

# Heart and Hope

3rd Quarter, 2021

## Lake Christian Ministries

Make a Difference Together through the 2021 SML Walk to End Poverty



LCM supporters enjoy the 2019 SML Walk to End Poverty.

# SMLwalk TO END POVERTY

Make a Difference Together

Lake Christian Ministries' SML Walk to End Poverty is back after it was canceled last year due to the COVID pandemic. Sponsored by Capps Home Building Center, the 5K and 10K walk/run will be held Saturday, Sept. 25, at one of the area's most beautiful settings, Smith Mountain Lake State Park.

On-site registration begins at 9 a.m.; both the walk and run begin at 10 a.m.; and lunch is at 11 a.m. Participants are encouraged to stay and enjoy lunch, live music, fellowship, an awards presentation, and door prizes. All events occur rain or shine. All donations and proceeds from fund-

raising go to support LCM's programs and services for local residents struggling with poverty

"The COVID pandemic created an extraordinary increase in the number of families facing financial crisis in our local community," explained Jane Winters, executive director of Lake Christian Ministries. "That increase in need has added to a local poverty rate that continues to grow steadily in the counties surrounding Smith Mountain Lake. The Walk is a fun family event and an important fundraiser that encourages all of us to work together to make a

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## 2021 SML Walk to End Poverty (Cont.)

difference for local families in need, while bringing much-needed awareness to our organization and mission.”

Many families seeking assistance this past year are doing so for the first time. Most have never needed help feeding their children or paying their bills. Bill needed help finding a job and paying bills after both he and his wife lost their dual family income. Bill was laid off in a COVID-related workforce reduction and his wife had to stay home with their daughter when schools shut down.

Before the COVID pandemic, Natalie and her husband managed to keep their family farm afloat with Natalie’s contract caregiver income. Natalie’s contract work as a caregiver ended with the pandemic as she could not safely enter her elderly clients’ homes. The family then came to LCM for food, clothing for their children, and financial aid.

Jack, who is disabled due to a stroke, supplements his disability income by making and selling Native American crafts to retail stores. He caught COVID while delivering a shipment of crafts, and was bedridden for a month while his entire family had to quarantine. LCM helped this food insecure family by delivering food and leaving it outside their front door while the family recovered.

The SML Walk to End Poverty funds programs to serve local families such as these. Those who’d like to join LCM to Make a Difference Together can register in advance or make a donation at [www.smlwalktoendpoverty.com](http://www.smlwalktoendpoverty.com). The registration fee is \$5 for participants 17 and under, and \$10 for all others. For paper forms, visit LCM’s website, [www.lakechristianministries.org](http://www.lakechristianministries.org), and click on the SML Walk to End Poverty tab.

## Walk Sponsors Offer \$15,000 Matching Funds

This year we are blessed to have two SML Walk to End Poverty event sponsors offering \$15,000 in matching funds to create a \$1 for \$1 match for dollars donated through the event. We are hopeful that these generous matching funds will help us reach our goal of \$50,000. A big thank you goes out to the 2021 event sponsors Capps Home Building Center and an anonymous supportive SML donor.



To encourage a fun and healthy competition, Capps Home Building Center will be awarding a discount coupon for 25% for a single item at Capps Home Building Center to team members on the team that raises the most funds and the team that has the most walkers and runners participating in this year’s event.

We also extend our appreciation to the following supporting sponsors. Platinum Sponsors include Haywood Jewelers and Berkshire Hathaway Home Services – Smith Mountain Lake Real Estate.

Southside Electric Cooperative is serving as Gold Sponsor. Several other sponsors will be confirmed by September 1.



BERKSHIRE  
HATHAWAY  
HomeServices  
Smith Mountain Lake  
Real Estate



## New Tomorrows Program Assists Neighbors Struggling with Crisis

For the first half of 2021, New Tomorrows staff and volunteers continued helping neighbors mitigate crises stemming from the upheaval and instability brought about by the COVID pandemic. Much of New Tomorrows' efforts continue to focus on the critical areas of homelessness prevention, navigating unemployment issues, job placement and addressing Internet and computer access. Other barriers that have been created as a result of the prolonged pandemic include securing affordable childcare and transportation and access to dental care and assistance with online government-administered COVID relief programs.

New Tomorrows staff and volunteers worked with 43 neighbors on many of these issues during the first six months of the year. While the program encourages neighbors to take the lead on effecting positive change, supporting that process involved 47 in-person meetings, 78 phone calls, nearly 300 rounds of texts,



*Jon Atchue, New Tomorrows volunteer, helps neighbors with job applications.*

and 110 emails. While some neighbors simply needed jobs lists, others needed longer term New Tomorrows' support as they strived for long-term change. By the close of June, 24 neighbors had already achieved or made significant progress toward self-identified goals and significant progress toward building a secure life. The New Tomorrows Partner Program and a fall 16-week "Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World" class series are operating in-person for the first time in 18 months. Three new partners are trained and have begun working with neighbors while two additional partners start training this fall. Neighbors and New Tomorrows staff anticipate a successful revival of the Getting Ahead class - which begins on September 8 - with gratitude to Bethlehem United Methodist Church for once again hosting the class, childcare and dinner as part of its Wonderful Wednesdays program.

## Wish List for Families in Need

This year due to the economic impact of the pandemic, a growing number of families need the following items for babies and school age children as they return to school:

- Children's Clothing (all sizes)
- Children's Shoes (all sizes)
- Baby Clothes
- Diapers (need for larger sizes 4, 5 & 6)



## Service Impact First Half of 2021

During the first half of 2021, Lake Christian Ministries provided the following support for local families in need.

- 4,379 food requests were fulfilled for 1,302 families with curbside delivery on Mondays and Fridays.
- \$120,242 was provided to service providers to assist 511 individuals with rent and utility payments, medical costs, denture and dental services, prescription drug payments and other crisis needs.

Now that local COVID safety restrictions have relaxed, LCM is offering all services three days a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday within the facility. Tuesday evening services will resume monthly beginning October 1 if safety restrictions continue to relax over the next couple of months.



*Warehouse volunteers load food for remote pantry service.*

## SML Giving Gardens Offer Fresh Produce for Families in Need



*Volunteers working in the SML Giving Gardens.*

“We are so grateful to our SML Giving Gardens volunteers for the gardening hours they devote each week to produce thousands of pounds of fresh, locally-grown, pesticide-free produce for our neighbors in need. Families who struggle to make ends meet often cannot afford to purchase fresh produce to feed their families. This wonderful program enables Lake Christian Ministries to offer nutritious vegetables fresh from the gardens to the tables of food insecure families throughout the summer and fall months,” commented Executive Director Jane Winters on the value of the Giving Gardens program.

Now in its 13th year, the SML Giving Gardens began as “Tackling Hunger and Nutrition,” a project of the Rotary Club of SML aimed at addressing the needs of area people struggling with food insecurity. Since then it has blossomed into a major community-based project involving a large number of volunteers and organizations that provide fresh organic produce to the LCM food pantry as well as other pantries in the area when excess produce is available.

The first Giving Garden was started on the grounds of the Booker T. Washington National Monument. In 2016, an additional plot at Coopers Cove was added.

As a collaborative partnership between SML Rotary Club, Booker T. Washington National Monument, Franklin County Master Gardeners, Lake Christian Ministries, Hot Shots Entertainment Center and many dedicated volunteers from the community in general, the Giving Gardens have grown over 25 tons of produce to help families in need over the past 12 years. In 2020 alone, over 7,300 pounds of produce were provided to the LCM Food Pantry.

The garden at Booker T. Washington National Monument uses principles of square foot gardening to maxim-

ize the amount of produce grown in 44 raised beds of various sizes. The Coopers Cove garden is primarily a large field garden with eight raised beds and is about three times the size of the garden at Booker T. It provides abundant space for those crops requiring room to grow.



*LCM's new A Garden of Giving mural painted by Lisa Floyd.*

But that’s not all. The Giving Gardens also serve as an opportunity for volunteers to learn more about organic and square foot gardening. Says long-term project leader De English, “All the volunteers work as a team and trade knowledge with one another. Even the Master Gardeners among us find the exchange informative and stimulating.” The gardens also serve as an educational experience for children from several local schools, the SML Good Neighbors program, college students and adults.



*Giving Gardens produce*

**Volunteers are always welcome and needed.** Those wishing to consider joining the team of enthusiastic Giving Gardens volunteers can contact Mary Thurmond, [mthurm75@cs.com](mailto:mthurm75@cs.com), or De English, [de.english100@gmail.com](mailto:de.english100@gmail.com), for additional information.

## Foster Fuels Celebrates 100th Anniversary



Lake Christian Ministries received a very generous donation of \$1,000 from Foster Fuels in honor of the company's 100 years of service to our community. We are grateful to Foster Fuels for their longstanding commitment to our community and to LCM's ministry to our neighbors in need. Happy 100th Anniversary to Foster Fuels!!

## Children Receive School Supplies

While some students and their families are eager to shop for back-to-school basics, many families who come to Lake Christian Ministries struggle to buy the items on their children's school lists. To help these families, during the month of August LCM provides school supplies for children in kindergarten through high school for the upcoming school year.

With cash donations from local churches, civic organizations, businesses and individuals, LCM is able to purchase those items requested by the schools for each grade. The shopping list includes more than 250 three-ring binders and packs of colored pencils, 1,800 glue sticks, 500+ reams of paper, 400 pocket folders and 230 zippered pencil cases.

"We no longer ask for donors for supplies, but rather a cash donation because teachers in each grade have specific items they want their students to use," explained LCM Executive Director Jane Winters.

Many thanks to all of the donors who make it possible for children in families who are struggling to meet basic needs feel excited and equipped to start the new school year.



## Welcome to Our New Volunteers



*Volunteers enjoy working at LCM.*

A warm welcome to the new and returning volunteers who joined LCM during the summer months of June through August. The following volunteers are now part of the LCM Family!

Harold Dorsey	Barb Juedes	Philip Mahikuch
Len Ellis	Dennis Juedes	Michele White
Karen Hughes	Nancy King	

During the summer months we said goodbye to a long-time and dedicated LCM volunteer, Dennis Dahlstrom. We wish him well in the next chapter of his life and will miss him dearly.

## Volunteers Are Needed

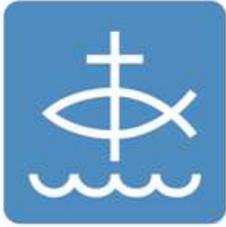


*Food Pantry Volunteer Lou Purdie, delivers food for neighbors.*

LCM needs volunteers in the following areas:

- Front Office Service Coordinators and Interviewers
- Clothing Check-Out
- Financial Aid
- New Tomorrows Program Partners

If you are interested in volunteering for LCM, please email Don Blanchard at [lcmdonblanchard@gmail.com](mailto:lcmdonblanchard@gmail.com) or complete a volunteer application on LCM website [www.lakechristianministries.org](http://www.lakechristianministries.org).



## Lake Christian Ministries

13157 Old Moneta Road  
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Moneta, VA 24121

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***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 Gesture Provides Valuable Support

The August 6 collection from A Simple Gesture SML netted 169 collection bags filled with 2,200 pounds of canned vegetables that will support Lake Christian Ministries' Food Assistance Program.

A Simple Gesture SML coordinates donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and cleaning products from households who want to help families in need. Donors are provided a reusable tote bag and a quarterly wish list. Donation pickup from donors' doorsteps is done by volunteer neighborhood drivers or donations can be dropped off at designated collection spots at Capps Home Building Center and Lake Christian Ministries.

The final collection day in 2021 is November 5. The wish list is for laundry detergent (40 oz. or less) and dishwashing liquid. If you would like to make a simple gesture and join the SML neighborhood collection program, contact [www.asimplegesturesml.org](http://www.asimplegesturesml.org). Checks to support the program are also welcomed by LCM at PO Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121.



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