

## Volunteers Help Woman Stay in Her Home

Lovie Council has overcome many challenges in her life. The most recent include diabetes and severe arthritis—and the possibility of being forced to leave her home of 38 years.

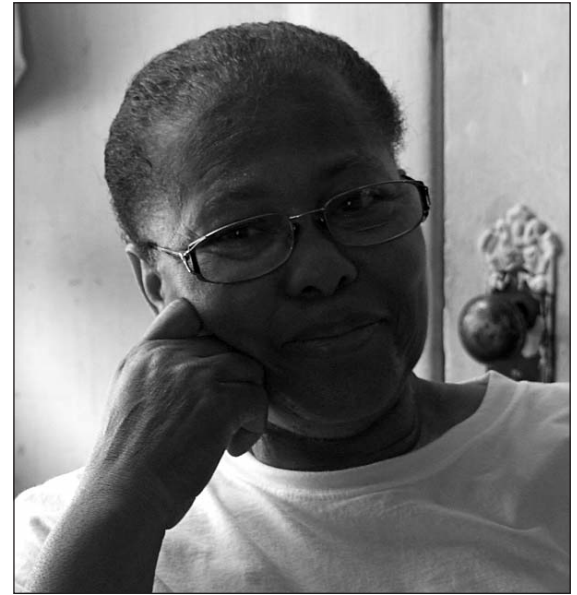
A retired cashier for Central Parking System, Lovie's income today is limited to Social Security retirement, so home repair can be a major problem. Since the first of the year, she's faced a huge

***"...they helped me to stay here. I can't tell you how much that means."***

repair issue—but found some critical help through MLM.

Her home is a classic prairie style design, but the long list of overdue repairs became unmanageable this winter when the upstairs plumbing became unusable. The trouble not only forced her to carry water upstairs in order to use the restroom, but also made Lovie realize she might be forced to move from her home.

I thought it was time to get out of here," she said. "But I've got to live and I don't have



*Lovie Council was facing the loss of her home before volunteers helped with major repairs.*

nowhere else to go."

Lovie is not sure how, but her name was sub-  
*(please continue to next page)*

## Heritage Members Find Giving Is A Two-Way Street

Janet and Dr. Paul Revare appreciate the importance of the MLM Heritage Society, an exclusive group whose members have decided to leave a legacy gift to MLM in their will or estate plan. But nearly as important, they appreciate the information *they* receive through contact with MLM leadership.

"We really admire the work they do," Dr. Revare noted. "They do a good job and they have a good relationship with people like us. They came out and explained the programs and talked about their work. It's a lot more than a token appreciation for your involvement. We really appreciate that."

The MLM Heritage Society promotes long-term legacies that support MLM's services for

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– **Dr. Paul Revare**

the homeless and needy in metropolitan Kansas City.

A retired physician, Dr. Revare is a former MLM Foundation

member who appreciates the Heritage Society's efforts to continue MLM efforts and keep supporters informed.

Born in Richmond, Mo., Dr. Revare was active in family practice and emergency services, working at both North Kansas City Hospital and Spellman Memorial Hospital in Smithville, now part of the Saint Luke's network. He and Janet are members of the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Kansas City, North.

To learn more about the MLM Heritage Society where people have decided to leave a legacy, call Jim Glynn at (816) 931-0027.

MLM works hard to minimize expenses.  
Ninety percent of designated gifts go directly to programs.

# It's Not A House—It's a Home

*(continued from Page 1)*

mitted to MLM and the Congregational Inner-City Servant Event (CICSE) hosted each year by Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Jon Guilford from Kaw Prairie Community Church, Leroy Zimmerman from MLM and several other volunteers arrived at Lovie's home for the May 2 event. They also continued working through the summer in order to fix wiring, paint several rooms and finish other critical repairs. Key helpers included plumber Steve Connelly from

Anthony's Heating and Cooling and builder Todd Slamin who works for Thompson Homes.

For Lovie, the result was literally a new lease on life. "I get enough (in retirement) that I don't qualify for food stamps or other assistance," she explained. "My retirement funds are limited, so I was lucky I didn't have rent. Having to move wouldn't have been good. But they helped me to stay here. I can't tell you how much that means."

## The Heart of a Volunteer Beats for Many

Richard Yotter lives in the quiet community of Greenwood, south of Lee's Summit, but he's very involved in helping to improve neighborhoods throughout Kansas City.

Through the Congregational Inner City Servant Event, Ruskin Heights Lutheran Church and other outlets, Richard is something of a "volunteer's volunteer," setting a very high standard for helping throughout the community.

A retired Federal Aviation Administration mechanical engineer, Richard has recently helped pour concrete sidewalks, build retaining walls and other efforts that include "heavy duty" construction. "There is a knack to some of that," he admitted. "But it's also enjoy-

able to see something take shape that you've helped with."

One of his first projects was a Thrivent "join hands" effort three years ago where he worked on a home in Ruskin Heights, where his church is located. In a recent effort, he constructed a new concrete sidewalk for another homeowner who had a disabled son and needed to get in and out of his house.

"You look back and you've done something," Yotter concluded. "It's really gratifying."

Anyone wishing to volunteer for minor home repair—or other projects—should call Director of Outreach Ministry Suzanne Bartling at (816) 931-0027.



*Volunteers worked at the home of Lorie Council to ensure the retired older adult could stay in her home. Led by a group from Kaw Prairie Community Church, their efforts spanned several weeks.*



*Phil Schultze and others of the Murray Company recently presented a \$10,000 check to MLM's Jim Glynn.*

## Generous Company Provides Big Help

The Murray Company, an Overland Park-based design and construction firm, recently presented a \$10,000 check to MLM.

Principal Phil Schultze said the contribution was a direct result of MLM's community service. "They do good work," he said. "They do things in the community that as individuals we're incapable of doing."

The Murray Company specializes in "design-build" projects that are increasingly popular as ways to save both time and money in major construction. Among their projects are hospitals located throughout the Midwest, as well as extensive work in the tornado-ravaged Kansas community of Greensburg. The company recently celebrated its 50th year.

# Many Give To Make Lives Better for Those in Need

by Vicki Westerhaus, MLM President

How many requests for donations do you get each day as you sort your mail?

My husband, Doug, and I typically receive at least one, and often several. I admit sometimes feeling overwhelmed. God wants us to help others with a glad heart, but we just can't do it all. Just like you, we need to make difficult choices.

My husband and I put our church first, but we put MLM next in our preferred charity list this year and we hope you will too. Here's why:

- **Vital services performed consistently and effectively:** During its 38-year history, MLM has been one of Kansas City's pioneering social services agencies, sponsoring new and innovative housing and emergency assistance programs, including Grace Homes (which provides housing for chronically homeless and chronically mentally ill people in Kansas City, Ks.). MLM founded Harvesters Food Bank and is still one of Harvester's largest food distributors. Most importantly, MLM



Volunteers worked inside and out Aug. 6 for a special servant day event.

designs its programs in a holistic manner, with careful planning and screening to help clients break the cycle of poverty and homelessness—to become independent and self-reliant.

- **Low administrative costs and MLM leadership team's commitment to excellence:** The five members of MLM's leadership team are extremely dedicated and committed to excellence in all aspects of their work at MLM. We are

blessed to have Jim Glynn and his team leading MLM – I am continually amazed at how much of God's work they accomplish with limited financial resources.

- **MLM is a Tier-one charity, fulfilling basic human needs:** This year's economic recession has been hard on everyone, as thousands of workers experience first-time layoffs, homeowners face foreclosures and many people, for the first time in their lives, are unable to buy food for their families. Doug and I do believe in and support several other charities. But this year, because of the extremely challenging economic downturn, we are consciously focused on basic human needs - helping to provide food and shelter to those in need.

**Let's each make a difference – together!**

The backbone of MLM has been, and will continue to be, the thousands of volunteers who support and sustain MLM's food pantry and emergency assistance programs. Whether it is helping at one of MLM's Mass Food Distributions where MLM distributes packaged food to 300 families twice a month, working to organize gifts at the MLM Christmas Store or helping with minor home repair for elderly clients, our volunteers make a difference! Many thanks for all that you do! Please continue to volunteer your time and talent – MLM needs you.

I am also asking today for your sup-



Vicki Westerhaus: MLM's team brings great results.

port of MLM's Power of Each One fundraising event on Nov. 7. This year, pianist/composer Joseph Martin, who is highly acclaimed for his amazing talent as a pianist and for his more than 1,000 chorale compositions in print, will entertain us. As a bonus, Joe's wife, Sue, is a talented singer and actress in her own right. She provided the voice of Ariel in the stage show of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. She

has also performed at the White House, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

Tickets for the Power of Each One Fundraiser are only \$100 (\$85 for those 65 and older), of which \$60 is tax deductible (\$45 for 65 and older). The event is a great value for an even greater cause.



Joseph and Sue Martin will bring their world-class talent to the Nov. 7 Power of Each One event to benefit MLM.

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*"with God all things are possible." —Matthew 19:26*

## VISTA Worker Brings New Talents to Thrift Store

The Blessings Abound Thrift Store continues to assist MLM by raising funds through sales—and recently received a little help of its own.

Kristi Dalberg has joined the store as a volunteer and outreach coordinator courtesy of the AmeriCorps VISTA. As part of the program, Kristi will serve through July 2010. With a bachelor's degree in communication from Park University and extensive volunteer experience, she comes well equipped to make a difference.

"She just rolls up her sleeves and digs in," Manager Rick Chapman explained. "She's very energetic." Her work so far has included volunteer recruitment and training as well as creating the store's first newsletter and even reviewing processes at the operation for improvement possibilities.

Kristi has extensive volunteer service through her family's church, the Salvation Army. Born in Texas, she has lived in the Kansas City area most of her life. She said the thrift store job was a perfect fit for her.

"I read the job description and thought it would be really exciting," she recalled. "I'm getting to do all sorts of stuff. I really enjoy working with the volunteers and getting to know everyone."

A Gladstone resident, Kristi and her

*"She just rolls up her sleeves and digs in."*

— *Rick Chapman, thrift store manager*

husband have a four and one-half month old son, Hudson.

Sales at the thrift shop have steadily increased, with July bringing the best results in the store's history. MLM and the other recipient organization, Lutheran Mission of the Good Shepherd, have each received \$8,000 since the program began.

The store was also recently recognized for the Thrivent-Plus program, which allows donors to the shop to request supplemental funds from that program.

For additional information on Blessings Abound Thrift Store, visit it at 9620 Nall Ave., Overland Park, KS, call 913-648-0700, or visit [www.blessingsaboundkc.com](http://www.blessingsaboundkc.com).

### *Upcoming MLM Events*

The annual Hollis Renewal Center/Metro Lutheran Ministry **Golf Benefit** will be Oct. 9 at Sunflower Hills Golf Course.

MLM will sponsor a special **Youth Servant Event** on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Youth groups from across the metropolitan area are invited to participate.

Pianist/composer Joseph Martin and his wife, Sue will be featured performers Saturday, Nov. 7 for the annual **Power of Each One Event** on the stage of Kansas City's Starlight Theatre. The 6 p.m. welcome reception will be followed by a 6:30 p.m. buffet dinner and entertainment. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$85 for older adults 65 and older.

The Metro Lutheran Ministry 2009 **Christmas Store** will be Wednesday, Dec. 9 through Saturday, Dec. 12. Ingathering will be on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6, with set up Monday, Dec. 7 and Tuesday, Dec. 8.

**For more information on all events,** contact Director of Outreach Ministry Suzanne Bartling at (816) 931-0027, e-mail [suzannebartling@mlmkc.org](mailto:suzannebartling@mlmkc.org), or visit the MLM Web site, [www.mlmkc.org](http://www.mlmkc.org)