

Education Center Aims for Long-Term Solutions

Garrick Gray's solid build and intense approach turn to enthusiasm when he talks about his plans for the future. Unemployed and homeless a year ago, Garrick has made strides that few can imagine.

Metro Lutheran Ministry was a key, providing a deposit for an apartment and one of his first pieces of furniture. Garrick was also required to visit the Chael-Dykman Education Center in order to look for a job and gain important skills.

"One of the deals was that I attend these classes," Garrick explained. "They were a big help, a really big help."

The payoff came when eight months ago Garrick found work at a restaurant in the Power and Light Entertainment District. Now he's making long-term career plans.

"I've always worked in kitchen areas," he explained. "But this is actually prepping food. I'm getting some hands-on learning and I like that. My goal is, God willing, to go back to culinary school and become a chef or

"I'm getting some hands-on learning and I like that. My goal is, God willing, to go back to culinary school and become a chef or pastry chef."



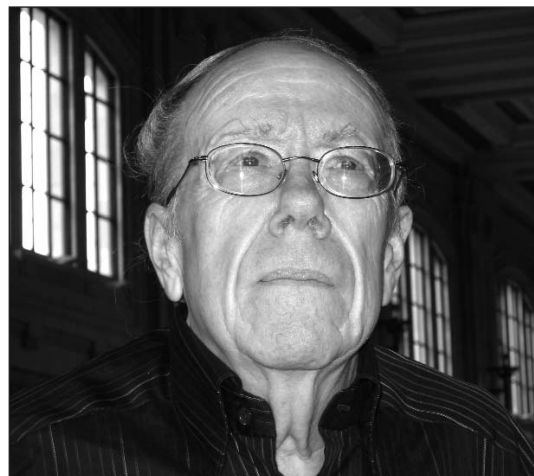
Garrick Gray has new plans for the future thanks to MLM's Education Center.

pastry chef."

The Education Center was a key because its computers allow clients like Garrick to prepare digital resumes that are virtually
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Paul Newman Movie Inspires Long-Term Gift to MLM

Donor Takes Deep Look at Programs, Organization



Richard Jungck gave MLM programs a hard look and liked what he saw.

Many members of the Metro Lutheran Ministry Heritage Society have decided to make a planned gift to MLM that will continue after their life because of their work with area Lutheran churches or directly with MLM.

That is not the story for Richard Jungck. While he has roots in the Lutheran community, Richard today is not active in a Lutheran Church and has no direct experience with MLM.

The initial factor in his decision to leave a heritage gift to MLM was the 1990 movie *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge*.

"Paul Newman and his wife made a movie here," Richard explains today. "It was their practice to
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MLM works hard to minimize expenses.
Ninety percent of designated gifts go directly to programs.

Education Center Aims for Long-Term Solutions

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required today. They also have access to more than a dozen Internet job sites such as Careerbuilder.com. Along the way, many clients learn for the first time the computer skills that are critical in today's job market.

"Computer literacy is a big issue, especially for older clients," explains Life Skills and Employment Assistance Coordinator Cachet Montgomery. "If they are under 35 or 40, they are usually familiar with a computer, even experienced. But for someone 40 and up, it can be a problem. And that's what we're here for."

James Hobbs knows his way around a computer, but finds the online access critical

after his employer closed. On a recent morning, he was among the first to arrive at the Education Center to submit an application to an area company he heard was hiring. He had already checked bus service to the area and just needed to update his resume and submit it electronically.

"It's really handy to have this right here," he said of the center. "You have to have these computers today."

Like many, James never expected to join the ranks of the unemployed. He had worked in warehousing for nearly 20 years when the company closed. He

found some work in social services, which fits his college training, but nothing steady. "The center helps me keep looking," he said. "That's what I have to do."

With Cachet and Project Care Case Manager Bruce Miller, clients also have help if they hit a roadblock. "Clients come in, spend time working on the computers, they practice and they learn," Cachet said. "We make them feel at ease and pretty soon they start navigating the computers and Web sites. And that makes them feel good. They realize they can handle this stuff."

James never expected to join the ranks of the unemployed. He had worked in warehousing from 1988 until 2006, when the company closed.

There is also a traditional bulletin board with job postings that Cachet gathers from several area sources, but much of the effort involves online job searches. There's also help creating good resumes and help with the long list of questions that invariably arise. Insight into polishing a resume, bus schedules and other details are just some of the information that is available here.

The center offers even more. Cachet and Bruce lead Life Skills classes almost every day. Topics range from money management to how to act in a job interview. Because they are "life skills" rather than job skills, the one-hour sessions include topics such as food and nutrition, women's health and parenting.

"We try to cover things that affect



James Hobbs finds access to Internet job applications at the MLM Education Center is critical in today's online employment searches.

their lives as well as work skills," Cachet said. "Domestic violence is a good example. Many women are homeless because they had to leave their house to escape domestic violence. Learning how to deal with that is important."

The best part of the center may be another bulletin board where Cachet posts stars with the names of those who have graduated by landing a job. Since July, 23 names have been added to the place of honor—and that's only those who have reported in after getting a job.

Remember our Web site mlmkc.org. Our updated events calendar is at mlmkc.org/news/eventCal.html.

Actors' Generosity Leads to Long-Term Recognition for MLM

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leave funds to a local charity wherever they made a movie. After they filmed that movie here, they selected MLM, and that caught my attention. I decided to investigate, to learn more about this organization."

Richard is a retired partner with BKD, one of the largest accounting firms in the nation. Not surprisingly, he doesn't take financial decisions lightly, including a planned gift of his savings. "I looked into

what they did and how they operated their programs," he says today. "MLM impressed me. I feel comfortable that my gift is going to be well used."

Richard earned both his undergraduate and law degree from the University of Nebraska, but practiced as a certified public accountant for more than 20 years. He is proud of being able to contribute to MLM's programs.

"Obviously, you're fortunate to have something left over by the time you pass

on," he said. "MLM has a very worthy cause but they operate on firm ground. I've always had confidence in that organization to handle funds effectively and wisely."

Heritage Society planned gifts provide critical funding for MLM efforts. They give MLM programs important and lasting help to serve the homeless and needy of metro Kansas City. For additional information, call MLM Executive Director Jim Glynn at (816) 931-0027.

Volunteers Form Key Foundation for MLM Mission

Every day, hundreds of people look to MLM for relief from hunger, financial crisis, homelessness, unemployment and, sometimes, general despair. The responsibility to be there for them with the best resources we can muster is something we take very seriously.



Jim Glynn: With a staff of only 14 serving all of metro Kansas City, MLM is blessed to have dedicated volunteers.

MLM says “yes” to more than 30,000 families each year at three locations with a staff of 14. If you do the math, our productivity probably rivals the most efficient companies in our community. Our volunteers make the difference. We are many hands and many hearts united in a common bond of Christian ministry to people living in poverty.

MLM’s volunteers are motivated to do the Lord’s work with their time and tal-

ents. Our volunteers serve in the following categories:

- Board of Directors
- MLM Council Members
- Food Giveaways (2nd Saturday of each month)
- Breakfast Ministry (every Saturday morning)
- Christmas Store
- Food Pantries (Midtown, Northland, Kansas City, KS)
- BackSnack packers

and drivers

- Fundraising events: Power of Each One, Golf, Volleyball, Dodge Ball
- Senior Food Commodity Distribution (2nd & 3rd Tuesdays each month)
- Minor Home Repair
- “Packing” food baskets, Hallmark

bags, sack lunches for homeless persons, etc.

- Community Servant Events—groups of adults and youth who paint houses, do yard work, construct wheelchair ramps, etc.

- Clerical and administrative support

If you wish to join our ministry as a volunteer, we welcome you. Just contact Suzanne Bartling at 816-285-3146 or suzannebartling@mlmkc.org.

On behalf of MLM, I thank all of our volunteers for helping us say “yes” to people who desperately want to hear that word.

Respectfully,
Blessings to you,

Jim Glynn, Executive Director

We Need Your Help! MLM is 40 years old next year. We need a volunteer to help put together the story of MLM's proud history. Please call Jim Glynn: 816-285-3117

Food Distribution Expands Ideas Of Help And Gratitude

-One of MLM’s programs is distribution of U.S. Department of Agriculture senior food commodities on the second and third Tuesday each month.

The “ministry” part of effort involves four to six volunteers who carry the 30-pound boxes to the cars of grandmothers

and grandfathers who rely on the program to help them keep their cupboards stocked. The volunteers are a faithful group who enjoy the client contact and fellowship with each other.

The attached poem describing a typical day was written by Arlin Buyert. It says

great deal about all of MLM’s food distribution programs.

Metro
To Holmes Street
Mostly older women come
Hungry.
How are you Ms. Walker?
May I see your ID?
Here is your number.
Can you carry the cheese?
I will follow you.
We carry boxes of food
To their dented cars parked
Slightly askew up and down Holmes.
Spring seems slow to come.
Just put it in the trunk.
Thank you so much.
God bless you.
“We gonna eat good tonight,”
says her six-year-old grandson
with a big smile.
Let it be so.



Many smiles were part of the successful Spring Fling that raised funds for the MLM Christmas Store.

Metro Lutheran Ministry
3031 Holmes
Kansas City, Missouri 64109

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



Food for Thought

Volunteers are a huge part of MLM efforts to serve the homeless and needy of metro Kansas City. With a staff of only 14, volunteers make possible the services to tens of thousands each year. The photographs at left from a food distribution event tell much of the story. Equally important are home repair projects and dozens of other important jobs performed by our tireless volunteers.

Blessings Abound
Thrift Store

9620 Nall in Overland Park
913-648-0700
www.blessingsaboundkc.com

Proceeds Support:
Metro Lutheran Ministry
Lutheran Mission of the
Good Shepherd

Gift Fills Important Need

Lesley and Doug Gaughan of Olathe exceeded the definition of generosity with their recent donation of an automobile to Metro Lutheran Ministry. The donated car is being sold and the money will benefit MLM programs serving the homeless and needy in the region.

