

The Seed

Published by the Lafayette Urban Ministry

April 2009



LUM Makes Annual Fund Dollars *Stretch*

Mary Jo and Tom Sparrow of West Lafayette are long-time friends and supporters of the Lafayette Urban Ministry. When it is time for LUM's Annual Fund Campaign they are always one of the first to respond.



"LUM does so many wonderful things for needy children and families in our community" say Mary Jo. "Each of LUM's programs is so critically important. We wouldn't even try to rank a single one as our favorite. We support LUM's Annual Fund Campaign because LUM makes our dollars stretch to meet such a broad range of need."

Why Not "Stimulate" LUM?

Have you decided yet what to do with your \$13/week in federal stimulus income? Don't let it get lost in your household budget. You can put your stimulus to important use by pledging all or part of it to LUM's Annual Fund Campaign!

Between now and the end of 2009 many joint wage earning households will see their federal income tax withholdings reduced, and their pay increase, by up to a total of \$800. At LUM we can make \$13/week go further than almost anywhere else.

If you are blessed with financial surplus, won't you consider sharing your stimulus income with others in our community who are struggling to make ends meet? By making a monthly pledge of all or part of your federal stimulus income, you will help to underwrite LUM efforts that are so vitally important to our community's unemployed workers and at-risk children – programs like our St. John's/LUM Food Pantry, emergency financial assistance for mortgage, rent, prescription and utility payments, LUM Camp 2009, Jubilee Christmas or our Afterschool Program, among others.

Inform us of your monthly stimulus pledge amount, place your check in the enclosed envelope, then mail it today. Or you may go to www.lafayetteurbanministry.org and contribute online. Thank you.

LUM's Annual Fund Campaign takes place each year during March and April. Proceeds are used to support LUM's Emergency Homeless Shelter, Tax Preparation, Afterschool, Jubilee Christmas, Food Pantry and Advocate Programs, among others. Especially this year, when LUM's programs are being called upon to help more people than ever before, LUM's friends are recognizing and responding to the need.

Mary Jo Sparrow has always been impressed by LUM's broad base of support. "I like the fact that more than 40 local churches come together through LUM to provide our community with a strong social safety net. Working together those churches have a far greater impact upon our community's needs than any single church working by itself could ever hope to have. This kind of collaboration gives me tremendous confidence in LUM."

If you've been meaning to contribute to LUM's Annual Fund Campaign, but haven't yet gotten around to it, your help is still needed.

- Place your gift in the enclosed envelope
- Or send us a note telling us how much you'd like to pledge to LUM each month
- You may contribute online at www.lafayetteurbanministry.org
- You may also ask us to deduct a pre-authorized amount from your checking account each month. Call Mary Lundstrom at 423-2691.

The Lafayette Urban Ministry is grateful to Tom and Mary Jo Sparrow, and to each of our friends, whose generosity enables LUM to maintain a strong social safety net for children and families in our community who are experiencing difficult times.

You and LUM - Creating Good News!



Joe Micon
Executive Director

I look forward to writing our monthly newsletter. So much is accomplished here and I enjoy sharing the good news. Invariably there are newsworthy items that because of space constraints have to be left out. They're typically the smaller rather than bigger good news stories...

- This morning, a volunteer advocate took extra time with a young father who had just lost his job. I wish you could have heard that volunteer's words of empathy and encouragement. The young man left here not only with practical help, but with the strong reminder that he was talented, employable, experienced and skilled. His confidence was lifted.
- We've been helping a LUM shelter guest with his job search. Today he was hired into a management position at a local fast food restaurant. It's been a long, hard winter for him. But now his self-worth is restored.

- A homeless woman stopped by our office in the afternoon sharing that she was hungry and couldn't wait seven more hours until our shelter opened. There were lunch leftovers in the refrigerator and LUM's staff was more than happy to share.

It's good news that in the midst of this severe recession LUM is looking to the future and planning for new ways to serve low-income families and children. We've recently retained the services of H.L. Mohler Architects. Soon LUM will have dedicated child-friendly space for our afterschool kids. There will be health and safety improvements to our emergency shelter. Meeting space will be added for new programs to help young people to stay in school. And professional office space will be added so that our volunteer tax preparers can serve more low-income workers.

And it's definitely good news that LUM's friends are generously investing in our future plans with their dollars.

At the beginning of his public ministry Jesus returned to the temple in Nazareth where he had been brought up. He shared

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to be good news to the poor.”

One can't help but see the good news of Jesus continuing everyday here at LUM, in big ways and small, through generous acts of charity and compassion offered by our volunteers, staff and generous donors. God bless each of you!



Bread for the World Gathering

Bread for the World members write personal letters and other communication to their representatives in Congress to advocate for hungry people. Explore initiating a local chapter. Tues, May 5 - 7p.m, at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 300 W Fowler, West Lafayette. Guest speaker: **Dr. William Masters**, Associate Head, Dept of Agricultural Economics **How U.S. Agricultural Policy Affects Third World Countries**. Followed by **David Miner**, Board of Directors Chair of Bread for the World.

2009 LUM Dates to Remember

St. Tom's Golf Outing	July 31
LUM Camp	August 7-11
Hunger Hike	September 20
Community Thanksgiving	November 26
Jubilee Christmas	December 12

LUM's Tax Preparers Secure \$1.6 Million in Refunds!

Henry Weaver decided to try LUM's Tax Preparation Program out of necessity. He's been unemployed since November of 2008, so paying to have his taxes prepared elsewhere just wasn't an option for him this year.

Like those of more than 1,000 other low-income taxpayers to date, Henry's taxes were prepared by LUM free of charge. Over \$1.6 million has been returned to those taxpayers in state and federal refunds and tax credits. Not only is that a significant stimulus to our local economy, but for people like Henry, it's the difference between moving ahead or falling further behind on his bills.

"LUM did a great job on my tax return said Henry, and they were able to find a way to secure my federal stimulus check from last year! That means I'll receive a more sizable refund and be able to pay my rent and utility bills on time."

More than 35 LUM volunteers are IRS certified to serve our clients as tax preparers. They work during the tax season from mid-January through April 15th.



Henry Weaver is grateful that LUM tax volunteer Terry Phillips was able to secure a sizable tax refund for him and

expedite the payment of his refund into his checking account.



Service Learning at LUM

Did you know that 500 Purdue University faculty, staff and students volunteer at the Lafayette Urban Ministry during the course of a given year? They work in our shelter, tutor our afterschool children, serve as LUM Camp Counselors, volunteer as tax preparers, sponsor a Jubilee Christmas site, serve on the LUM board - the list of examples is almost endless. Increasingly, IVY Tech students are finding LUM an important part of their service learning too.

It takes extra effort, but LUM staff members understand their important responsibility in providing quality service learning opportunities for our students. We take seriously the time required to provide our students with an educational experience that is both engaging for them and helpful for the children and families LUM serves. Please meet three of LUM's service learners...



Mike Westervelt

Mike is a Purdue Communications Senior. He is currently fulfilling a COM337 (Digital Video Production) service learning requirement at LUM. Mike is producing a training video for new LUM Board members, so that they can better understand their important role and assimilate more quickly into their jobs. You may know Mike as a WBAA on air personality.

Leah Rardon

Leah is a sophomore studying Human Services at IVY Tech. She chose an internship at LUM in order to gain experience in working with at-risk children. Leah works two days each week as an aid in our afterschool program. She has planned and organized enrichment activities for the children, helps them with homework and enjoys being an afterschool van driver.



Mindy Molter

Mindy is also an Ivy Tech Human Services Sophomore completing her service learning internship at LUM. She works two mornings each week providing case management services to LUM shelter guests. Mindy has a real empathy for our guests and has been instrumental in helping several to move from our shelter into more long-term living arrangements.



LUM Kids in Indy!



LUM's Afterschool Program took advantage of a recent half-day on the Lafayette School Corporation calendar to enjoy a visit to the Indianapolis Children's Museum. "The children had a blast" said volunteer **Mary Beth Foster**, LUM's Board Rep. from Our Savior Lutheran Church. "For many, it was their first trip to Indianapolis. They learned so much." Thanks to everyone who made the day such a success!

The SEED • April 2009
Return Service Requested

Briefly noted

☐ **Congratulations to Dr. Jim Davidson**, Purdue University Sociologist of Religion, upon his recent retirement from the Department of Sociology. Jim was instrumental in publishing two Lilly Endowment funded evaluations of LUM, one in 1976 and one in 1986, that helped the LUM board do a better job of carrying out its mission of service to low-income children and families. Jim's work helped to strengthen our board and to develop our roots as an ecumenical, social ministry of local churches. Jim and his wife Anna live in West Lafayette, and remain active supporters of LUM.



☐ **LUM Camp Counselors needed!** We are searching for 30 of Greater Lafayette's finest volunteers to serve as counselors for LUM Camp 2009. LUM Camp is a week-long overnight summer camp for children of Lafayette Urban Ministry clients. If you can spend from August 7-11 at hanging Rock Camp in Warren County, are at least 18 years old and a strong role model, you might qualify as a LUM Camp Counselor! The children are 8-10 years old. Training and transportation to camp are provided. All we ask from you is a desire to make a difference in the life of some very special children for five days this summer – everything else is provided. It's life-changing for them – and for you! Go online for an application (www.lafayetteurbanministry.org) or call the LUM office at 423-2691.

☐ LUM has received a generous gift of two **above ground crypts** at Tippecanoe Memory Gardens. We would like to sell them for the benefit of our programs. If you'd like to learn more, call Joe Micon at 423-2691.

☐ **Please remember to bring your empty inkjet printer cartridges to LUM** (525 N. 4th, M-F 8:15am to 4:30pm). We recycle them and receive \$2 for each one! We accept every brand except Epson.

Easter Blessings!