



Rejoicing in Hope



2024
Annual Report

LM
Lutheran Ministries of Mercy
Sharing Resources • Enhancing Lives

Lutheran Ministries of Mercy:

A Year of Rejoicing in Hope

Dear Friends, Families, and Supporters,

Our LMM ministries are rooted in the belief that transformation begins with compassion. We strive to create spaces where individuals can find not only assistance, but also a renewed sense of purpose. Through collaborative efforts and tireless commitment, our agencies address pressing issues such as hunger, the need for care for people with developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, and mental health issues, ensuring that no one is left behind. In the midst of sometimes overwhelming challenge and adversity, we encourage people to rejoice in the hope that change is possible, even when the road seems long.

The impact of our ministries extends far beyond immediate relief, nurturing a spirit of resilience in the individuals we serve. The diverse expertise of all those connected with our ministries provides the tools for empowerment. Whether through education and counseling or through love and compassion in caring for daily needs, we plant the seeds of long-term hope. It is within this nurturing environment that people are able to rejoice, not just in the help they receive, but in the new possibilities that emerge.

Grounded in our shared faith and tradition of service, the daily practice of hope grows stronger with every act of kindness, every step toward progress and every moment spent in unity. We are thankful to all those who join us in this journey.

In appreciation,



Terri Rodriguez
President and CEO
Lutheran Ministries of Mercy



Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy
Chair, Board of Directors
Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the
power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13



Who We Are In Service to Others

Lutheran Ministries of Mercy (LMM) Our Strength Comes from Hope

Lutheran Ministries of Mercy (LMM), with our affiliates Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy, and Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio, celebrate another year of administration and management partnerships.

Since 2013, with the goal of promoting sustainability, innovative direct services, and operational efficiency, LMM continues to find new ways to meet the demands of our clients and residents. Administrative, planned giving, and information technology services are combined and work in tandem to assist affiliate agencies in enhancing mission-driven services through cost-effective and efficient management expertise.

While each of the affiliates maintain independent status, including the work of their Foundations who oversee financial investment strategies, it is the use of our combined strengths that continue to positively impact clients and residents in our care.

In 2024, our agencies took positive steps to partner with other agencies, school districts, and community leaders to help our neighbors where they needed us most. These partnerships allowed us to use the gifts of our donors, talents of our staff members, and operational improvements to serve more than 30,700 children, adults and seniors across our service area.

We invite you to read our 2024 Annual Report and engage in our ministries all year long.

Campus-Based Housing	141
Day Program Participants	245
Community Housing Residents	97
Supported Living Clients	95
Clients Served in Mental Health & Substance Use Programs	568
Clients Served in Food Pantries	29,158
Re-entry Clients	68
Scott HUB Clients (24,157 over 2 year funding cycle)	0
Rental Assistance Clients (1,498 over 2.5 year funding cycle)	65
Clients of the Employer Resource Network	200
Financial Opportunity Center Clients	69



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Napoleon, Ohio 43545
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Williston, Ohio 43468
419.836.7741 • lutherhome.org



2149 Collingwood Blvd.
Toledo, Ohio 43620
419.243.9178 • lssnwo.org

Summary of Impact

Number of
Volunteers

562

Number of
Volunteer Hours

14,788

Number of
Meals to Food
Pantry Clients

437,370



Larry, with Luther Home of Mercy staff member Diana, is practicing throwing the first pitch at a Mud Hens game.

Two volunteers help unpack donations and stock the busy pantry at Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio's downtown Toledo location.



Summary of Impact

Number of
Clients Served
30,706

Number of
Staff
781

Filling Home Community Center Adult Day Program teaches life skills, builds confidence and long-lasting friendships like Jonathon and Jailene. Jonathon is concentrating on his abilities while getting a little help from a friend.



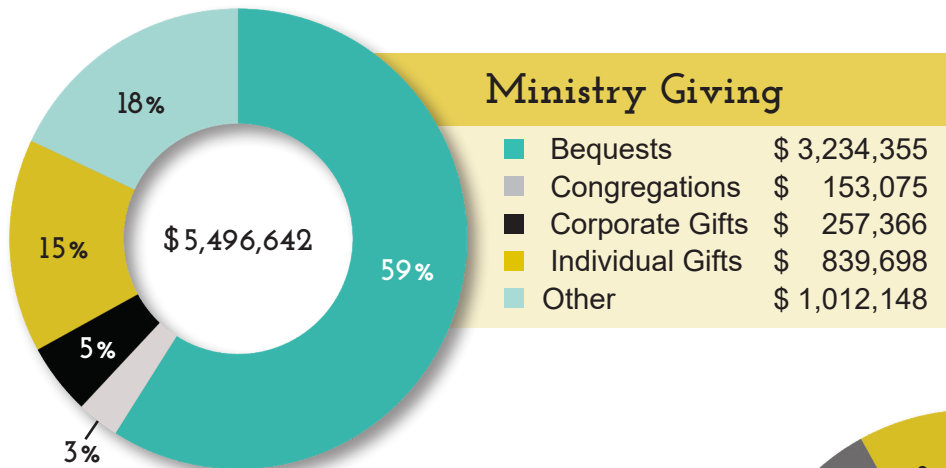
Advent Lutheran Center clients enjoying bingo with friends from Sylvania McCord Junior High School. Clients of this day program, run by Luther Home of Mercy, explore their interests and refine skills for employment, enjoy regular outings, and volunteering.

Operating Budget

Filling Homes:		\$18,315,002
Luther Home of Mercy:		\$24,870,815
Lutheran Social Services:		\$3,078,888
Lutheran Ministries of Mercy		\$1,159,344
Total Budget:		\$47,424,049

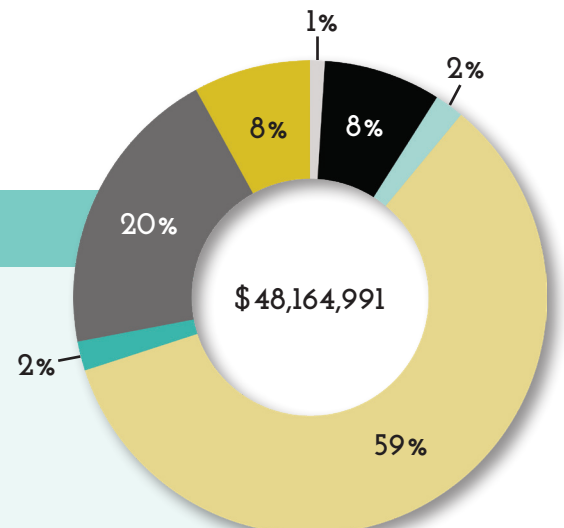
Stewardship

Lutheran Ministries of Mercy and our affiliates are committed to the care and stewardship of all gifts. We continually work to improve our efficiencies. Thank you for your unwavering support! Below is an unaudited reflection of our 2024 year in review. Audits and 990s will be filed mid-2025.



Revenue by Operating Source

Adult Day Services/Vocational Habilitation	\$ 3,602,126
Counseling	\$ 473,394
Grants/Refunds/Other	\$ 3,684,023
Housing	\$ 895,975
Intermediate Care Facilities	\$ 28,544,969
LSS Partner Programs	\$ 1,169,154
Supported Living	\$ 9,795,350



Building Expansion at Lutheran Social Services



The current exterior of the Toledo campus of Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio.



Exterior rendering of the LSS Toledo office expansion, projected to cost approximately \$3M.

At **Lutheran Social Services (LSS)**, we began Phase I of our fundraising efforts for a 2024-2025 building expansion project (7,240 additional square feet) at the Toledo office on Collingwood and Bancroft streets to continue to fulfill its mission to provide human services that will strengthen the mental, moral, physical, social and spiritual well-being of those in need of our services. As of December, 2024, we have gifts and "intent to pledge" commitments totaling \$1.3 million dollars and additional conversations taking place for \$700,000 more in grants.

In 2025, we will continue to work to reach our goal of raising \$3.2 million dollars and we are hopeful that others who believe in the ministries of LSS will join us. With this

new space, and as programs are expanded at LSS, we will seek to find a balance between the past and a renewed sense of mission that will carry us well into the future. We envision a space where thousands of clients can be served in a more accessible and welcoming Emergency Choice Food Pantry, where the growing numbers of those attending vital educational programs have room for learning; and where mental health counselors have offices conducive to their client's comfort and healing.

With the support of our community, local and state officials, corporate partners and congregations, this expansion will increase our visibility to better meet the needs of our community.

Special Thanks to Our Community Partners



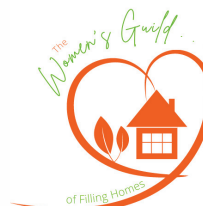
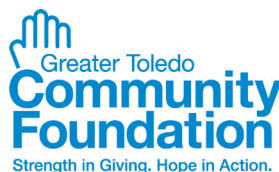
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



THRIVENT FINANCIAL



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD





Hopeful Progress

At Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio (LSS) programs are constantly evolving based on the needs of the community. In 1971, when adoptions were done more privately than today,

LSS partnered with a variety of congregations and community organizations to help families with their adoption needs. Patricia Groves worked for LSS in the early 70s and one of her families interested in adoption was David and Janice Schlade.

In an interview with Janice earlier this year, she recalled getting the call that a beautiful newborn was available and they needed to come to the agency that day if they were “interested in adopting a baby girl.” Janice remembered jumping in the car with her husband David and arriving at the agency to hold their daughter, Sarah, for the first time. Their love story had its beginnings on the corner of Collingwood and Bancroft. From consecration to adoption and baptism, by Lutheran Pastors Donald C. Baacke and Paul L. Tuchardt, LSS was there to support the Schlade family—and many others, too.

Adopting a child is one of the most life-changing decisions a family can make. It’s an act of love, hope, and compassion that can offer a child a new beginning and a brighter future. Adoption is

not just about giving a child a home; it’s about offering a family the chance to experience the joys and rewards of raising a child with unconditional love. Stories like the Schlades’ remind us of the connections our ministries and our congregations share and witness every single day.

Fast forward several years, Sarah—now Sarah Jackson—has worked for Filling Homes in Napoleon for 16 years, serving as a Recreation Coordinator. She organizes programs, coordinates volunteers, and oversees the agency’s fitness challenge. The bond between Sarah and her parents is one filled with hope, love and a forever grateful LSS connection.



While LSS no longer assists with community adoptions, the number of individuals who remember being adopted through LSS continues. As we continually work to meet the needs of our community through programming, heartwarming stories from the past are always a reminder to embrace the opportunities before us. We really never know what an individual or family might need to find their success, but being open to the possibilities has always helped us grow in our ministries to others.



New Beginnings

After decades of worship and community gatherings, the congregation of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Hessville, Ohio, gathered for a final Sunday service in October of 2024. A service filled with both sadness and hope.

The church has been in the heart of this small town for over a century, its walls echoing with prayer and the warmth of fellowship. But as the years have passed, the congregation has dwindled, so

Celebrating 65 Years of Generosity

The Legacy Behind Filling Homes



As we reflect on our remarkable journey in 2024, we were thrilled to mark 65 years of unwavering dedication to serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since our inception in 1959, we've been spirit-led to create a profound impact on countless lives.

The construction of the original Filling Home was made possible by the generosity of our founder, Mrs. Carrie Filling Vajen. She wanted the Home to be a memorial to the entire Filling family who farmed the grounds and believed that God called all of us to love our neighbors.

The Filling Home main campus, referred to as the base facility, has grown from a 9,597 square foot facility serving 16 individuals to 85,229 square feet with the ability to serve 51 residents. Though the

physical growth of the Filling Home base facility has been amazing, it is in no way the only growth this mission has experienced.

While we currently serve 43 residents at our base facility, overall, we serve over 190 clients ranging in age from 9 to 75 in Henry, Williams, Fulton, and Defiance counties through our Residential, Community Living, and Adult Day Programs. Our community is also blessed with the expansion of one of our largest day programs, Soaring Art Studio.

Rooted in faith, Filling Homes continues to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, enriching their lives, offering hope and a variety of choice programming within the community. Over the past years, we truly have been inspired by faith and driven by hope.

It was with heavy hearts that the decision was made to close its doors. Instead of selling the property, the congregation chose to donate the building and grounds to Luther Home of Mercy for Day Program benefiting adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This new use will also ensure that Emmanuel's legacy of care and compassion will continue and the spirit of the church lives on.

Luther Home is soon to open Emmanuel Lutheran Center, offering a safe space for growth, learning, friendship and community. The church's large, welcoming spaces and beautiful grounds are perfect for the organization's expanding programs. The church, once a place of worship, is becoming a beacon of support and opportunity for those who need it most. The decision to gift the building was not only an act of generosity but a testament to the church's enduring mission to serve and uplift others, transforming a place of closure into one of hope and new beginnings.



Mission Connection

"...in the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven." – Matthew 5:16

God has indeed called each of us to shine our light. We invite you to connect to our mission of service and to shine your light on our work.

Prayer, Time, and Talent are all engagement opportunities that mean the world to those we serve. Our clients face many challenges; please join them in prayer, or offer your time and talents as a volunteer.

Outright Gifts may be given as a direct contribution or a pledge made over time. God asks each of us to practice true generosity and stewardship. Your gifts are valued as a joyful response to what God has done for you and your family. Be assured your wishes will be honored and helpful to those we serve.

Planned Gifts are another option. While they require more planning than a traditional gift, we are always interested in meeting with you and your financial or tax advisors.



The Legacy Society



As part of our ongoing desire to learn about you and those who remembered our ministries with a legacy, estate, or planned gift, we have created the Legacy Society. When you notify us that you have remembered our ministries in your plans, you become a member.

Legacy Society members receive special communications from our President, invitations to various events, and more. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to recognize you today. For more information about legacy giving, please contact Jeanette Hrovatich, Director of Planned Giving, at 419-972-4373 or email her at jhrovatich@luthmin.org.

In Honored Memory

We would like to dedicate this Annual Report to three amazing leaders who made significant impacts in our ministries and through the resurrection are united in Christ. Please remember our dear friends and their families in your prayers.

Michael Short, Director of IT, Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

Ed Schulte, former Board member, Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

Michael House, LHM Foundation Board member and former Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Board member



Churches & Leadership

We were honored to have over 250 Association of Congregation Lutheran Churches and an additional 20 churches join us in our ministries in 2024. The dedication of these churches allows our ministries to grow, connecting our programs and services to God's light and hope!

Members of these congregations, and community leaders, comprise our board of directors and affiliate foundation directors. The back cover lists all of our board of directors. A separate Foundation report is available that lists our leadership names and the financial investments they oversee.

For more information about Association of Congregation Churches, or serving in a leadership role, please contact our LMM office at 419-972-4373.

LMM Leadership



Terri Rodriguez, President & CEO

Sheldon Burke, Director of Facilities

Jeanette Hrovatic, Director of Planned Giving

Kenneth Richmond, Director of Finance

Todd Naveau, Director of Information Technology

Denise Wagner, Director of Human Resources

Our Shared Ministry



The strength of LMM is our affiliates and their work in the community. Working together we are able to find balance, even as the needs of our residents and clients change. Joined by the dedication of more than 500 volunteers, we share our program highlights with an ongoing sense of pride and gratitude through our quarterly newsletters, social media pages, and more. We remain hopeful because you have made our work a priority through prayer and dedication of time and treasure.

Our affiliate Vice Presidents pictured above with Terri Rodriguez, President & CEO of LMM. From (L-R): Terri Rodriguez; Carol Slight, Filling Homes; Megan O'Brien, Luther Home of Mercy; and Traci Jaksetic, Lutheran Social Services.



lutheranministriesofmercy.org



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