

Finding a Place to Turn: College Educated and Homeless

The recent history of Kaye Boyd is one of those stories that just doesn't seem right.

Until a few years ago, Kaye had done relatively well. A native of Kansas City, Ks., she earned an associates degree from Donnelly College and a bachelor's degree from the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth—while raising three children. Deeply committed to her church, she “walked the talk,” first by working as a nurse at St. Mary's and then with the Kansas State School for the Visually Handicapped. At the school, she was a “cottage parent,” a job she still recalls with fondness.

“I loved it,” she said with her beaming smile. “I had four students who were deaf and blind that I took care of. It was five days a week and evenings too. It was quite a challenge, but I really loved it. You teach them, but they teach you, too!”

Her two decades of service came to an abrupt end in 1991 when she suffered a brain aneurysm and went through three surgeries that left her with a disability. Though as mentally acute as ever, she could no longer work and, by then, was on her own.

“I had been ill for a long time and I didn't know it,” she recalled of the aneurysm. “The doctor said it had been there since birth. I didn't know about it. I had what I considered a normal life until that happened.”

As often happens, that was only the begin-



Kaye Boyd told her story at the Power of Each One event. Despite a college education and work as a nurse, an aneurysm put her in a coma and led to homelessness.

ning. In a coma for four days, she awoke to a new regime of relearning to walk and talk. Despite all, she never lost her faith. “When I woke up from the coma, it was quite a surprise,”
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Sharing Their Blessings with a Long-Term Gift



Cathy and Lyle Stone are continuing a legacy that now spans generations.

Cathy and Lyle Stone are clear about their commitment to the MLM Heritage Society and supporting MLM programs.

“It really goes back to the fact that Kathy and I have been blessed all of our lives,” Lyle explained. “We have received gifts all of our lives and want to give back.”

There are other factors, including a deep involvement with MLM that stretches back several decades. Both have served on the MLM Board of Directors and have been actively

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Unexpected Illness Throws Nurse into World of Homeless

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she recalled. “But I decided God wasn’t ready for me yet.”

In the long run, one of her greatest challenge was financial. Her disability insurance didn’t cover her expenses, and first she lost her home, then her apartment. “I didn’t have quite enough money to stretch,” she says. “I stretched a lot, but you can only stretch so far. Finally, poverty can consume you.”

At that point Kaye—70 years old and a former nurse—found herself in a homeless shelter. Worse, the rules required she leave during the day. So, using her cane, she walked 15 blocks to the True Light Family Resource Center, which just happened to take her past MLM.

Collaborating with other agencies, MLM’s Project CARE staff arranged for her to move into an apartment, helping with her deposit and first month’s rent.

The staff found a man who donated and delivered a bed—which she said is the best she’s ever had!—and continues to keep in touch with her.

Kaye doesn’t plan for the story to end there, however. Someday, God willing, she plans to return the favor to MLM. “I believe the good Lord sent me there with the idea that I would pay them back and help them,” she said. “And I will help them. That’s my plan!”

Lecture Series to Host Christian Activist, Author

MLM’s Dykman Lecture Series will host an internationally known Christian activist, author, speaker and self-described “recovering sinner” Feb. 11. The 7:30 p.m. event will be held in Trinity Lutheran Church, 5601 West 62nd Street, Mission, Ks. 66202.

Shane Claiborne will recount his first-hand experience in some of the most tragic situations in our



Christian activist Shane Claiborne will address the Dykman Lecture Feb. 11.

world. A graduate from Eastern University, he pursued graduate work at Princeton Seminary. His ministry experiences include a 10-week stint working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta and a year serving a wealthy mega-congregation at Willow Creek Community Church outside Chicago. During the war in Iraq, Shane spent three weeks in

Baghdad with the Iraq Peace Team. He is also a founding partner of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner city Philadelphia that has helped to birth and connect faith communities around the world.

The annual lecture series is named in honor of former board president and perennial MLM leader, Lloyd W. Dykman. Although admission is free, seating is limited so for more information or to reserve seats, call Suzanne Bartling at (816) 285-3146.

Couple Follows Parents’ Model and Their Own Beliefs

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involved in MLM efforts to help the homeless and needy throughout Greater Kansas City.

In many ways, the story began a generation ago. Both the Stones’ parents set an example of giving to their communities. In fact, their decision to take the step to make a long-term commitment of support occurred not long after Cathy’s parents died.

“The first time we met Jim Glynn (MLM director) was when we brought checks from their estate,” Lyle recalled. “The gratitude that he expressed was dramatic. We saw the impact of the giving by her parents and decided then that we would too.”

The story actually began 40 years ago when Kathy volunteered as a reporter for the St. James Church newspaper to learn about this “new thing,” Metro Lutheran Ministry. She met with then director Sally Farenthold in a small office, but quickly learned that the accomplishments were big.

Lyle took a little longer, but soon became active as well. He was also interested in helping MLM by using the business knowledge he had acquired at financial services firms, such as KPMG.

“We were impressed because we found a group of very involved people who are

very frugal and very effective.”

The Heritage Society is comprised of living stakeholders who have notified MLM that they have made a planned gift to MLM. For more information, contact Jim Glynn at (816) 285-3117.

“Villages” Help MLM

The popular store, Ten Thousand Villages is giving MLM 15 percent of sales from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16. For more information, visit www.kansascity.tenthousandvillages.com.

Consider Thrivent Choice Program To Help MLM

Thrivent replaced their matching gifts program with Thrivent Choice Dollars. You may have Choice Dollars that you are eligible to designate to an authorized charity. MLM is one of the designated charities. You can direct your Choice Dollars by visiting www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling 800-847-4836 and saying “Thrivent Choice.”

Efforts Bring Huge Difference for People in Metro KC

At Metro Lutheran Ministry, we are privileged to serve the poorest of the poor in our community, with dignity and compassion. Regrettably we are not likely to work ourselves out of a job any time soon.

The U.S. Census recently reported the gap between rich and poor is the widest on record. In the same report, we learned that one in seven Americans now lives within federal poverty guidelines: \$10,830 for a single person and \$22,050 for a family of four.

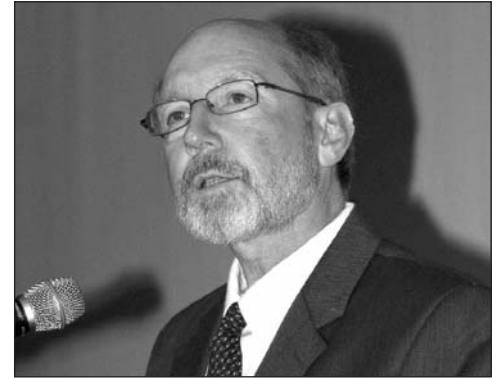
Thousands of families in our community are living in pain and terrified about

their future prospects. Entry-level jobs are scarce. Jobs that pay a living wage with benefits are almost nonexistent for most of the people we serve.

Despite these sobering realities, we find hope through the people we serve. Invariably, their faith in God is strong and unwavering. They hope for relief from their pain in the kingdom of heaven.

With your continuing support, we do make a huge difference every day.

Blessings to you,
Jim Glynn, Executive Director



MLM Director Jim Glynn finds Census statistics are true at MLM: one in seven Americans now lives within federal poverty guidelines

Annual Power of Each One Helps Metro Homeless

More than 300 friends and supporters of Metro Lutheran Ministry gathered Nov. 6 for the annual Power of Each One event.

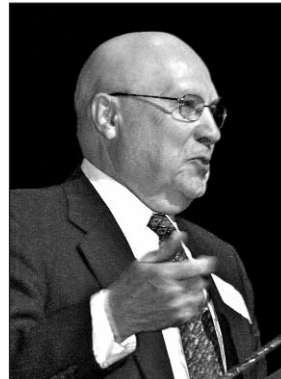
A celebration of a successful year, POEO was also a time to recognize con-

tributions and support that helped MLM face one of its most difficult years.

“The number of people who are homeless has dramatically increased,” noted Board Chair Vicki Westerhaus, “and the contributions have decreased.”

Vicki and Director Jim Glynn noted that last year MLM served more than 30,000 people in Greater Kansas City—with a staff of just 15. A major boost comes from the community through contributions and more than 2,000 volunteers, including 500 volunteers just for the annual Christmas Store.

Recognition of LeRoy Zimmerman as volunteer of the year was especially appropriate. LeRoy has performed hundreds of in-home assessments where low-income seniors need home repair and don't have the resources to pay for it. He has also led many large service events where youth and adults from churches across the Kansas City area come together to do minor home repair projects. Earlier this year, he was recognized by the Kansas City Royals and honored with a \$5,000



LeRoy Zimmerman was named volunteer of the year at POEO. A photo gallery of the evening is at www.mlmkc.org.

award—which he donated to MLM.

Kaye Boyd was recognized as client of the year. Despite college degrees and years of experience, she lost her job and faced homelessness. Now, thanks to MLM, she is in her own apartment.

Singer Angela Hagenbach was the featured performer. A Kansas City native, she and her ensemble showed why she has succeeded at festivals and jazz clubs internationally.

POEO was held at the Starlight Theater stage Nov. 6. All proceeds from the event go

to MLM programs.

Save These Dates!

Jan. 28 — MLM Midnight Volleyball. See the MLM website for more information, www.mlmkc.org.

Feb. 11 — Dykman Lecture Series.

March 19 — The Spring Youth Servant Event.

April 2 — The annual MLM Spring Fling is from 8 am to 1 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church, 9101 Lamar, Overland Park. Spring Fling is a carnival-like event with games, crafts, a pancake breakfast, silent auction items clowns, magicians. All proceeds benefit the MLM Christmas Store.

May 1 — Marilyn Maye and Wartburg College Singers will perform at Rockhurst High School, 9301 State Line Road Kansas City, MO 64114. The fundraising show begins at 4 p.m.

For up to date information, visit MLM's online activity calendar, www.mlmkc.org/news/eventCal.html.

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www.blessingsaboundkc.com

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

MLM Sites Busy in Wyandotte and Clay Counties

MLM in Clay County is getting ready for its key role in the Northland Christmas Store, reports Coordinator Jeani Wells. At least 1,200 people plus 250 shut-ins are served by the program, which is supported by numerous churches and organizations. The store this year is Dec. 6, 7 and 8 at the North Cross

Methodist Church.

MLM's Wyandotte County location is seeing many new clients because of the economy. "Almost 50 percent of the people we see are new to the agency," Coordinator Yvonne Brown reported. Yvonne said MLM is focusing first on security for clients and ensuring clients access to all eligible programs for their household.

"We've had particular challenges here because the area's only shelter for women

and children closed. That's a big jolt."

MLM's Grace Homes, which serves clients who are both homeless and have a mental illness, continues to see a "booming business. Coordinator Kathy Spangler said the eight-unit home in Wyandotte County is full, and she frequently hears that many more such locations are needed in the metropolitan area. "There's an obvious need," she said. Many military veterans are among those who fight both homelessness and mental illness.

Guess Who Will Be 40?

The coming year promises to be special for MLM, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Formally launched in 1971, the original Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry can be traced to the 1960s. Pastors and lay members of the Lutheran Church of America (LCA) and the American Lutheran Church (ALC) in metropolitan Kansas City began to explore how their churches could more effectively fulfill their mission in changing the urban scene.

Be sure to look for special events and other recognition of this anniversary in future newsletters and on MLM's website, www.mlmkc.org.

Christmas Store Ready for 2010

The 2010 MLM Christmas Store is December 8-11 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road. Do you want to join us in this ministry? Sign up online at www.mlmkc.org, or call Suzanne Bartling (816) 285-3146 or e-mail suzannebartling@mlmkc.org.

The MLM Christmas Store serves 1,000 families—from 3,000 to 4,000 individuals—every year. Families are pre-screened to meet low-income guidelines and ensure other Christmas stores do not

serve them as well. Volunteers help serve them by taking applications before the Christmas Store and inputting the applications in a area-wide database to keep track of the social services provided. The volunteers also guide the families through the actual Christmas Store and help them to select gifts.

The success of the annual Christmas Store is made possible by more than 500 volunteers, including the hard-working Christmas Store Committee.