

The Seed

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2007 Hunger Hike raises over \$61,000 to fight hunger

As of mid-October, Hunger Hike 2007 has raised over \$61,400 to support Lafayette Urban Ministry's food programs, Food Finders Food Bank and the Haiti Project of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

On a glorious afternoon, over 650 walkers and joggers, led by the Purdue Crew as Grand Marshals, participated in the hike and the post-hike festivities at Riehle Plaza. For the first year, several motorcyclists participated as well; we're looking forward to increasing that number next year.

Purdue's First Gentleman, **Chris Foster**, served as Honorary Chair of the event, and was joined by Purdue President **Dr. France Cordova** on the hike.

The Golden Sneaker Award for the Purdue group with the highest donation total went to the **Purdue Crew** for the fourth straight year. **St. Tom's Haiti Committee** was the adult group with the highest total while **Blessed Sacrament Youth Group** and **WESSO of West Lafayette High School** were the top youth fundraisers. **Rob Pahl** was the winner of the individual fund raising award, and **Rev. Kevin Bowers** had the highest online donation total.

See more Hunger Hike photos at
www.hungerhike.org



Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner is coming up—you can help!

The 22nd annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at Central Presbyterian Church on Thursday, Nov. 22 from noon–2PM. Over 750 people will enjoy turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, pie and all the "goodies" associated with Thanksgiving dinner. Hundreds of volunteers will help prepare the food, set up, greet and serve the guests and clean up after everyone else has gone home.

But this effort doesn't just happen. We need YOUR help. Please check the LUM web site at



www.lafayetteurbanministry.org for opportunities to volunteer or donate food. **And financial contributions are needed to defray the expenses of the**

dinner. Monetary donations may be sent to the LUM office; business sponsors will be recognized by table signs at the event. Your gift of \$30, \$50, \$100 or more will help make this day possible. Please indicate "Thanksgiving" on the memo line of your check.

If you have any questions about the Community Thanksgiving dinner, please contact Joyce Boehm of the LUM staff at 423-2691 or jboehm@lafayetteurbanministry.org. Please support Community Thanksgiving, and join us on Nov 22.



Upcoming changes offer exciting opportunities for LUM

by Mary Anderson, Executive Director

The leaves aren't the only thing changing...

Lafayette Urban Ministry has a history of doing change well. In our 35 years of ministry to the poor of this area, programs have come and gone, grown and changed to meet the changing needs of those we serve. Staff members, too, have come, gone and changed. But the underlying mission and ministry of this organization has not wavered; it has been strengthened through these changes.

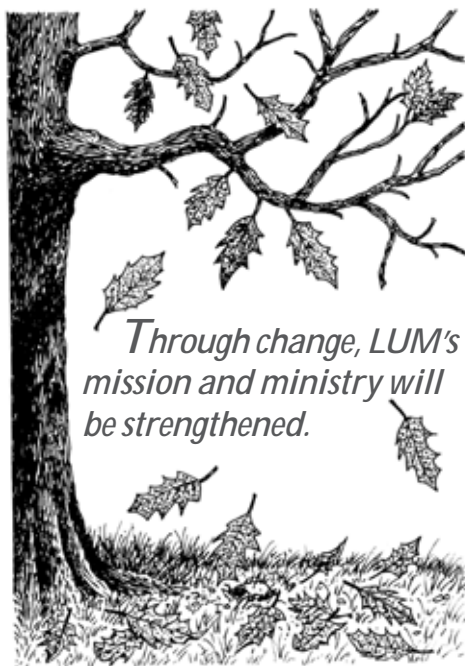
Change is in the air again at the Lafayette Urban Ministry. And it's not just falling temperatures, or changing leaves, or the increased activity level of Community Thanksgiving and Jubilee Christmas.

As most of you know, Joe Micon will not be seeking a third term as State Representative in District 26. After ten years of political life and political campaigns, and four years serving simultaneously as both state rep and LUM's development director, **Joe will be returning to full-time executive director duties as of May 1, 2008—the end of the legislative session.**

What does this mean for LUM's daily life and our future? After May 1, Joe's picture will return to the top of this page, his words will fill this space and he will assume all the responsibilities of the executive director. I will spend more time with clients and less with budgets. The board will continue its thoughtful and dedicated leadership. The staff will continue

their excellent work without skipping a beat.

While I have enjoyed my duties as "interim" executive director, I was not—am not—interested in having that title on a permanent basis. So Joe's return to that position is, for me, the best of all worlds. My administrative duties lessen, I remain on the staff doing work that I love, and I know that the



organization is in the hands of an experienced, caring, dedicated individual.

But in addition to these staffing changes, **there are some challenging and exciting program changes coming as well.** Through a session of strategic planning meetings held last June, and in response to community needs and changes, the board has approved several new emphases for our future: the expansion of youth

programming, heightened community relations, and a focused, concentrated effort to move the homeless out of our emergency shelter and into appropriate longer-term housing.

We are not claiming that we will end homelessness in greater Lafayette. But we are committed to reducing our shelter population by helping those individuals find suitable permanent housing. A new committee begins meeting this month to plan this program.

And we are looking ahead to increasing our children's programming. We may bring back summer lunch, expand after school care (or start before-school care), increase summer programming—we are exploring a lot of options. We see an expansion of the tax assistance program, exceeding last year's \$1 MILLION dollars in refunds and credits. We see increased communication with all parts of the community: neighborhoods, other agencies, city and county governments, member churches and supporters.

And throughout all this change, we remain focused on our mission of restoring the dignity and self-respect which all God's children need and deserve. Those words, those goals, have guided us for the last 35 years, and they will continue to guide us through this next, exciting chapter of our shared LUM ministry.

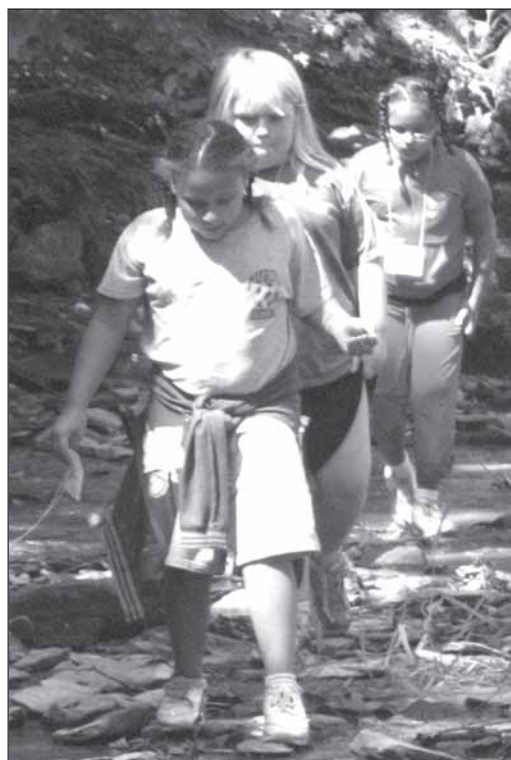
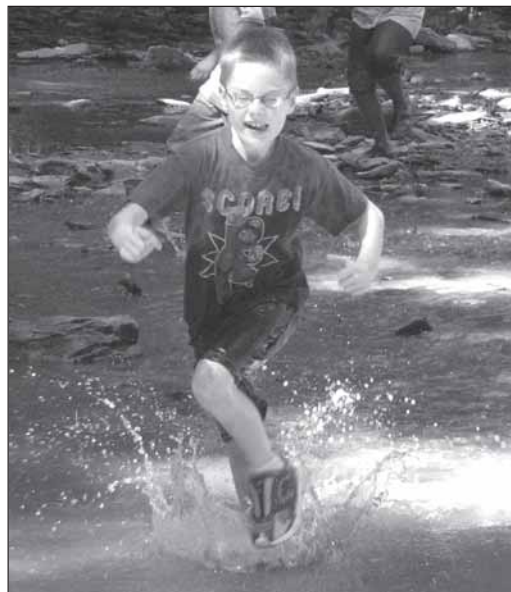
LUM children have lots of outdoor fun exploring nature on a fall afternoon

Children in LUM's Afterschool Program recently spent a wonderful afternoon at Don and Louise Jewell's farm exploring the outdoors. They had fun hiking in the woods, exploring a creek, and going fishing. They also collected geodes, feathers, and frogs. To top it off, the Jewells treated the children to a wonderful picnic with hot dogs, watermelon, cake and homemade ice cream. Many thanks to Don and Louise for making this wonderful opportunity possible every year for the children.

LUM's Afterschool Program is one of the community's most highly regarded and affordable child care programs. With an emphasis on homework and learning, the program also provides opportunities for enrichment, crafts, recreation and just plain fun. The Afterschool program even offers a Girl Scout troop for participating children.

Most importantly, LUM's Afterschool provides working parents with a safe, supervised environment for their children until the end of their work day.

Thanks to Louise Jewell for the wonderful photos!



Touching the future by helping children and families today



LUM 1972-2007

Celebrating 35 years of service

The SEED • October 2007

Change Service Requested

Briefly noted

- The Afterschool program needs donations of items for the "LUM Store."** Children use earned points to "buy" items such as small toys, glow sticks, small art and craft kits, school supplies, and small coloring books.

- Jubilee Christmas will be held on Saturday, Dec. 15!**
 This annual Christmas assistance program will serve almost 700 families with a total of about 1700 children. There are lots of ways to help:
 - *Volunteer at LUM*—volunteers are needed at LUM during phone registration days in October and November and on other days. Sign up online at www.lafayetteurbanministry.org or call LUM at 423-2691.
 - *Volunteer at a church host site*—check with your congregation's Jubilee Coordinator.
 - *Donate money*—make checks payable and send to LUM. Write "Jubilee" on the memo line.
 - *Donate toys*—new, unwrapped toys for children ages 0-12 years are needed. Bring to LUM before December 13.

- 'Tis the season to think about taxes?** Actually, there's no time like the present to think about helping low-income working families claim all the tax credits they've earned. Become a LUM volunteer tax preparer with a weekly 3-hour commitment from mid-January to mid-April. Free training provided. Contact Patti O'Callaghan at 423-2691 or pocallaghan@lafayetteurbanministry.org.



The
Bach Chorale
Singers

"Family Carols"

A Christmas concert by the Bach Chorale

Saturday, Dec. 22, 8:00pm

Long Center for the Performing Arts, Lafayette

A portion of the proceeds will benefit LUM.

Ticket information coming soon.

In the meantime, be sure and mark your calendar!