteers ... I never doubted for a minute that LCM would have a plan."

Jennifer, another LCM neighbor, said she never needed to come to a food pantry before the COVID pandemic. When she and her husband both lost their jobs in the restaurant industry, they were struggling to pay rent and utilities. "This food assistance is a huge help to our family during this time," she said.

Jane Winters, LCM executive director, thanked all LCM supporters for their ongoing contributions. "Your help has allowed us to continue providing food to our neighbors in need during this critical time."



A Bedford Rides volunteer picks up food for shut ins. The community collaboration between Bedford Rides and LCM is one of many partnerships necessitated by the COVID pandemic.

2021 RVG Day Surpasses All Expectations!

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WOW! Words can't begin to express our appreciation for the outstanding support Lake Christian Ministries received during the RVG Day online giving event this past March. A record \$72,033 was donated by 166 supporters, making LCM the most successful nonprofit among the participating mid-sized charities. An additional \$5,250 was added in earned event incentive prizes, bringing the amount generated by LCM through RVG Day to **\$77,283!** LCM placed second in funds generated among all 141 participating charities, testifying to the SML community's understanding and appreciation of the needs in our area. It is extremely heartwarming to see the lake community rally in support of our neighbors who continue to struggle with COVID-enhanced poverty.

Our record giving was kick-started by two generous SML families who, together, pledged to match \$15,000 in donations. We are deeply grateful to our generous donors. We are also thankful for the dedicated team of volunteers who work so hard to deliver increased services to vulnerable families impacted by the consequences of the pandemic. On behalf of the growing number of neighbors who will need our services in the months ahead, we thank you for your continued support of LCM.

Wish List Donations

Lake Christian Ministries appreciates your generous support! During the spring and summer months the following donations are on our "wish list" to support our neighbors in need:

- Spring and summer clothing
- Sheets and towels
- Personal care items (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant)
- Laundry and dish detergents
- Diapers for infants to toddlers
- Adult diapers for men and women

A Simple Gesture for Families in Need

The neighborhood pantry pick-up program called A Simple Gesture SML helps supply food and cleaning supplies to support LCM's Food Assistance Program. The first quarter collection held on March 5 provided a record number of 3,259 pounds of canned fruit from 256 households across the SML community. These items were picked up from the porches of donor homes and were added to LCM's pantry for vulnerable families in need. This important community collection program helps minimize the amount of funds LCM spends for the Food Assistance Program.

The next quarterly collection is scheduled for June 11 with a wish list of shampoo, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. These personal care items are always in high demand from LCM's clients.

If you have not registered for A Simple Gesture, contact Linda Strup at www.asimplegesturesml.org.



LCM youth volunteers unload donated food from A Simple Gesture collection.

Member Church Profiles

Crafts United Methodist Church

Address: 30 Crafts Lane, Glade Hill, VA 24092
Pastor: Reverend B. Sung
Church Office: 540-483-2668
Services: Adult Sunday School at 8:30 a.m.;
Worship at 9:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School provided during service.
Thursday evening youth and adult discussion groups.

Penhook United Methodist Church

Address: 29 Morgan's Fork Rd., Penhook, VA 24137
Pastor: Reverend B. Sung
Church Office: 540-576-1768
Services: Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.;
Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Ministry: Tuesday 9 a.m.
Bible Study: Tuesday 10:30 a.m.
1st Saturday Breakfast: 7:30-10:00 a.m.
Special Ministry: Penhook Remote Food Assistance Program

These two LCM church partners join with Christ Community Church of Penhook to support LCM's Penhook Remote Food Assistance Program, which provides food security to more than 50 families in this section of the lake community once a month. Many of these families are unable to travel to the LCM Food Pantry in Moneta due to age, disability or lack of transportation. On the second Thursday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. at Penhook United Methodist Church, the LCM Mobile Food Pantry truck (donated by SML Rotary) brings bags of food supplies to distribute to food-insecure families in the Penhook area.

Amy Fedak, who serves as the Penhook Remote Food Assistance Program Coordinator for LCM, said, "Our volunteer team looks forward to welcoming our neighbors

who drive through the church parking lot to receive food and other basic supplies. We share smiles with them, even from behind these masks! Since we began the COVID drive-through process, we see one or two new families each month who are in need of food assistance for the first time. We are so fortunate to have loyal volunteers from Christ Community Church, Penhook UMC and Craft UMC who help with this monthly service, and thankful to LCM for providing the food supplies and remote pantry truck that allow this ministry to help so many families in need on this side of the lake."

For more information or to assist with this program, contact Amy Fedak at (540) 352-2358 or by emailing a.afedak@yahoo.com.

New Tomorrows Program Adapts Services to Address Changing Needs



Volunteer Marsha East collects information from an LCM neighbor.

The New Tomorrows team continues to proactively adapt services to help neighbors overcome barriers and address unique needs in a year that continues to be impacted by the pandemic. Over the past four months, New Tomorrows staff and volunteers have met with neighbors in person whenever possible – often during curbside food pick-up. They have helped neighbors:

- Complete online job applications
- Complete online tenant applications for rent payment through the Virginia Rent Relief program
- Write resumes and prepare for job interviews
- Connect with SOAR representatives who can assist with disability benefits (SOAR is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration.)
- Secure transportation to go back to work
- Receive donated used computers to support neighbors taking classes at community colleges



LCM volunteers pack the mobile food truck for the Penhook Remote Food Assistance Program.

New Tomorrows Program Adapts (Cont.)

"It is critical to stay in touch with our neighbors to let them know we care and that we are still here for them through this time of distancing. Relationships take work and we are always doing what we can to strengthen the relationships we have with our neighbors and to build new ones," said Susan Hughes, NT Program director.

This summer and fall, the New Tomorrows program will:

- Continue to train partners in the *Bridges Out of Poverty* program. Online training has begun for three new partners who joined the program in April.
- Offer the *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World* class in the fall to neighbors who are eager to learn how to build and strengthen resources.
- Continue to build our knowledge of and access to online and local resources that benefit our neighbors so the New Tomorrows team can continue to guide and support them.

New Tomorrows is always in need of new volunteers to serve as partners. If you or someone you know may be interested in working one-on-one with an LCM neighbor to help him or her identify and build resources for a more secure future, please contact Susan Hughes at lcmntdr@gmail.com or (540) 297-3214, ext. 229.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Let's Impact Poverty Together

Help us impact poverty in the lake community. LCM is in need of volunteers on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon in the following areas:

Front Office – Checks in neighbors

Warehouse – Receives donations and deliveries and loads food for drive-through food assistance

Financial Aid – Assists neighbors with financial aid requests

New Tomorrows – Partners with neighbors to help with job assistance, goal setting, and community referrals

Clothing – Sorts and displays donated clothing

Volunteer Coordinator – Manages volunteer placement and volunteer events

Consider volunteering one morning a week. You will find the experience extremely rewarding and fulfilling. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jane Winters, LCM executive director, at lcmexdr@gmail.com; Don Blanchard, LCM administrative assistant, at lcmdonblanchard@gmail.com; or complete a volunteer application under the Volunteer tab on the LCM website at www.lakechristianministries.org.

Save the Date



9th Annual SML Walk to End Poverty Set for Saturday, September 25, 2021

Proceeds from the SML Walk to End Poverty enable Lake Christian Ministries to provide programs and services to address the growing crisis of poverty in our community. Walkers, runners, individuals and teams are invited to participate in a 5K or 10K walk or run. A free lunch is provided following the walk.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision will be made by June 30 to determine if the event will be held in person at Smith Mountain Lake State Park or as a virtual event with online giving support. Stay tuned for more information about this important event this summer!

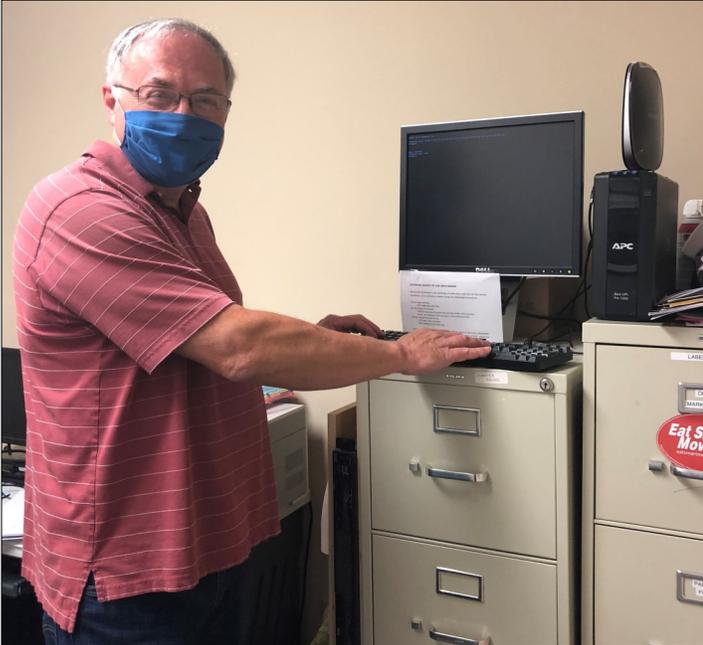


A crowd enjoys the 2019 SML Walk to End Poverty.

LCM Needs Volunteers for the 2021 SML Walk to End Poverty Team

LCM needs volunteers to serve on the 2021 SML Walk to End Poverty team. We are in need of a Walk Event Coordinator (or co-coordinators); Walk Registration & Donation Coordinator; and leaders for Team Recruitment and Walk Publicity. The SML Walk to End Poverty Leadership Team meets June through September to plan and execute the event with direction and support from the LCM Executive Director. Each team member manages a limited list of duties for his or her area of responsibility in an effort to minimize the workload for each team member and ensure a successful event for our neighbors in need. If you are interested in serving on the 2021 SML Walk to End Poverty team, please contact Jane Winters, LCM executive director, at lcmexdr@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE Jack Harrison



Jack Harrison, LCM Technology Manager

Keeping things humming at Lake Christian Ministries requires a lot of talented and willing volunteers, both “out front” for neighbor services and behind the scenes. Jack Harrison has been a critical behind-the-scenes volunteer since 2015 when his Hickory Cove neighbor and LCM volunteer Jim Caskie introduced him to LCM.

“I had just finished some remodeling on our home, where my wife Allane and I have lived since 2011, and I was ready for something new to occupy my spare time,” commented Harrison. That’s when Jim Caskie stepped in, knowing that Jack’s career in gas pipeline automation involved working with software, servers and networks. Jim thought Jack might lend some of his expertise to developing LCM’s then-fledgling website. Jack came on-board as webmaster and upgraded the format and functionality of lakechristianministries.org.

Jack was a natural for involvement in the early fall 2019 effort to upgrade LCM’s home-built Access computer system to a more robust, commercially offered case-management software application called Apricot. Teaming with volunteer Gale Taylor, LCM’s technology manager at that time; Jim Bennett, LCM’s software implementation team leader; Jane Winters, LCM executive director; and other LCM department managers, Jack spent five months planning, defining user needs and customizing the new software to fit LCM’s processes and procedures. The new cloud-based case-management software went live in early June of last year and is being used successfully by front office managers; New Tomorrows staff and volunteers; financial aid counselors; and pantry, clothing and warehouse volunteers.

“This system is more capable,” Harrison said, “but also more complex. Every software implementation has its issues, but ours has gone fairly smoothly and most users are quite pleased now that they’ve gotten acquainted with it.”

Jane Winters agreed: “Customizing this software to meet LCM’s demands for multiple services and programs was a very challenging task. Jack’s unique skills and experience were exactly what we needed to get this job done efficiently and effectively. He was patient and encouraging as he worked with volunteer department managers and their crews to roll out the software and train users both onsite and remotely during the pandemic.”

Jack continues tweaking the system to adapt it to evolving COVID-19 procedures and to meet growing client demands and changing requirements. He is also a valued member of the LCM Communications Committee and the Roanoke Valley Gives team. “Jack’s software engineering expertise was also critical to the success of last fall’s Capps and Community Charity Challenge online giving effort,” Winters added.

“My career started as a telecommunications technician, evolved into engineering and finally IT management,” Harrison said. “But I was always happiest in a hands-on technical role. So I find what I’m doing at LCM both satisfying and enjoyable. I’m very proud to be serving as an enabler of LCM’s good work in the community.”

Welcome to Our New Volunteers

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

Michelle Bartsch	Bo King	Philip Sterner
Eric Chaney	Kathy Santen	Janet Thorne
Priscilla Eastman	Gary Scheidt	Patty Wells
Dan Jones	Mary Schoenberg	Scott Wells
Nan Jones		



Volunteers enjoy working at LCM.



Lake Christian Ministries

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Simple Strategies for Smart Giving

Your minimum IRA distribution can help our vulnerable families in need.

After years of contributing to tax-deferred 401 (k)s and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), it is frustrating when income tax is now due on this money when you take withdrawals in retirement. Annual withdrawals from traditional retirement accounts are required after age 70½. However, 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.

You can donate part of your required distribution to LCM and withdraw the rest of it as retirement income as long as you meet the minimum distribution requirement by the end of the calendar year. If you are already giving to LCM, consider giving from your IRA with funds you need to take out anyway.

