

Opportunities for Youth Involvement

Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio

August 2009



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of
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The various shades of purple on the map above represent the three regional divisions within LSS. These divisions were established in 2008 to ensure that as an agency, LSS is proactive in meeting the needs of local communities in different parts of the state. This combines the responsiveness of a local agency with the efficiency of a larger organization that can pool resources when appropriate.

Opportunities for youth to become involved in the various ministries and programs of LSS exist throughout our service area and in each of our programs. In addition, there are opportunities to become involved with an investment of any amount of time that may be available.

More information about LSS and its programs can be found at www.LSSCO.org. In addition, a member of the LSS team would be happy to meet with you and/or your group. To arrange a meeting, please call the corporate office at 614-228-5200.

Choice Food Pantries

LSS operates five choice food pantries. In these locations, individuals and families can select the food that they prefer or know how to prepare instead of receiving a pre-packaged bag. Volunteers help keep the shelves stocked and ensure that families are able to select the food that they want while following the nutritional guidelines recommended by the food pyramid.

Middle and high school age students are able to volunteer at a food pantry if there is appropriate supervision. Volunteer opportunities exist at our four fixed pantries as well as our mobile food pantry. The contact information for these locations is:

Champion Avenue Food Pantry

1460 S. Champion Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43206-3072

(614) 443-5130

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, Sat. 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Sullivant Avenue Food Pantry

2373 Sullivant Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43204-3136

(614) 279-4635

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Fairfield County Food Pantry

2045 East Main Street

Lancaster, Ohio 43130-3936

(740) 687-5130

Hours: M,T,W,F 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, Thurs. 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Caldwell Food Pantry

315 Main Street

Caldwell, Ohio 43724

(740) 732-7570

Hours: Mon. 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Tues. through Thurs. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Mobile Food Pantry

Lawrence County: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 101 S. Sixth St., Ironton, OH, 45638, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Gallia County: New Life Lutheran Church, 170 New Life Way, Gallipolis, OH 45631, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month; Grace United Methodist Church, 600 Second Ave., Gallipolis, OH 45631, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

For volunteer opportunities with the mobile food pantry, please call 740-503-6787.

In addition, to build awareness of hunger as an issue in our community and in our state, LSS has developed a Sunday School curriculum focused on the mobile food pantry. This curriculum and a mobile food pantry piggy bank template can be downloaded from the Congregational Corner section of LSS's website at www.LSSCO.org/cc.html.

At this website, you can also find lists of urgently needed supplies for the various food pantries. Sharing this list with the youth and other members of the congregation who may be collecting supplies will help ensure that their efforts produce the greatest effect possible. Frequently, this list contains items that are difficult for LSS to obtain at reduced prices through direct purchasing.

Emergency Shelters

LSS operates emergency shelters in Franklin and Fairfield counties. By providing housing, meals and case management services, these shelters help individuals find employment and permanent housing.

Faith Mission

Faith Mission in Columbus provides emergency housing for 205 men and 42 women at Nancy's Place each evening. In addition, the Clinic at Faith Mission provides medical and dental services to residents, as well as optometry services to both residents and other uninsured patients. The Community Kitchen at Faith Mission serves three meals per day not only to residents, but to anyone in the community who needs a meal.

In 2009, Faith Mission planted its first kitchen garden. This garden utilizes proven techniques in urban container gardening to produce fresh fruits and vegetables for use in the Community Kitchen.

Service opportunities exist at Faith Mission in several areas:

- Preparing and serving meals in the Community Kitchen (must be 14 or older).
- Helping in the Kitchen Garden (must be appropriately supervised)
- Collecting items needed by residents and as "welcome home" gifts for when someone moves out of Faith Mission and into permanent housing.
- Collecting items used by residents while living at Faith Mission, such as toiletries, sheets, towels, etc.

Lists of the most needed items are available at www.LSSCO.org. For more information about Faith Mission and to schedule a service opportunity, please call 614-224-6617 x2171.

Faith Housing of Fairfield County

Faith Housing of Fairfield County offers several programs that assist those in need with rebuilding their lives. The Fairfield County Emergency Shelter serves and supports the homeless community by providing shelter, food, clothing and case management services. The Family Transitional Housing Program gives support to families while they transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Fairhaven Place is Fairfield County's only permanent supportive housing complex. Upon moving into Fairhaven Place, weekly meetings are planned with case managers who help individuals develop and follow weekly goal

plans. For more information about Faith Housing of Fairfield County, including volunteer opportunities, please call 740-653-2265.

Affordable Housing

LSS operates 19 affordable housing locations within its service area. Most of these buildings provide housing for seniors over the age of 62 who require assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to meet their ongoing housing expenses. Four of the buildings also provide housing for individuals of any age who are living with particular mobility or hearing difficulties.

Opportunities for service in these locations include planting a garden or flowers, weeding, cleaning windows, sponsoring a pot luck or special event and providing companionship with residents. To learn more about these opportunities or to schedule a visit, please call the manager of the building closest to you.

Applewood Place, Mansfield, Ohio - (419) 774-0730

Applewood Place II, Mansfield, Ohio - (419) 775-0081

Centerburg Place, Centerburg, Ohio - (740) 625-5669

Chadwick Place, Marion, Ohio - (740) 725-9303

Greenfield Place, Groveport, Ohio - (614) 836-5867

Groewood Place I & II, Grove City, Ohio - (614) 539-1022

Good Shepherd Villa, Ashland, Ohio - (419) 289-3523 ext. 5440

The Manor at Howland Glen, Warren, Ohio - (330) 609-8066

Little Brook Place, Columbus, Ohio - (614) 759-8347

Mt. Pleasant Place, Lancaster, Ohio - (740) 681-9659

North Community Place, Columbus, Ohio - (614) 842-2025

Oakhurst Place, Delaware, Ohio - (740) 369-5267

Pleasant View Place, Lancaster, Ohio - (740) 689-1113

Stone House Place, Bridgeport, Ohio - (740) 633-9929

Stratford Place, Columbus, Ohio - (614) 878-7257

Tubman Towers, Springfield, Ohio - (937) 325-7371

Village Place, Columbus, Ohio - (614) 275-9850

Woodridge Place, Columbus, Ohio - (614) 272-8960

If you are unsure which building is closest to you, please call LSS's corporate office at (614) 228-5200 and ask to speak with someone on the affordable housing team.

Outreach Ministries

Outreach Ministries in southeast Ohio provides a number of services to people in need in Ohio's Appalachian counties. These services are coordinated from two large distribution centers in Caldwell and Vinton County. Opportunities for youth to become involved in Outreach Ministries include servant events, in-gathering events and fundraisers.

At a servant event, a team of youth and adults from a particular church are paired with a project in Appalachia that helps the community and individuals in need. Examples of servant event projects include light construction work, yard work, painting and home repair for people who cannot do this work themselves or afford to hire someone.

LSS distributes furniture, appliances and other items through both the Caldwell and Vinton County locations. Opportunities abound for youth groups to organize and collect gently used items at their churches. These items can be collected and then picked up by a trailer from one of the Outreach Ministries distribution centers.

Seasonal opportunities for service exist with Outreach Ministries as well. Every August, backpacks and school supplies are collected and distributed to families in need. In addition, new toys are gathered at Christmas for those children who otherwise may not receive a gift.

To learn more about these opportunities, please contact Outreach Ministries at:

LSS Distribution Center in Caldwell
810 Main St.
Caldwell, OH 43724
(740) 732-6700

LSS Distribution Center in Vinton County
31860 Claypool Hollow Road
McArthur, Ohio 45651
Phone: (740) 596-5555

Disaster Response

LSS provides disaster response coordination and disaster preparedness training in the state of Ohio and surrounding areas. As the coordinator for Lutheran Disaster Response in Ohio and Indiana, LSS provides consultation and financial support to ensure that the needs of people affected by disasters are addressed.

When a disaster strikes, LSS provides case management services, volunteer coordination and donations management to ensure that the first response, emergency relief and long-term recovery from the disaster all occur. To facilitate this, volunteers are needed whenever a disaster strikes.

Youth groups may be able to play an important role following a disaster by assisting with debris removal, minor home repairs, cleaning out mud after a flood, etc.

To learn more about LSS' Disaster Response programs and how you can help, please call (740) 732-6700.

Special Life Event Kits

In addition to the established programs and services mentioned above, there are other ways in which youth can help LSS in meeting its mission. These could include identifying a specific population group to help or a life event to assist with by using LSS programs as delivery mechanisms.

For example, during Christmas 2008, a group of individuals decided to prepare small gift bags of lotions, soaps and other inexpensive items as Christmas gifts for mothers who obtain food at LSS' food pantries. Many of these mothers spent what little money they had for Christmas on their children and were not going to receive any gifts themselves. They were overjoyed at a relatively small gift prepared by a complete stranger and delivered via the food pantries. Other examples include:

- Infants (diapers, baby wipes, baby food, infant formula, blankets)
- Children (books, school supplies)
- Seniors (nutritional supplements, personal items, lap robes)

Kits can also be prepared around certain life events. For example, birthday kits with a cake mix, balloons and other party items can be kept at the food pantries in case staff or volunteers learn that a client's child has a birthday soon. Likewise, welcome home kits for new babies with diapers, wipes, blankets, etc. can be given to new mothers to help them prepare for their baby's arrival. Welcome home kits for adults can also be used at Faith Mission when individuals move out of the shelter and into permanent housing.

If you have an idea for a kit or project like this, please call the appropriate LSS program area to discuss the implementation of your idea.

Spreading the Word

LSS is using Facebook, Twitter and blogs to spread the word about its missions and programs. To become a friend on Facebook, a follower on Twitter, or a reader of the blog, check out the links below:

- www.facebook.com
- www.twitter.com/LSS/
- www.pioneeringlss.blogspot.com

By linking to LSS on these sites, you can stay informed about events and other news related to LSS' programs. In addition, your friends will see that you are linked to LSS and may decide to join the cause as well.