

The Seed

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A holiday tradition continues

On Thursday, November 23, Lafayette Urban Ministry will host the Community Thanksgiving Celebration from noon–2 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church.

YOU ARE INVITED! Bring yourself, your family, a neighbor or friends and join us for a traditional turkey dinner with all the delicious accompaniments! In addition to good food, there will be music, fun and great fellowship as we share this most traditional American holiday with the greater Lafayette community.



You can help!

Here are two ways you can help make the Thanksgiving Celebration possible:

1. Donate cash to defray expenses by sending a check marked "Community Thanksgiving" to LUM at 525 N. 4th., Lafayette, 47901 or donate online at www.lafayetteurbanministry.org. You may also place a contribution in the free will offering box at the dinner.
2. Donate food or your time: call LUM at 423-2691 or sign up online at www.lafayetteurbanministry.org.

Reminder:
Jubilee
Christmas
is right
around the
corner!
See page 3 ▶

There's a place for you at the table!



Community Thanksgiving Celebration

Thursday, November 23

Noon-2pm

Central Presbyterian Church
7th & South Streets, Lafayette



The seasons change—the need continues

by Mary Anderson, Executive Director

It must be fall! Lists of donations and volunteer opportunities for Community Thanksgiving are lined up on the front desk. The LUM phones are busy ringing with Jubilee Christmas registrants. Proposed budgets for 2007 are humming out of my printer. The children in the Afterschool Program have begun making table decorations for Community Thanksgiving, and I'm sure many of them are starting to think about Santa...and snow days!

So I know the end of the year is coming—quickly! The rhythm of the LUM office is predictable. Bulk mailings transform the conference room into a production line with busy hands and laughing voices. The incoming phone calls will change from Thanksgiving to Jubilee to pleas for winter coats and utility assistance. Jubilee toys will come—and go. The number of people waiting for our doors to open, whether in the morning for assistance or at night for the shelter, will continue to grow. Then without a breath comes tax assistance season, when the office literally hums with volunteer preparers, clients, printers and computers all adding to the controlled chaos. I've been here more than ten years and I'm still waiting to find LUM's "slow" season.

We will see a record number of people at LUM this year, near-record spending from the Centralized Emergency Fund providing emergency financial assistance, over-capacity numbers in our homeless shelter, and sizeable increases in the number of families

seeking food from the LUM/St. John food pantry. As I speak to groups and organizations around the community, and I cite these numbers, there are a few questions that are almost always asked:

1. How much of the increase in LUM services is a result of immigrants – legal or illegal? Actually, the percentage of people with Hispanic background served by our programs is **well below** the percentage they represent in the general population.

2. Don't people become dependent on assistance programs like LUM? We have seen over 1500 people this year for emergency financial assistance—**65% came only once**, and 85% have come only one or two times.

3. Is the number of homeless people in the area growing? The numbers we serve in the LUM shelter each year continue to grow, but the length of stay has remained fairly constant over the last several years. **Sixty per cent of our guests stay for less than 14 nights a year**, and only 8% stay for more than three months.

4. There are a lot of "help wanted" signs around the community. Why aren't LUM clients employed? Of our advocate clients, 42% are working at the time they seek assistance. Many more lost their employment within 30 days of seeking assistance. On any given night, up to 30% of our shelter guests are arriving late or leaving early for jobs.

5. The existing welfare system just encourages women to keep having children in order to get more

benefits. Indiana caps its welfare payments (TANF) at \$288 per month for a family of three and does not allow for any increase for the birth of subsequent children. At the LUM/St. John's Food Pantry, the average number of people per family is just under three. There is no statistical evidence that low-income families are any larger or have more children than higher income families.

You will see all of LUM's 2006 numbers when our annual report arrives in early February. And you will be hearing from us around the holidays, asking for your continued support as we move through the early months of winter, Christmas and the New Year, and into 2007. There are serious challenges ahead—our shelter overflow, expansion of programs, legislative hurdles and the continued growing needs of the poor in our midst.

We thank you for your donations, your time and your prayers in 2006 and look forward to a new year of service and opportunities in 2007. God be with you all through the coming months. ✨

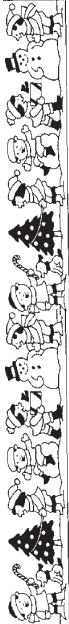
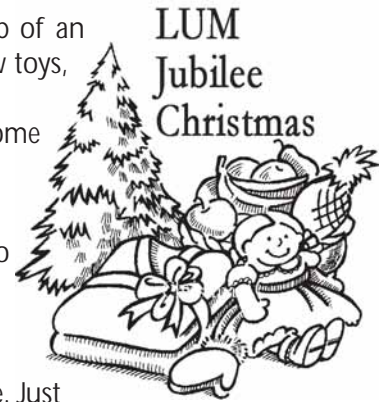


Jubilee Christmas is coming!

On December 16, 22 churches will host Jubilee toy shops with the help of an additional 12 partner churches. Almost 600 invited parents will select new toys, clothing and books for their children, as well as receiving a ham and food certificate for Christmas dinner. Everything gets wrapped up and taken home so the family can celebrate together on Christmas morning.

YOU can brighten the Christmas season for these families by:

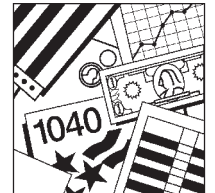
- Delivering new, unwrapped toys or clothing for newborn-12 year olds to the LUM office or any participating Jubilee church site by Thursday, December 14.
- Making a financial donation to Jubilee. Use this opportunity to honor a special person at Christmas, or in lieu of an office party or gift exchange. Just send your check to LUM, bring it in person, or donate online at www.lafayetteurbanministry.org.



Thanks to students from Purdue's Stewart Co-op for helping the children in LUM's Afterschool Program create pumpkin masterpieces



Tax season is just around the corner!



Last year, volunteer tax preparers at LUM helped over 600 families file their state and federal tax returns, bringing over a MILLION dollars back to these families and the local economy. By using the LUM tax preparation program, families save the cost of fees for commercial tax preparation, plus the high costs of rapid refund loans.

Tax preparation is available from January 15 until April 15. Volunteers are asked to make a commitment of one 3-hour session once a week. Hours are available afternoons, evenings and Saturdays. Free training can be done online through the IRS site.

For more information, call Patti O'Callaghan at 423-2691 or e-mail her at pocallaghan@lafayetteurbanministry.org

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Change Service Requested

Briefly noted

- Please remember that the LUM shelter is open every night of the year—including the holidays. If you want to give the special gift of your time to help staff the shelter during the holiday season. Call LUM for training session dates or check online at www.lafayetteurbanministry.org. Contact Joyce Boehm at 423-2691 or jboehm@lafayetteurbanministry.org to schedule volunteer time or meals.
- Thanks to Rev. T.J. Jenny and the volunteers from **University Church** for hosting a horse camp for LUM's Afterschool children in October. The children had a great experience!
- Our thanks to **Alpha Tau Omega** at Purdue University for organizing their annual Supermarket Sweep fundraiser for LUM.



LUM and Bach Chorale partner on Christmas performance
The Bach Chorale will perform Vaughan Williams' "Fantasia of Christmas Carols" and John Rutter's "Gloria" on Saturday, December 16 at 8:00pm at the Long Center for the Performing Arts in Lafayette. Half of the proceeds ordered through LUM will benefit LUM programs.

Advance tickets

Main Floor: \$21 General, \$19 Seniors, \$10 Students/Children
Balcony: \$16 General, \$13 Seniors, \$7 Students/Children
Upper Balcony: \$11 General, \$9 Seniors, \$5 Students/Children

Order forms are available at the LUM office, online at www.lafayetteurbanministry.org, or call 423-2691. Only tickets purchased through the special order form will benefit LUM.