



Lake
Christian
Ministries

3rd Quarter, 2022

Heart & Hope

2022 SML Walk to End Poverty will raise money to assist local families in need

The annual SML Walk to End Poverty will be held on Saturday, September 17, at Smith Mountain Lake State Park. Walk proceeds support programs and services that assist local neighbors struggling with poverty during this difficult time.

The Walk's course is in one of the area's most beautiful settings - SML State Park - and features a 5K and 10K option that walkers and runners can choose. On-site registration begins at 9:00 a.m., with the walk and run beginning at 10 a.m., followed by lunch at 11. Participants are encouraged to stay for lunch and enjoy music, fellowship, and the awards presentation. All events occur rain or shine.

Individual and team participants can register prior to the event by visiting the event website, www.smlwalktoendpoverty.com, and following the easy online instructions. A pledge/donation form for team leaders and individuals collecting donations is available at LCM's website, www.lakechristianministries.org, under the SML Walk to End Poverty tab.

The event is sponsored by Capps Home Building Center and two anonymous donors. Supporting sponsors include Gilbert Law, LLC; Haywood's Jewelers; Southside Electric Cooperative; Centra; Coley Law Firm; and other supportive businesses. Collectively these sponsors are offering a 30 For 30 Challenge in honor of LCM's 30th anniversary year. This challenge offers \$1 for LCM's much needed facility expansion efforts for every \$1 donated by the community for LCM's programs and services. The goal is to generate \$30,000 for current programs and services and \$30,000 to expand LCM's facilities.

SML
walk
TO END POVERTY
Make a Difference Together **2022**

Benefiting Lake Christian Ministries & Local Families in Need

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 17
SML STATE PARK

Walk Day Registration: 9 AM
5K & 10K Walk or Run: 10 AM

Register & Donate: SMLWalkToEndPoverty.com

SPECIAL THANKS TO EVENT SPONSOR:
Capps Home Building Center



Update on Facility Expansion

Facility Expansion Update

During our 30th Anniversary year, plans are moving forward for the new facility that will address Lake Christian Ministries' need for service space. This additional space is badly needed as demand for LCM's services has hit an all-time high. The extended impact of the prolonged pandemic; high inflation costs for food and gas; and end of government relief programs have created a desperate situation for local families struggling with poverty.

Building plans for the new facility were completed in June by architects at Balzer & Associates. Four local builders are reviewing the plans and will be submitting bids by the end of July. The Facility Expansion Committee plans to review construction bids and make a decision on the contractor by the end of August.

Capital Campaign Update

A capital campaign, "Building Hope for Tomorrow," is underway to secure \$700,000 for construction of the new building, adjacent to the LCM Center that will house warehouse, clothing display, and classrooms. The project will also add renovated meeting room space in the old building. The LCM Board has agreed that once the capital campaign achieves the 80% goal, construction can begin. As of July 29, 76% of the funding has been secured.

"We are hopeful that the community will wrap their arms around this project and commit the remaining 24% by this fall so we can begin construction late this year. With the increased demand for our services during this difficult year, we desperately need more space to accommodate the growing number of families who need our comprehensive services, to work with our community network partners who need to have a presence at our center, and to store and distribute larger amounts of food, clothing and warehouse supplies. When this facility project is completed, the benefits to the families we serve will be truly life-changing," said Jane Winters, LCM Executive Director.

How Can You Help?

During this difficult year, donations are down and demand for LCM services is soaring to historic levels. LCM needs donation support for both services and facility expansion to address community needs. To answer this call for help, the 2022 SML Walk to End Poverty Sponsors are offering a 30 for 30 Challenge in honor of LCM's 30th anniversary year. This challenge offers \$1 for LCM's facility expansion for every \$1 donated by the community for LCM's services. The goal is to generate \$30,000 for services to assist vulnerable families struggling with the economic crisis and \$30,000 to expand LCM's facilities to better serve growing community needs this year and the years to come.

Donors can support this challenge online through the SML Walk to End Poverty at smlwalktoendpoverty.com. Donations can also support facility expansion online at LCMBuildsHope.org. Checks can also be mailed to Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121. Please note "Facilities Expansion" or "General Services" on the memo line.



Together we can help a growing number of local families who are hit hard by rising costs and an unstable economy!

LCM's 30th Anniversary goal is to raise \$30,000 for services and \$30,000 for needed facility expansion. Every \$1 donated by the community for services will be matched by the SML Walk to End Poverty sponsors up to \$30,000.

Wish List Donations

Lake Christian Ministries appreciates your generous support! During this time the following donations are needed to support our neighbors in need.

- Clean gently used mattresses - all sizes
- Appliances in good working order
- Baby and children's clothing (especially sizes 4,5 & 6)
- Children's shoes - all sizes
- Towels
- Sheets- all sizes
- Dry pasta and pasta sauce
- Canned pork & beans



School Supplies Get Kids Ready to Learn

It's a labor of love....and learning!

"Love," of course, refers to the caring for children shown by the volunteers who make possible Lake Christian Ministries' annual effort to provide LCM children with the school supplies their families often simply can't afford.

"Learning," importantly, is improved when kids begin the school year properly equipped for the lessons their teachers have carefully prepared.

The LCM Back to School Program began on a small scale in the 90's, according to Lynda Imirie, who coordinates the effort. The program has grown considerably to serve between 300 and 400 children from families in need. Each year, Imirie solicits student supply lists from area public schools and consolidates them into grade level lists - kindergarten through middle and high school. The needed items are then purchased from area Walmart stores, in bulk from their warehouse. "We found it is much easier for Walmart to process large orders this way than for us to clean out their shelves repeatedly at a time when regular customers are shopping for the same items," she explained, "and the LCM truck can be brought right to their loading dock."

Once the crayons, pencils, notebooks, paper, protractors and other supplies have been accumulated, they are moved to a location where volunteers can gather to sort them into bags, grade level by grade level, and prepare them for pick-up by parents at LCM during the month of August. LCM also offers back packs for children who need them, compliments of a back pack drive held at Resurrection Catholic Church each year.

Unfortunately, school supplies often fall to the bottom of the 'must have' list for families who are struggling to keep food on the table, pay rent and utilities and deal with rising costs. "With our help," Imirie noted, "their kids can start the school year with the supplies they need, and they'll be more confident and learn better as a result. We all know education is key to breaking the poverty cycle. That's what this program is about."

Added Imirie, "This program is made possible by donations from area churches, clubs, organizations and individuals that are earmarked for school supplies. Donations and our treasured volunteers are what enable this program to continue. We are deeply grateful for the community support we receive and always welcome more."



Giving Garden's Need for Volunteers

There's a gem of a garden supported by the SML Rotary, master gardeners, and other dedicated community volunteers. Each season thousands of pounds of produce are delivered to Lake Christian Ministries (LCM). Excess is taken to other local food pantries. The garden is located behind the Booker T. Washington Park's equipment building and has its own road entrance. The parking lot is to the left of the brick building.

Giving Garden volunteers work on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8 till 10am. Currently they need harvesters of beans and other vegetables. After picking, produce is packed and weighed and someone delivers it to Hot Shots Restaurant where it is refrigerated. Early the next morning, an LCM volunteer picks up the produce and takes it to LCM to be shared with families in need.

This huge effort requires dedicated folks! If you could spend a few hours this season, please come and help at the Giving Garden. If you have any questions, contact Marion Wagner, mwagner1020@gmail.com, or Mary Thurmond, marythurmond1@gmail.com. Join a fun group of dedicated volunteers. No experience necessary.



Welcome Volunteers

We welcome new volunteers who joined Lake Christian Ministries during the past quarter. The following volunteers are now part of our LCM Family!

Christi Johnston

David Stair

Cindy Stair

Doreen Stakor

Mark Stakor

Volunteers Needed

We Need Your Help

LCM needs your help to assist the growing number of families who need our services. Do you have a morning once a week or once a month to help? Here are some volunteer jobs that need filling now.

- Front Office Service Coordinators and Interviewers
- Financial Aid Counselors
- Clothing Sorting and Displaying
- Food Pantry
- New Tomorrows Partners
- Warehouse Loading and Unloading

To volunteer email lcmdonblanchard@gmail.com or complete a volunteer application at www.LakeChristianMinistries.org under "Please Volunteer" tab at the bottom of the home page.

Board of Directors

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Jane Winters

Members at Large:

Bill Copening

Andy Crawford

Jacqueline Oliver

Ann Saad; Bruce Shelton

Rich Sours

Karen Sutphin

Barry Welch

Ron Willard, II

Reel Connections



16 local area kids recruited by Lake Christian Ministries, SML Good Neighbors and the local chapter of the Boys and Girls Club participated in the first REEL CONNECTIONS for KIDS event on June 25. This new event created by the Smith Mountain Lake Stripers Club gave kids a rare opportunity to spend the day fishing with a striper fishing guide. 40 fish were caught by the group and the kids went home with a new rod and reel and wonderful memories of a day fishing on the lake.

Service Impact

During the first half of 2022, LCM continued to see a record number of service requests. 42% of the families seeking services were coming to LCM for the first time. The ending of temporary government relief assistance during a year of rising inflation costs has resulted in an 89% increase in the number financial aid requests to prevent homelessness and keep the utilities functioning in homes where resources are stretched to capacity. Three times as many families are utilizing New Tomorrows Program services this year as LCM works to help neighbors overcome barriers toward building more secure lives.

From January 1 - June 30, LCM fulfilled

4,221 service requests that included:

Food Assistance for

1,621 individuals

A 36% increase over this time last year

Financial Aid in the amount of

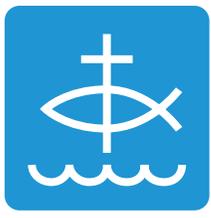
\$156,557 to assist 274 families

An 89% increase over this time last year

New Tomorrows Program Services

Helped 141 Families Build More Secure Lives

A 317% increase over this time last year



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 so we can send our newsletters to you electronically.

Shopping on Amazon?

Designate Lake Christian Ministries as your charity of choice with AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support LCM. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to LCM from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases – it adds up quickly.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

If you are new to AmazonSmile, simply sign up and choose Lake Christian Ministries. Then as you purchase on Amazon, a donation will be made to LCM at no cost to you...same products, same prices, same service. Here's how:

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with the same account you use for Amazon.com
3. When prompted to pick your charity of choice, type "Lake Christian Ministries."
4. Start shopping!

Your shopping cart, wish lists, and other account settings will carry over. From time to time, Amazon may offer special, limited-time promotions that increase the donation amount on products or services.

It's an easy way to support LCM when you're shopping online.

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