

The Seed

Published by the Lafayette Urban Ministry

June 2003



Excited about LUM Camp!

The campers are registered, the program is planned, and the countdown to LUM Camp 2003 has begun!

Approximately 80 boys and girls, ages 8-10 will be in attendance. They come from families in our community where the basics of food and shelter are never a sure bet. For them, finding the money to pay for a quality summer camp, like LUM Camp, is little more than a dream. But thanks to the Lafayette Urban Ministry, the children will enjoy an entire week of learning, growth, and new friendships - the kind that can only happen at summer camp!

There will be morning chapel, swimming, horses, hiking, crafts, sports, singing and campfires, sleeping in cabins, and plenty of great camp food!



Our theme this year is "Camp All-About Ag!" The children will experience real farm animals, crops, and giant farm equipment! They'll be introduced to the many different kinds of ag-related professions, and they'll see farm equipment operate as it did 75 years ago!

LUM Camp equips children with the tools they need to be successful in life. With the guidance and support of caring LUM Camp counselors and staff, the children will meet new friends, learn new skills, conquer new challenges, gain respect for others, grow in confidence, and build greater self-esteem and personal pride.

LUM Camp takes place during the week of June 15-20 at Pine Creek United Methodist Camp in Warren County. Please remember us that week in your prayers. Thank you for what you have made possible!

Annual Fund Campaign almost there!

The Lafayette Urban Ministry is just \$2,393 shy of meeting its 2003 Annual Fund Campaign goal of \$60,000. As of May 23, \$57,607 has been pledged or contributed.

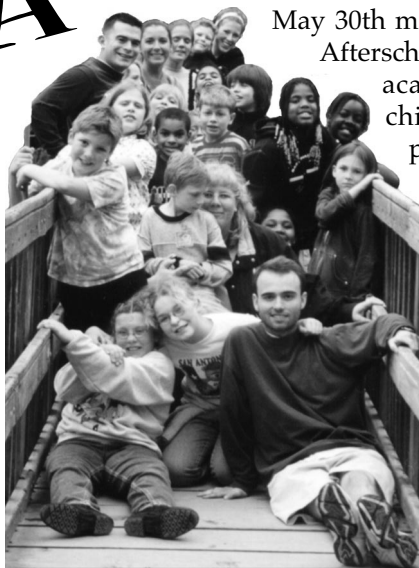
LUM's Annual Fund Campaign takes place each year during March and April. Proceeds are used to support vital LUM programs such as the Homeless Shelter, Afterschool Program, Jubilee Christmas, and Emergency Financial Assistance. Joe Micon, LUM's Executive Director, hopes LUM's donors will come through in the days ahead to put the Annual Fund Campaign over the top. "It's a real testimony to the generosity of LUM's donors that we've come so close to our goal. But the recession continues to stretch our programs and resources thin. This year more than ever, it's important that we reach or exceed our goal."

"It's a testimony to the generosity of LUM's donors"

So far LUM's Annual Fund Campaign has received monthly or quarterly pledges, or one-time gifts from 245 contributors. If you've been meaning to contribute but haven't yet gotten around to it - your help is still needed! Place your gift in the enclosed envelope, or send a note telling us how much you'd like to pledge each month or quarter. We'll provide you with return envelopes and periodic reminders about your pledge. Questions? Contact Joe Micon at 423-2691 ext. 20, or email lum@wintek.com.

On behalf of each child and family touched by your generosity, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Afterschool Program finishes terrific year!



May 30th marked the end of LUM's Afterschool Program for another academic year. Thirty-six children from 24 families participated in the program during 2002 - 2003. They received homework help, educational enrichment, religious education, arts, crafts, and enjoyed recreational activities. LUM's Afterschool Program provided a safe and stimulating environment for children while their parents finished their workday.

The children enjoyed many field trips this year including swimming at the YWCA, visiting the Columbia Park and Indianapolis Zoos, Don and Louise Jewel's farm, singing for the residents at Tippecanoe Villa, and hiking trail #3 at Turkey Run State Park - the one with the ladders!

Andrea Penner directs LUM's Afterschool Program with the help of aide Melissa Heide and over 30 Purdue and community volunteers. Throughout the year we focused on growth:

- Growth in our relationships with others
- Growth in academic success
- Growth in service to our community

"Thanks" to everyone who made 2002 - 2003 such a terrific year for the children. The first day of the new semester is August 19th. To volunteer, or to donate snacks, contact Andrea Penner at 423-2691 ext. 18, or email at apenner@wintek.com.



Emergency Assistance Concerns

by Joe Micon, Executive Director

Providing emergency financial assistance to individuals and families facing eviction,

utility disconnect, health care, transportation, employment, and food shortage emergencies has been a hallmark of LUM's mission to our community. Last year we directly aided 1,738 families with a total of \$117,599. LUM has been involved in this work a long time and we do it well. So when there's a problem in our community's emergency assistance social safety net, we're usually the first to notice.

Signs of trouble have been building over recent weeks and months.

- Our daily caseload has significantly increased.
- LUM's yearly emergency fund expenditures have been rising, but because of our high caseload, the amount of our average emergency assistance check has declined.
- St. John's/LUM Food pantry usage is rising.
- The number of homeless men and women using LUM's shelter has increased.

If you've driven past the LUM office around 8:00am any weekday morning, you'll see long lines of people waiting for help, and few if any parking places for staff and volunteers - because the lot is already full.

Those of us close to the situation have our theories as to the causes.

- A lingering national recession resulting in lost jobs in our state and community
- Unemployed workers drawn to our community looking for, but unable to find work
- High poverty and childhood poverty rates in Tippecanoe County
- Recent changes at the Salvation Army from a "walk-in" intake system to an "appointment based" intake system
- Continued refusal by local township trustees to budget and expend adequate poor relief dollars to local families - especially during an economic downturn.

Whatever the reasons for the increased demand upon emergency assistance resources in our community, it's clear that there's a problem. Before an adequate community-wide response can be fashioned we need to better understand what's going on.

To that end, LUM will be spending the next few weeks gathering longitudinal caseload and expenditure information from churches, non-profit, and public agencies in our community who provide emergency financial assistance to children and families. Lory Lewis, LUM's intern from the Indiana University School of Social Work is conducting the research. LUM will release the information and several recommendations to the community by late summer.

It's clear that individuals with legitimate and sometimes desperate need are falling through Greater Lafayette's social safety net. How to mend and enlarge that safety net so that it is adequate to meet the unique needs of working and unemployed families is a discussion whose time is long overdue.

Please share this concern with your neighbors and with members of your congregation. Feel free to contact me if you'd like additional information or further insight. Most of all please begin to think about how our community might best respond to meet the growing needs of those in our community who have critical shortages of food, shelter, and health care.

LUM teaches teen girls self-esteem, life skills

The RESPECT Program continued on a positive note this year with six girls participating in the bi-monthly activities and lessons. This year the focus was on the abstinence-based curriculum "Choosing the Best Path." Lessons included looking at the emotional consequences, risks, and pressures of being sexually active as well as boundaries, making the choice to be abstinent and skills to be assertive in relationships.

The highlight of the year is always the opportunity for the girls to participate in the Baby Think It Over Program. This program allows each girl to take home a battery operated and programmed baby doll for the weekend to find out what it is really like to have a child. This gives the girls an amazing opportunity to see what a big responsibility a child is and how a child would impact their lives. All the girls came back knowing that now was not the right time to have a baby and wanting to wait for many more years.

The girls really enjoy being together in a group where they can share freely and enjoy each other's company. Dessert nights, movies, painting pottery at "All Fired Up," and Canadian Night were some of the favorite social times from the past year.

What a great impact this program has on six wonderful teenage girls in our community!



RESPECT volunteer Tina Brauer with "Think It Over" babies

Mark
your
calendar



Saturday, September 13
LUM Open Golf Tournament

Coyote Crossing
12:30pm registration/lunch
1:30pm shotgun start

Sunday, September 21, 2003
Greater Lafayette Hunger Hike

Rhiele Plaza
1:00pm registration
2:00pm start

Thursday, November 27
**Greater Lafayette Community
Thanksgiving Meal**

Central Presbyterian
Fellowship Hall
Noon to 2:00pm

Saturday, December 13
Jubilee Christmas

NEW VOLUNTEER POSSIBILITIES

- **LUM CAMP COUNSELOR.**
Must be at least 18 years old, enjoy working with children, and available to spend the entire week of June 15 – 20 onsite at Pine Creek Camp in Warren County. For more information or an application contact Joe Micon at 423-2691, ext. 20, or lum@wintek.com.
- **SHELTER VOLUNTEER.**
Must be at least 18 years old and able to serve from 8:30pm to 7:00am at the shelter. Volunteers receive approximately six hours of sleep during the night. Duties include guest check-in, food service, and light cleaning. Why not attend one of our next shelter volunteer training sessions to see if this opportunity might be right for you or your group? Two training sessions are scheduled -- June 2 and June 23 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the LUM shelter. For more information contact Joyce Boehm at 423-2691 ext. 22 or email at jboehm@wintek.com.
- **LET'S DO LUNCH VOLUNTEER.**
Help prepare lunches at LUM and/or serve children at Bridgeway Apartments. 10:00am to 1:00pm. LUM's Let's Do Lunch Program operates from June 2 - August 15. Set your own schedule. Volunteer as much or as little as you'd like. This is a great volunteer opportunity for youth, high school, college students, or even seniors. Contact Patti O'Callaghan 423-2691 ext. 17 or email at pocallaghan@wintek.com.

Two LUM member churches will collect used clothing to help needy families!



Saturday, June 21
Unitarian Universalist Church
(parking lot)
17 S. 7th Street
10:00am - 2:00pm

Saturday, June 28 - Tuesday July 1
St. Mary Cathedral (school gym)
1212 South Street
Before & after weekend masses
8:00am - 1:00pm Monday & Tuesday

Goodwill provides one voucher for each bag of clothing contributed. Each voucher is worth \$5.00 at the Goodwill Store. The Unitarian Universalist Church and St. Mary will contribute vouchers to LUM for those who need clothing.

Creating a Just Society Developing Strategies for Local Action Saturday, October 25, 2003 8:30am - 4:00pm

Keynote address, lively group discussions, and dynamic concluding session on social justice issues concerning children, education, seniors, the economy, and corrections.

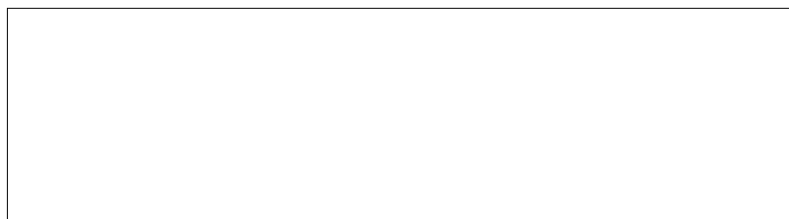
Location: Central Presbyterian Church
31 N. 7th Street Lafayette

Registration: \$10 (includes continental breakfast, lunch, and conference materials)

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lafayette, in cooperation with the UU Service Committee

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Change Service Requested



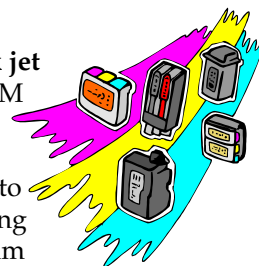
Briefly Noted...

What would happen if each of us gave a gift in our will, no matter how large or small, to the Lafayette Urban Ministry? Your gift could inspire at-risk youth, fight hunger and homelessness, work for social justice, create a brighter future for working families, or strengthen our community's emergency safety net. Please consider making a legacy gift to the Lafayette Urban Ministry. Contact your attorney or financial advisor, or call Joe Micon at 423-2691 ext. 20, or email at lum@wintek.com.

Fresh, washed garden produce may be brought to the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday mornings between 9:00am and 9:15am for distribution that same morning (6th & Ferry, door under green canopy). Please don't bring produce to the LUM or St. John's church office.



Don't throw your empty ink jet printer cartridges away! LUM receives \$2 for every ink jet cartridge we recycle. Please bring your empty cartridges to LUM in a plastic baggie during regular business hours (8:15am to 4:30pm M-F). We accept any black or color ink jet cartridge except EPSON.



Janette Jaques has been hired as LUM's Summer Lunch Program Coordinator. Janette will help prepare lunches and direct volunteers during the 11 weeks the program operates during June, July, and August. She'll begin teaching math and coaching JV girls basketball at Lafayette Jeff in August. **Welcome Janette!**

Lory Lewis has begun a summer internship at LUM. Lory is a graduate student at the Indiana University School of Social Work. She'll help with case management of shelter guests, emergency financial aid for families, and LUM's Summer Lunch program. She'll also research emergency assistance caseloads and expenditures in our community. Lory received her BSN from the Purdue School of Nursing in 1989 and served as Jubilee Christmas Co-chair last year at First United Methodist Church. **Welcome Lory!**