
Metro Lutheran Ministry: With vision, purpose and compassion since 1971.
MLM affirms the right of all people to food, clothing and shelter, while promoting self-sufficiency and hope through direct client services and advocacy.

If It Wasn't For MLM...I'd Still Be Out There



Talissa Skinner: a job, a home, some pride.

Talissa Skinner has come about as far as one person can in only a few months. And while she deserves most of the credit, the 52-year-old Talisa is quick to recognize MLM for an important share of her success.

"If it wasn't for MLM and their programs," she says, "I'd still be out there."

"Out there" was sleeping in a car—until

the car was stolen. Then she found temporary housing in an area shelter, but after 30 days she had to leave in order to make way for other members of the area's homeless ranks. Talisa was faced with life on the streets again.

That's when the MLM Project Care case management program for homeless persons stepped in. They found Talisa an apartment and paid for the first month's rent, the deposit and utility help. She was also given access to MLM's food pantry. With her own savings, it was enough to get her "over the hump" and back on her feet.

"I've got an apartment I can afford and I'm going to make it," she said. "They really help. It made the difference."

Almost unbelievably, Talisa kept her job throughout the entire period, although she worried about issues of safety walking to work. She's also taking personal finance classes at MLM and is learning how to budget better. She's even expressed an interest in volunteering with the program to help others.

"I would be on the streets without MLM," she said. "I know how to take care of myself, now. All I can say is, 'Lord, thank you.'"

Annual Lecture To Honor Loyd Dykman

A long-time pillar of Metro Lutheran Ministry will be recognized and a dialog on faith continued May 30 when MLM sponsors the Dykman Lecture Series.

Named in honor of former board president and perennial MLM leader Loyd W. Dykman, the address will feature Jill Schumann, president and CEO of Lutheran Services in America, who will comment on efforts by MLM and organizations nationwide to serve the poor, homeless, elderly and disabled.

Dykman, who turns 80 May 29, served

12 years on the MLM Board of Directors, most of those years as president. Both he and his family have been instrumental in the success of the agency. His daughter, Cathy Dykman Cunard, served on the board until this year and remains active as chair of the Major Gifts team.

Jill Schumann, MBA, serves as the president and chief executive officer of Lutheran Services in America. LSA is an alliance of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Lutheran Church-Missouri

(continue to next page)

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

MLM Selected For Special Inner City Event

Lord of Life Lutheran Church has chosen MLM and its clients as the beneficiaries of their annual Kansas City Area Congregational Inner City Servant Event (CICSE). This special day will be Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church will host a "Thrivent Join Hands Day" servant event for the whole congregation, families and friends to share the love of Jesus Christ with those who are unable to perform some simple homeownership tasks.

More than 200 people will be needed at sites throughout the Kansas City urban core. This hands-on service project will help repair the homes of people who are disadvantaged and elderly. Individuals, families, friends and small group teams are all welcome to sign up. Please contact your congregation's Project Coordinator for more information, or contact Suzanne Bartling, MLM, at 816-931-0027, or e-mail suzannebartling@mlmkc.org.



MLM and Lord of Life Lutheran Church plan a special work day May 3.

Loyd Dykman Lecture Series To Feature National Speaker

(continued from Page 1)

Synod and their 300 health and human service organizations. Lutheran social ministry organizations form one of the



Jill Schumann



Loyd Dykman

largest nonprofit networks in the country, serving one in 50 Americans each year.

Prior to her work with LSA, Schumann launched Kairos Health Systems a nonprofit post acute care alliance and served in executive roles with non-profit and for-profit organizations. Schumann leads regional and national task forces and project groups, and serves on the boards of directors of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, the Council on Accreditation, the Roundtable of National Faith-Based Health and Human Service Organizations. She is the current chair of the board of directors of the National Human Service Assembly. Over the past five years, she was named by the NonProfit Times one of the Top 50 lead-

ers of power and influence in the United States.

Loyd Dykman joined the Board of Directors of Metro Lutheran Ministry in 1974, illustrating his passion for putting the Gospel into action and a heart for the poor. What began as a "yes" to serving God and others through MLM, became a way of life and a love for Metro Lutheran Ministry, which has never diminished. Besides serving on the Board of Directors, Loyd's volunteer resume includes working at the food pantry,

Christmas Store, Walkathons, Phonathons, MLM Friends In Deed, Speedway Fest, the development committee, and the MLM Foundation Board. As

a member of MLM's Board of Directors, Loyd served as its President from 1976 through 1985. The Dykman Lecture Series was initiated in the late 1980s as a way to honor Loyd's dedication, bringing prominent speakers on issues of Social Justice to the Kansas City community. Loyd remains a steadfast supporter of MLM and is thankful to be a part of this dynamic ministry. When asked recently to reflect on his relationship with MLM, he said that it was second only to his family and his church. Everyone at MLM is thankful for the legacy that Loyd has provided.

This program will be at Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS. Seating is limited so for additional information call (816) 891-0027. Admission is free and free-will offerings will be accepted.

Feinstein Challenge Still Needs Your Help

With nearly \$35,000 still needed, only a few days remained in MLM's seventh annual Feinstein Challenge. If you have not contributed to this important fundraising for food, please do so. Checks must be dated by April 30 in order to count toward this effort.

Last year, MLM supporters gave more than \$50,000 to provide food for area homeless and other needy families and individuals. Funds raised during the period can also help generate additional con-

tributions from the Feinstein Foundation.

Alan Shawn Feinstein founded the program and each year contributes \$1 million among hunger fighting agencies nationwide, using the program to help organizations such as MLM to raise funds. With the Feinstein funds, a total of more than \$100,000 was raised during 2007 in metropolitan Kansas City.

Make your gift today by sending your check to MLM, or go online at www.mlmkc.org.

Even A Falling Tree Can Bring Blessings

It seems like a long time since a large cottonwood tree coated with ice came up by its roots and fell on our building on December 12, 2007. I remember looking at the roof damage with disbelief and wondering when we would get back to normal again. Well, we are finally there!

MLM has been extremely blessed by the tree damage, as a generous insurance settlement allowed for replacement of the entire roof and skylight. We no longer have puddles on the floor after it rains. Our new roof is insulated and energy efficient, which will save us precious dollars in future winter heating bills.

Construction dust has been the norm at our Holmes location for the past two months, as generous grants from UMB Charitable Foundations and Trusts and Hall Family Foundation have allowed us to renovate our food pantry, bathrooms

and electrical system. The improvements have made our high-use areas much more welcoming for our clients and staff alike.

In April, our Project CARE case management program for homeless persons has doubled in size at our Holmes office. We are now serving homeless families in addition to single adults. To ensure a comfortable environment for parents and children, we created a dedicated waiting area for families with toys, books, furniture etc. Our strong partnerships with Lutheran churches helped us furnish the family waiting area.

It is an honor to serve those in need. We have been blessed with many welcome resources. May God bless those who help us!

Blessings to you,
Jim Glynn,
Executive Director



MLM's "Food Giveaways" continued in the March Food Giveaway with volunteers from Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

Save These Dates to help MLM Save Lives

Several major events are planned by MLM this year:

Sunday, July 27 beginning at 2 p.m.—MLM Night on the Town is a fun, fellowship event from which the net proceeds will support Metro Lutheran Ministry (MLM) and its mission and ministry to help the poor in Kansas City. Activities will begin at the *The Barn Players*, 6219 Martway, Mission Kansas, to watch *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. This is a popular comedy suitable to all ages. After the play, participants will meet at the Thai Place Restaurant, 4130 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, to enjoy wonderful Thai cuisine. The entire cost for this day of both theatre and dinner is \$25 per person (adult) and \$15 per person (child). For more information, contact Suzanne Bartling at (816) 931-0027 or email suzannebartling@mlmkc.org.

Friday, Oct. 10—the *Joint Hollis Renewal Center/MLM Golf Benefit* is an

opportunity for Lutheran golfers across the metro area to gather, have fun and raise funds for two wonderful Lutheran-based not-for-profits in the Kansas City area. Start gathering your team together now. Cost is only \$90 per player, but \$75 per player if you get your registration in by Sept 10. Please watch your church bulletins for more information or contact Dave Mareske, Hollis Renewal Center at holliscenter@kc.rr.com or (913) 441-0451 or Suzanne Bartling, MLM at (816) 931-0027 or suzannebartling@mlmkc.org.

Saturday, Nov. 1—The MLM Power of Each One event:

Welcome Reception
Dinner Buffet
Entertainment
Location: Kansas City Starlight Theatre
(enclosed Main stage)
4600 Starlight Road
Kansas City, MO 64132

Leave a Legacy

Please consider helping MLM for years to come with a gift through your will or trust.

For more information, call Jim Glynn at (816) 285-3117 or visit www.mlmkc.org on the Internet.

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



Grants from UMB Charitable Foundations and Trusts, as well as Hall Family Foundation, have allowed MLM to renovate the food pantry. At the grand opening April 13, long-time volunteers Norma and Miller Brooks enjoyed Sheridan's custard sundaes provided by Faye Cowee. Pastor Michael Peck of Holy Cross Lutheran Church gave the blessing. Guests toured MLM's Holmes campus and viewed the recent building renovations.

MLM Wish List:

- Household items for our homeless program such as furniture, dishes, silverware, sheets, comforters, electric can openers, pots, pans, radio, clocks, TV's
- Personal hygiene items such as bath soap, paper towels, baby diapers, shampoo, and bathroom tissue.
- Non-perishable food for our three food pantries
- For our Older Adult Services: canes, walkers, wheelchairs, shopping carts
- Two- and four-drawer file cabinets

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Metro Lutheran Ministry:

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Jim Glynn, Executive Director

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