

# The Seed

Published by the Lafayette Urban Ministry  
June 2008



## LUM Camp 2008 – You Can Help!

I hope you'll join us in supporting LUM Camp 2008. LUM Camp is a weeklong overnight camp for children of Lafayette Urban Ministry clients – and it is an experience each child will cherish forever.

It is filled with fun, guidance, and educational enrichment. There are campfires, sleeping in cabins, morning chapel, boat rides, mountain bikes, miniature golf, camp songs, arts and crafts, swimming, entertainment, nature hikes and of course, enough wholesome memories to last a life time.

LUM campers gain confidence, grow in self esteem, develop new skills, and receive plenty of positive feedback from caring adults. Our camp is only made possible through the generous financial donations and gifts of time of many individuals in our Greater Lafayette community. We hope you'll be one of them. Camp takes place during the week of August 4<sup>th</sup> at beautiful Hanging Rock Camp in Warren County. Can we hear from you soon?

### Me? A LUM Camp Counselor?

Volunteer counselors are the heartbeat of LUM Camp. They instill confidence, rejoice in accomplishment, build self-esteem and support each child through the wonderful week that is LUM Camp.

Would you, or someone you know, make a good counselor? Camp takes place during the week of August 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers must be 18 years old, enjoy working with children and be able to spend the entire week at camp from **1:00pm on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> to 4:00pm on Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>**. A comfy bunk in a rustic (air conditioned) cabin awaits you! All you need is the availability and willingness to have a fun week with a great group of children.

Call 423-2691 for additional information or visit

[www.lafayetteurbanministry.org](http://www.lafayetteurbanministry.org).



### How Can I Contribute a LUM Camp Campership?

LUM Camp is a very large undertaking that requires significant financial support. Campers would not have the opportunity to attend a summer camp – much less a camp like ours – if it weren't for your friendship and financial support. If you've already contributed - thank you very much! If you haven't, please know that your gift of a full or partial \$130 campership is still needed. Place your check in the enclosed envelope and return it today. If you'd like, you can contribute online using your credit or debit card at [www.lafayetteurbanministry.org](http://www.lafayetteurbanministry.org)

## GOD'S CALL TO ACTION

LUM Executive Director  
Joe Micon

"The poor will always be with you..."



How many times have you heard these words used as an excuse for inaction or a reason not to help? "The poor will always be with us, so what's the use?" Many of us have used that line of reasoning at one time or another.

But the bible says there's more to the story. "For the poor will never cease out of the land; therefore I command you, you shall open wide your hand to the needy and the poor." (Deut. 15:11)

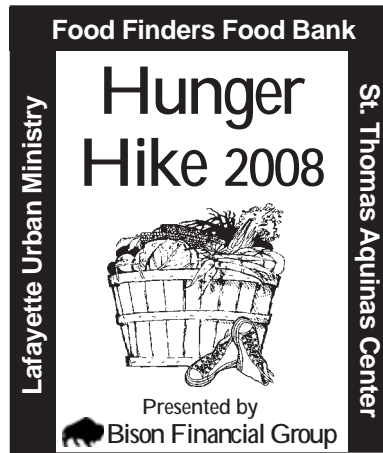
Rather than an excuse for inaction the bible intends these words to be a call to action!

As I return to the Executive Director's position at LUM, it feels like a good time to remember and reflect upon our mission together. LUM is here quite simply, because Christ mandates us to love one another - and he calls us to love and serve the poor in a special way.

LUM's 47 member churches are diverse in their expression of the Christian faith experience. But there is one thing upon which they all agree - that the Lafayette Urban Ministry can help them to fulfill Christ's mandate to the poor.

It's a joy to be back at LUM in a leadership role. It's a privilege to be working together with you again on behalf of those who need our support. The bible says they are always going to be with us. Let's make sure they have enough food to eat and a safe place to sleep. Let's help them obtain the education and tools they need to improve their lives. Let's make sure the children are nurtured and that our community is a just one.

The poor will always be with us, so let's open our hands and accept God's call to action.



## HUNGER HIKE 2008

Presented by  
Bison Financial Group

Benefiting Lafayette Urban Ministry's food programs, St. Thomas Aquinas' Haiti Project, and Food Finders Food Bank, the annual Hunger Hike presented by Bison Financial Group gives

participants the opportunity to directly impact hungry children and families. Last year, over 600 walkers enthusiastically walked and ran the Wabash Heritage Trail route and raised nearly \$65,000.

*YOU* have a chance to help the hungry. You can:  
DONATE: on line at [www.hungerhike.org](http://www.hungerhike.org)  
SPONSOR: the Hunger Hike. Corporate Sponsorship forms are on the website.  
HIKE: plan to collect donations in advance.  
FORM: your own team of walkers, encourage each to raise \$50 or more  
CREATE: your own fund-raising page for Hunger Hike (it's FREE, FUN & EASY). Learn more at [www.hungerhike.org](http://www.hungerhike.org)

With the rising cost of food, we need more support than ever to help feed the hungry. Join Honorary Chair, Dr. Phil Nelson, winner of the World Food Prize, on **Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at Riehle Plaza**. Registration opens at 12:30pm, hike begins at 2pm.

### St. Tom's Golf Outing Benefitting LUM's Programs



**What's needed:** You to field a foursome  
Your business to sponsor a hole  
**When:** Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>  
**Where:** The Elks Club, 3224 U.S. 52 W  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
**Cost:** \$60 per person  
**For More Info:** [www.stoms-purdue.org](http://www.stoms-purdue.org)  
**Contact:** Clayton Duffy: (765) 237-7000  
Chuck Anderson (765) 491-8200

# LUM Volunteer Advocates Offer Emergency Financial Assistance



It happens every weekday morning. At 8:15 the front porch and then the waiting room at LUM slowly fill with people. Some mornings it's a lively crowd, with the voices of children and their parents filling the space. Other mornings it's quiet, with everyone keeping to themselves, drinking

their coffee or looking at the newspaper.

Every one comes with a different story. A recent lay-off from work means they are facing an electric disconnect. An illness, and the resulting short pay check, means they can't pay their full rent. A job application requires a picture ID and they don't have their birth certificate. A new job requires steel toed work boots. A new prescription just doesn't fit into the monthly budget.

So they have come to Lafayette Urban Ministry's Advocate Program – a source of emergency financial assistance for Tippecanoe County residents facing immediate needs. We are the only daily, walk-in program where assistance can be granted and the client can leave with a check in-hand, made out to the utility, the landlord, the shoe store or pharmacy.

The advocate program sees up to 12 people each day, although on some days a few more are seen based on the urgency of their needs. Assistance usually ranges from \$30-\$50, and is designed to address only the emergency need – the *minimum* to avoid disconnect, a *portion* of the rent, a *one-time* refill on a prescription. Referrals are made to other resources (the Trustee's office, medication assistance programs, payment agreements) as appropriate.

The heart beat of the Advocate program is the dedication of the fifteen volunteer advocates, who offer a listening ear, an objective view and a compassionate heart. Some have been with the program for years; some are brand new. But all offer the same non-judgmental attitude and caring spirit.

The assistance program distributes about \$115,000 per year, seeing almost 2,000 families for a total of almost 3,000 visits. The majority of the visits and the assistance are for utility bills; rent, medications and employment-related expenses are the balance. We are on track to apply for 150 birth certificates this year; we have already purchased 30 pairs of work boots or shoes for new hires.

YOU can help the Advocate Program by donating to the Centralized Emergency Fund, where 100% of your gift goes directly to a family in need, or by volunteering one morning a week. Contact Mary Anderson for more information: [manderson@lafayetteurbanministry.org](mailto:manderson@lafayetteurbanministry.org)

## *A Night to Remember*

Cold, dreary April eve  
Kind souls gathered for a cause

A frigid church kitchen alighted  
By warm hearts, glowing faces, and  
cheerful chatter

Homemade recipes shared to create  
warm soups—  
Potato and chili, mixed with care and  
seasoned with love

Twenty-five minute trek down  
Highway 52  
Intermittent rain drops danced on  
our windshields

Destination reached, we opened the  
door and climbed two flights of stairs  
Finally reaching a small dining area,  
we unloaded the parcels and awaited  
the receivers

Yet, we supposed givers  
Became the true receivers

Conversations shared, lives touched,  
encouragement exchanged  
At 525 North 4th Street at the  
Lafayette LUM shelter

On a cold, dreary night on Saturday,  
April 12th—  
Definitely a night for all of us to  
remember

by Sandy Herre, English Teacher  
Benton Central High School

## **Shelter Volunteer Training**

July 10<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm to 8:00pm

At the LUM Shelter

525 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Shelter volunteers are especially  
needed during the summer months  
when Purdue students are gone on  
break. Do you have 1 to 3 nights to  
give this summer?

Volunteers receive 6 hours of sleep  
and LUM's deep and sincere  
gratitude. Contact Joyce Fasani at  
423-2691, or email her at:  
[jfasani@lafayetteurbanministry.org](mailto:jfasani@lafayetteurbanministry.org)

**The SEED • June 2008**  
**Change Service Requested**

**Briefly noted**

- Help Wanted. LUM Afterschool Program Aide.** August 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>. Monday through Friday, 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Duties include driving 15 passenger van, homework help, recreational activities and educational enrichment programs for elementary aged children. \$7,500 per year, plus cash benefit. Send resume and cover letter by July 15th to Executive Director, 525 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Lafayette, IN 47901
- Window Refinishing.** Here's a special job for a special volunteer. Thirteen windows in LUM's shelter need to be re-stained and varnished. Take them home to your garage or shop one at a time and do the work at your leisure. Call Joe Micon at 423-2691.
- Piano.** Yours for the hauling. D&C Fischer parlor piano. Honey Oak finish. Good condition. Needs tuning. Contact Joe Micon 423-2691.
- Food Pantry Needs.** Particular needs right now include cereal, canned fruit and tomato products. Please bring your donations to the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry (600 Ferry Street) weekday mornings between 9-11:30am (except Wednesdays), or call Patti O'Callaghan to arrange another time.



**Stimulus Check Challenge**

The Lafayette Urban Ministry is asking its friends and donors to contribute all or part of their federal economic stimulus checks to those in our community who are less fortunate. Executive Director Joe Micon said that a long-time supporter of LUM recently pledged his entire economic stimulus check to LUM's programs. "Our friend said that since he's fortunate to have financial surplus, he wanted to help others who are struggling this summer with the increased cost of food, utilities and gasoline." Micon said that donor challenged other LUM supporters to do the same.