



Lutheran
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MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMUNITY HELPING FAITH MISSION GET THROUGH RECESSION

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Supporters of Faith Mission, central Ohio’s largest provider of services for the homeless, are helping the agency meet the demands caused by the economic recession. When downturns strike, social service agencies are hit with a common problem—fewer donors are able to give and more people need assistance. Responding quickly to the crisis were The Columbus Foundation and The Reinberger Foundation, both who adjusted their grant making plans to help non-profits provide basic needs.

“When other sources of support were cutting back, these two foundations stepped up to the plate and helped us out,” said Faith Mission Executive Director Sue Villilo. “Their ‘no strings attached’ support allowed us to maintain services based on demand and not have to reduce or terminate programs that meet basic needs and help people resolve their homeless status.”

The Columbus Foundation’s Critical Need Alert generated nearly \$45,000 and The Reinberger Foundation contributed \$15,000. These funds were used to prevent staff layoffs, cover increased operating costs such as food for Faith Mission’s two kitchens and provide direct client assistance that helps homeless residents find employment and housing.

“We are not out of the woods yet,” Villilo said. “The economic crisis continues for many households and we are seeing new people everyday who never thought they would need Faith Mission’s services.”

Faith Mission, a member of the Lutheran Social Service family, has been serving the homeless community since 1966, offering a secure 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, and medical, dental and vision care.