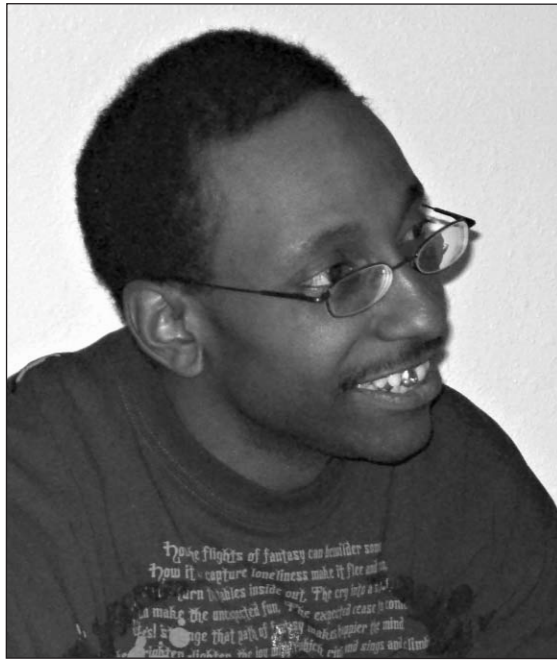


Grace Homes Helped Him Find A Better Life

MLM's Grace Homes in Wyandotte County is many things—an attractive brick building, a roof over the head of eight people who have faced mental illness and homelessness, and access to a network of help that leads to employment and long-term stability.

For Lonzo Lonberger, the difference could not



Lonzo Lonberger literally found a new life through MLM's Grace Homes.

be more striking.

Lonzo was homeless in 2008. He now has a full-time job and his own apartment.

Growing up in Kansas City, KS, Lonzo admitted he got in with the “wrong crowd” early in his life. This led to drug use and separation from family. Soon he was living in shelters or on the streets when the Wyandot Mental Health Center's Homeless Outreach Team began working with him. He was diagnosed with a mental illness in May of 2008.

“Grace Homes restored me into sanity,” Lonzo said. “They gave me the opportunity to get involved with my church. They also gave me the opportunity to re-connect with my family.”

Lonzo was one of Grace Homes' first clients when it opened in September 2008. Funded in part by a grant from the department of Housing and Urban Development, Grace Homes is administered by MLM for clients who meet HUD definitions of being chronically homeless and chronically mentally ill. Lonzo met both of these definitions and moved into Grace Homes in October of 2008.

Initially, Lonzo was being treated for a mental illness and was taking medication for his illness. Through treatment and stable housing, Lonzo's condition improved dramatically, and he decided he wanted to find a job. He began working at

(please continue to next page)

Careful Selection Identifies MLM for Long-Term Effort

Norm and Kathie Smith of Leawood often take their time with important decisions. Designating their savings for long-term giving is a good example.

“We went through Lutheran Planned Giving and set up funds for five different organizations,” Norm recalled. “It took about three years to get all the planning. We weren't very fast at it.”

Though not fast, they were thorough and their selection of Metro Lutheran Ministry as one of the five organizations for their gifts was

notable. “I'm pretty picky,” Norm said. “I think MLM is one of the top organizations in the

(please continue to next page)



Norm and Kathie Smith: careful planning led to MLM.

Grace Homes Helped Him Find A Better Life

(continued from Page 1)

Wendy's in early 2009 and is still working there approximately 30 hours per week. He is also being considered for a management position because of his work ethic and dedication to the job.

"They stabilized my living," Lonzo explains today. "If I encounter a trigger

(something that could lead to his former problems), there is a support group of people to talk to."

Lonzo is no longer taking any medication for his mental illness. Nor does he receive any psychiatric treatment. The Wyandot Center Support Services Team no longer provides case management

services to Lonzo. Instead, he works with someone from the Young Adult Team who checks in with him periodically to make sure he is still on the path to total independence.

Lonzo is a major success story and everyone at Grace Homes and MLM is proud to have assisted him.

New Leadership As MLM Enters 40th Year

Metro Lutheran Ministry's new president sees 2011 as an especially important year.

Attorney and Shawnee resident Scott Strohm said the continued delivery and expansion of services to the poorest and most needy in metropolitan Kansas City as the economy remains weak means the task is more important than ever.

"I see our 40th year as representing a responsibility to celebrate and raise awareness further," Scott said from his offices at Shook, Hardy and Bacon, where he focuses on intellectual property law. "We're hopeful to use this year as a platform to raise awareness."

Scott sees two areas that especially

need a focus: the increasing need by a growing number of people and expanding MLM's effectiveness. Scott his wife, Tracy, and their two children have volunteered for several years at MLM, including at recent food distribution events and Saturday morning breakfasts.

"The need is very real," he said. "They're hungry. They need jobs. The need is not theory. It's right there."

MLM is effective in helping, however. "They do a lot with a little, very little," he added. "I see a lot of positive momentum, and we need to keep that going. MLM does an outstanding job, and I think we can maintain that while adding new services and programs."

Other new MLM officers include John Nycklemoe, vice president, Olathe; Christy Schliesman, secretary, Kansas City; and Jim Dalbec, treasurer, Olathe.

New to the board are Sharon Bass, Kansas City; John Kuddes, Leawood; Floyd "Buck" Peck, Olathe; and Tim

Ternes, Overland Park.

Other board members are Karen Bame, Kansas City; Flora Buford, Kansas City; Hank Guggenmos, Liberty; Jon Guilford, Shawnee; Laura Pace, Fairway; Arlyn Sprecher, Overland Park; Shirley Weglarz, Kansas City; and Vicki Westerhaus, Overland Park.



New MLM President Scott Strohm sees 2011 as a critical year for helping the needy in metropolitan Kansas City.

Consider Thrivent Choice

Remember Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate to an authorized charity such as MLM. Call 800-847-4836 or visit www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Careful Selection Identifies MLM for Long-Term Effort

(continued from Page 1)

area."

That wasn't a snap decision, either. A retired telecommunications executive with more than 40 years experience, Norm as well as Kathie have been helping MLM in several ways since moving to this area in 1995.

"When I was working, I designated all my United Way funds for MLM," he said. "Ever since we've been in Kansas City, we've been involved with MLM in some way."

The latest move may be the longest

lasting. By designating a long-term gift, the Smiths have joined other living stakeholders who have notified MLM that they have made a planned gift to MLM. These gifts ensure funding for MLM programs even after the donor's life of support has ended. This provides MLM services a critical continuity, ensuring their lasting help to the homeless and needy of metropolitan Kansas City.

Norm and Kathie have a good idea of how important that is. Both are involved in volunteer organizations, both church related and civic. Norm has been

involved with Lutheran Men in Mission's national Board of Directors where he is currently president, and Kathie and Norm are involved with the Central States Synod and his Holy Cross Lutheran church ministry.

"I know from my own work how important long-term giving is," Norm concluded. "That long-term stability is a huge part of your operation."

For more information on the MLM Heritage Society, contact Jim Glynn at (816) 285-3117.

Save the Dates: MLM Plans Special Events

MLM has several events planned this spring:

- **MLM's Spring Fling** will be Saturday, April 2, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church in Overland Park, 9101 Lamar, Overland Park.

All proceeds from the event go toward helping more than 1,000 families who are expected to visit one of the MLM



This beautiful unisex diamond ring, appraised at \$500, will be raffled by MLM as a special fundraising event. Tickets are available at MLM or online at www.mlmkc.org. The winner will be drawn at the April 14 meeting of the MLM Board of Directors.

Blessings Abound Marks Progress

Blessings Abound Thrift Store has several recent successes.

Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator Michael Cunningham reported that some of the most dramatic occurred during this year's Christmas season.

"A customer came in for some Christmas shopping with her son," Cunningham said. "She wanted to buy a small tree and a few small gifts. She pulled out an old sock and began to count out all the change she had to pay for these few gifts.

One of our volunteers, without saying a word stepped up to the register, keyed the amount into the credit machine and ran her own card. The customer was ecstatic, and very thankful to be able to provide a few



Christmas Stores in 2011.

Volunteers and donations are currently being sought in order to ensure a fun-filled day that generates needed funds for the MLM Christmas Stores.

For more information, contact Suzanne Bartling at MLM, 816-285-3146 or email suzannebartling@mlmkc.org. You may also sign up online at www.mlmkc.org.

- **Marilyn Maye and the Castle Singers of Wartburg College** will join for **The Joy of Singing concert May 1**. The event from 4 to 6 p.m. will benefit Metro Lutheran Ministry.

The Joy of Singing will be on the stage at Rose Theatre at Rockhurst High School 9301 State Line Rd Kansas City, MO 64114.

The cost for The Joy of Singing is \$20 per person in advance or \$30 at the door. For more information, call MLM at (816) 931-0027 or visit www.mlmkc.org.



Marilyn Maye will join the Castle Singers of Wartburg College in a concert to benefit MLM May 1.

- **MLM is hosting Foursquare** Sunday May 22 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church, 9101 Lamar Overland Park KS.

MLM Foursquare will provide an opportunity for area children in third through sixth grades to participate in an event that fosters fellowship with other Christian children, help MLM provide services to those in need, raise funds for MLM's programs and have fun!

The children will play on teams from their own church in a non-competitive foursquare tournament. Between matches, the children will have opportunity to work on service projects.

For more information, contact Suzanne Bartling at MLM by calling 816-285-3146 or emailing suzannebartling@mlmkc.org.

40 Years of Service

Metro Lutheran Ministry is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2011, and the accomplishments from four decades of service will be a focus over the coming months.

The foundation of MLM can actually be traced to the 1960s when pastors and lay members of the Lutheran Church of America (LCA) and the American Lutheran Church (ALC) sought new ways to fulfill their mission in changing the urban scene.

Metro Lutheran Ministry
3031 Holmes
Kansas City, Missouri 64109

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 224
KANSAS CITY, MO

"with God all things are possible." — Matthew 19:26

Foundation Begins Faye Cowee Fund for Emergencies

A longstanding collaboration between a respected area foundation and MLM has recently taken a step forward.

The Glasnapp Family Foundation has

Food Effort Planned

Metro Lutheran Ministry is holding its 10th annual Feinsein Challenge in March and April.

Last year, MLM supporters gave more than \$45,000 to provide food for area homeless and other needy families and individuals. Funds raised during the period can also help generate additional contributions from the Feinsein Foundation.

Founded 14 years ago by Alan Shawn Feinsein, the program contributes \$1 million among hunger fighting agencies nationwide. With the Feinsein funds, a total of more than \$100,000 has been raised in a single year for metropolitan Kansas City.

For more information, call (816) 931-0027 or visit www.mlmkc.org on the Internet.

set up an emergency assistance fund in Faye Cowee's name to help families in crisis. With emergency assistance increasingly in short supply despite growing needs, interested persons are urged to call Jim Glynn at (816) 931-0227.

The Glasnapp Family Foundation and Administrator Sherri Wright Glasnapp have long been outstanding supporters of MLM services. For years, former MLM Project CARE Coordinator Faye Cowee worked with Glasnapp to help some of the most challenging MLM cases. The fund was created to help establish an emergency fund in the name of Cowee, who has retired from MLM.

This selection is especially important now because MLM has experienced a significant reduction of government funding. This reduction is for 2011 and cuts funds to help clients with rent and utility assistance.

Faye served with MLM for nearly 12 years, including 11 in key positions such as Community Care Coordinator. After retiring in 2009, she returned to help with MLM's front office. Previously, she

served with the Mid-America Assistance Coalition and had worked with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program. She began her career in social services in St. Louis before moving to Kansas City and working in Section 8 housing and as a Head Start family services worker.

MLM Sees Major Funding Drop

In the latest blow to funding for critical services, MLM has seen a \$100,000 loss this year in grants.

"That's a huge drop for rent and utility assistance," Executive Director Jim Glynn explained. "The funds for assistance have been cut dramatically but the needs continue to be overwhelming. We need everyone's help to fill the gap so that we can help people who are being evicted, are at risk of losing their homes, or are living in homes without heat, water or electricity. The funds may decline, but the need does not."