



Lutheran
Social
Services
of
Central
Ohio

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAITH MISSION PLANTS SEEDS OF FAITH

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Faith Mission plans to bring fresh produce to the homeless and the hungry of central Ohio with the launch of the Faith Mission Kitchen Garden project on April 18 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Faith Mission on Eighth Avenue, 599 E. Eighth Ave.

The container garden, in which plants are enclosed in children's pools to prevent soil contamination, has the potential to grow as much as 4,000 pounds of food to use in the shelter kitchens and LSS food pantries.

The project will kick off with assistance from United Way of Central Ohio's GenNext volunteer group. More than 30 young professionals from central Ohio will build the infrastructure of the garden by filling the containers with soil and planting a variety of seeds, and up to an additional 70 volunteers will donate their time with the shelter at a clean-up project in the King-Lincoln District. The reins of garden maintenance will then be placed in the hands of shelter residents, who will be responsible for tasks such as weeding, watering and harvesting the crops.

"Last year, Faith Mission served more than 268,000 meals, and we depend largely on donated food. Fresh produce is rarely available," said Executive Director Sue Villilo. "The garden can help offset rising food costs as well as improve residents' health, and we are very happy to have United Way's help in bringing these benefits to our shelter."

A number of businesses and organizations in the area have made contributions to the project. The Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Grove City provided funds toward the purchase pools, and the Livingston Seed Company donated seeds. The Ohio State University Biological Sciences Greenhouse has also grown seedlings, and Dr. Job Ebenezer, who has launched container gardens throughout the world, is serving as a consultant.



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The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Jones Topsoil and Mulch, United Way of America, United Way of Central Ohio and the Nationwide Better Health and Rebuilding Together Columbus program also made contributions.

The shelter is still accepting potting soil, peat moss and gardening supplies such as wheelbarrows and shovels. If you would like to support the new garden project or give a monetary donation, contact Development Officer Terri Rowe at 614-228-5200, ext. 1320.

Faith Mission, a member of the Lutheran Social Service family, has been serving the homeless community since 1966, offering a secure, faith-based environment for homeless men and women on an emergency walk-in basis. The agency, as a partner of the Community Shelter Board, provides shelter, food and clothing, while helping individuals with access to longer term solutions such as housing, employment assistance, medical, dental and vision care and counseling.