



Lake  
Christian  
Ministries

# Heart&Hope

## Lake Christian Ministries Celebrates Grand Opening of New Facility

Lake Christian Ministries proudly celebrated the grand opening of its new facility on October 24 with 170 guests and local media. This milestone reflects years of planning, hard work and the support of countless donors, volunteers and community partners.

"This new facility represents hope and opportunity for so many in our community," said Jane Winters, Executive Director of LCM. "We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support that made this possible, and we are excited to continue serving local families in need with enhanced resources."

The celebration was an opportunity for LCM to publicly thank the many individuals and businesses who contributed to the creation of this

important community resource. Guests were able to tour the new facility, which includes expanded space for LCM's furniture warehouse, clothing shop, and classrooms designed to support families in need. Six community partners participated in the tours sharing information about collaborative efforts to assist families in need.

Winters said the new building will work in conjunction with LCM's existing facility to offer a full range of services, including food assistance, crisis financial aid, clothing, furniture, and the "New Tomorrows" program, which focuses on job readiness, educational classes, and community service connections.

The new facility stands on the site of the former Old Moneta Country Store, a cherished landmark in the community. Led by architects from Balzer & Associates and Dave Bower of Seven Oaks Landscape and Hardscape, the design team worked to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for both the new building and the entire expanded LCM campus.

While the original structure could not be fully restored due to structural challenges, some key elements were preserved. To honor the store's historical significance, a stepped parapet, popular in the 1940s and 1950s, was added to the design as a tribute to the old store's distinctive architectural style.

The project was made possible through the "Build Hope for Tomorrow" capital campaign, led by Dave and Cindy Cappellari, campaign co-chairs and owners of Capps Home Building Center. The community's support has also enabled the creation of the Wish You Well Learning Center, made possible by a donation from Michelle and David Baldacci, which will further broaden LCM's impact on local families.

The facility's successful launch represents a unified community effort. Key contributors included Balzer & Associates, Covenant Engineering and Price Buildings, Inc., whose collaboration enabled the facility to become a central hub for outreach and support at Smith Mountain Lake.

"Their collective efforts, along with the generosity of community donors, made it possible to expand LCM's mission to provide essential services and create pathways out of poverty for vulnerable families at Smith Mountain Lake," Winters said.

The SML Chamber of Commerce will host a public ribbon cutting for LCM's new facility from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on December 5. The public is welcome to attend this event and tour both the new and recently renovated existing LCM facility.



# A Child's Christmas Program – Expects to Assist Over 700 kids this year!

Over the past 28 years, LCM's A Child's Christmas program has become a holiday tradition in the lake community. Each year, LCM collaborates with the community to bring joy to local children through this special holiday effort. This program helps ease the financial strain that many low-income families face when they cannot afford holiday gifts for their children. Last year, this program brought holiday joy to 674 local children.

"We are expecting to assist at least 700 children in need this year," predicts A Child's Christmas program coordinator Dianna Weiner. "Rising costs for food, rent and utilities affect us all, but families at the bottom of the economic ladder are hit the hardest. A growing number of low-income families will have to choose between paying bills and buying Christmas gifts for their children. Most are unable to afford both."

"We have seen a 74% increase in the number of young families with children receiving assistance over the past two years, explains Jane Winters, LCM's executive director. "Providing holiday gifts for 700+ children would not be possible without the generosity of our wonderful SML community. Lake-area businesses provide collection bins for new toys. Churches, businesses, civic organizations and individuals purchase personalized gifts for children with direction from Angel Cards or provide cash donations. Libraries collect new books for children. Volunteers organize the children's sign-up, assign Angel Cards to those who want to purchase gifts, and organize the distribution to families on the December 14. The continued success of this program is possible because of generous support from our SML community."

Parents and guardians can register children ages 16 years and younger for Christmas gifts at Lake Christian Ministries on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon through November 27. Program Director Dianna Weiner added, "Many dedicated volunteers help each year to shop, sort and distribute gifts to ensure that every child experiences the joy of Christmas. We welcome new volunteers who want to experience the spirit of Christmas at work in our community."

**HELP MAKE CHRISTMAS MERRY FOR CHILDREN IN NEED:** Purchase a new toy and drop it off at one of the collection locations. Stop by one of LCM's Angel Card partners and purchase and donate gifts indicated on the personalized Angel Card for each child. Provided below is a list of toy and book collection sites and Angel Card Partners. To learn more about how you can help, contact program coordinator Dianna Weiner at [diannaelaine57@yahoo.com](mailto:diannaelaine57@yahoo.com). Monetary donations to support A Child's Christmas can be sent to Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA, 24121 with a memo designating "Children's Programs."

Books and toys will be collected at the following locations. Angel Card Partners listed below will offer cards showing gift and clothing wishes. The deadline for books, toys and Angel Card gifts is December 4. We are grateful for the participation of the Christmas elves in our SML community!

## **Book Collection Sites**

Moneta Library  
Westlake Library

## **Toy Collection Sites**

Antique Mall & Mayberry Furniture  
Body Shoppe Fitness  
Capps Home Building Center  
Crosswhite Fitness Center  
Dollar General Stores - Westlake, Bluewater Drive, Union Hall and Moneta in partnership with Sea Tow SML (see the Sea Tow Facebook page for collection dates at each store location)  
Glenwood Hardware  
Hot Shots Family Fun Center  
Mama Ann's  
Rehab Associates  
SML Coffeehouse & Evie's SML Coffeehouse  
Simmons Insurance  
Wake Cafe  
Westlake Automotive

## **Angel Card Partners**

Bedford Masonic Lodge  
Bethlehem United Methodist Church  
Cilantros  
Crosswhite Fitness Center  
Epworth United Methodist Church  
Hot Shots Family Fun Center  
Mariners Landing  
Napoli Cowboy  
Napoli by the Lake  
Patmos United Methodist Church  
Resurrection Catholic Church  
Trinity Ecumenical Parish  
Westlake Library

## **Children's Coats**

Christ Community Church Donors



# 2024 SML Walk to End Poverty Sets New Record

*Proceeds earmarked for programs that assist families in need.*

The Walk to End Poverty, held on September 21 at Smith Mountain Lake State Park, had its largest turnout yet, with over 330 participants joining the walk and run. A record was also set for the amount of funds raised at just over \$115,000.

"It was a spectacular fall morning and a beautiful testament to the caring community we are so fortunate to be a part of," said event organizer Priscilla Eastman. "By the end of the event, \$115,430 had been raised to support our essential services for local families in need."

"This is a difficult time for families at the bottom of the economic ladder," commented LCM's Director Jane Winters.

"Our event sponsors offered matching funds for the first \$28,000 donated and over 400 donors answered the challenge to create a record high for funds generated. We are deeply grateful to all the schools, churches, civic groups, businesses, and neighborhood teams who participated, as well as the sponsors and volunteers who helped make the 2024 SML Walk to End Poverty such a resounding success!"

Event sponsors were Capps Home Building Center and three anonymous donors. Supporting sponsors for this year's event included: Jo & Co. Jewelers; Southside Electric Cooperative; Centra; Body Shoppe Fitness; Gilbert Law; Eastman Construction; Ringmaster Services; Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, and the SML Fraternal Order of the Eagles #4344.

A heartfelt "THANK YOU!" to all the sponsors, volunteers, Walk participants, and supporters who came together to assist their neighbors in need through this very successful event.



## Welcome to Our New Volunteers

We welcome new volunteers who recently joined LCM. The following volunteers are now part of the warm and generous LCM family!

Betty Sullivan

Jo Bertier

Tim Bowers

Chris Sullivan

Leon Chichester

Vicki Boughton

Christopher Connor

Rachel, George, & Maddie Hines

## Service Impact

During the first three quarters of 2024, prolonged high costs for food, rent and utilities continued to impact vulnerable families. So far this year, we have seen a 17% increase in the number of families receiving food assistance. The number of families benefiting from crisis financial aid increased by 2% over the same time in 2023. Nearly 200 individuals are actively worked with the New Tomorrows Program to overcome barriers to long-term stability.

**From January 1 – September 30, 2024  
Lake Christian Ministries...**

**Fulfilled 9,956  
Food Assistance Requests**

**17% increase over this time in 2023**

Issued Financial Aid in the amount of  
**\$181,613 to assist 459 families**

**2% increase over this time in 2023**

Provided New Tomorrows Program Services  
**To help 193 individuals build  
secure lives**

# \$30,000 Year-End Challenge Offered by LCM Volunteers

Local demand for Lake Christian Ministries' food assistance, crisis financial assistance, A Child's Christmas and holiday food distribution has continued to grow this year. Prolonged high costs for living expenses continue to have a devastating impact on low-income families. Going into the cold weather season ahead, LCM is operating over budget for food assistance and children's holiday programs. Two dedicated LCM volunteers have stepped forward to encourage year-end giving. They are issuing a generous year-end challenge.

**YEAR-END CHALLENGE:** Two LCM volunteers have generously offered a \$1 for \$1 year-end challenge up to \$30,000 for all donations that are made to Lake Christian Ministries in November and December. Donations may be earmarked for general services or facility expansion. If we work together, this challenge can provide \$60,000 for LCM's efforts to assist vulnerable families during these challenging times.

*"Each time we volunteer, we are reminded of the many needs in our community in the faces we see and the stories we hear. At the same time, we are also reminded of how blessed we are to live at the lake. The ability to participate in this way is both rewarding and humbling. We hope you will accept our challenge and join us in contributing during this holiday season,"* said one of the generous volunteers.

**How Can I Help Meet the Year-End Challenge?** To help us make the most of this generous challenge, donate online through the LCM website at [lakechristianministries.org](http://lakechristianministries.org) by clicking on the Donate icon at the top of the home page and checking Year-End Challenge on the donor form. There is an option to designate your donation for general services or facilities expansion. If you prefer to make a donation by check, mail the check to Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121 with a memo that states Year-End Challenge, and a designation for either facilities or services. Donations may also be dropped off in the LCM office. The deadline for the challenge is December 31, 2024. Thank you in advance for your support!

## Holiday Potluck Luncheon for LCM Volunteers

All volunteers are invited to bring their favorite dishes or desserts and join us for the annual Holiday Potluck Luncheon. Lake Christian Ministries will provide ham and turkey. Join us at 12:15 p.m. on Friday, December 13, in Lake Christian Ministries' front lobby area. To confirm your attendance, email [lclofficemgr@gmail.com](mailto:lclofficemgr@gmail.com) or add your name and the dish you plan to bring on the Holiday Luncheon Sign-Up List located at the Volunteer Check-In desk. We hope to see you there!



## Wish List for Donations

We appreciate your donation support. Our neighbors need the following items and our supplies are low. Unfortunately, we don't have the volunteer coverage to pick up donations at this time and are asking donors to please drop off donations at LCM's new facility drop-off area in Building 2 from 9 a.m. until noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month.

Small portable heaters  
Microwaves  
Winter Clothing - all sizes  
Canned soups  
Canned fruits  
Canned vegetables  
Jelly

Plastic Grocery Bags  
Drop off your plastic grocery bags at LCM. We re-use them to package food for our neighbors in need.



# Wish List for Lake Christian Ministries' New Facility & Renovation of Existing Facility

Thank you to everyone who supported our capital campaign for facility expansion. Due to inflation's impact on this project, we still need a few items and additional support to fully equip the facilities.

If you would like to help, we are asking for donations of the items listed below. These items can be gently used as long as they are in good condition. If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact Jane Winters at [lcmedr@gmail.com](mailto:lcmedr@gmail.com).

## Donations of Items Needed

(32) folding chairs (seats padded) for the classroom

(4) light weight six foot folding tables for the classroom

Stove and Oven Combination Unit – gently used and standard size

Stackable Washer and Dryer – gently used

(12) Used grocery carts in good working order

If you would like to make a monetary donate to help Lake Christian Ministries address the following needs for the facilities, you can donate online at [www.lakechristianministries.org](http://www.lakechristianministries.org) or send donations to **Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121** with a note that lists the facility project you would like to support.

## Monetary Donations Needed for Completion of Larger Projects

Paving of Entrance Road to Donation Drop-Off Area and Loading Dock – \$45,000

Electric Work and Renovation Needed to Expand the Food Pantry – \$50,000

Donations Needed to Underwrite New Facility Expense Overage — \$140,000

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## Holiday Donations Needed

Lake Christian Ministries' volunteers are working to make this holiday a joy-filled time of year for vulnerable children and families. A Child's Christmas provides warm clothing, toys and gifts for infants through age 16. These children live in homes where income often doesn't cover basic living expenses, and there is rarely anything left for Christmas gifts.

LCM also provides holiday food baskets for families to prepare Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas breakfast. Each year, LCM distributes special holiday food to approximately 450 food-insecure families. LCM's discounted cost to provide a holiday meal for a family of four is approximately \$25.

This year, we are going into the fourth quarter over-budget for Food Assistance and Children's Programs due to high demand and high food costs. If you would like to make a donation to support these programs, we would deeply appreciate your support. Please send donations to:

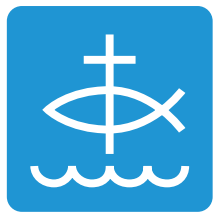
**Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121**

and note whether the donation is for children's programs or holiday meals.

Thank you for making the holidays brighter for our neighbors and children who are struggling during this difficult time.







**Lake  
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Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #78  
Roanoke, VA

**13157 Old Moneta Road**

**PO Box 695**

**Moneta, VA 24121**

**Return Service Requested**

*Special Note: If you are away and put a "Temporary Hold" on your USPS mail, please send your email address to [lcmofficemgr@gmail.com](mailto:lcmofficemgr@gmail.com) so we can send your newsletters electronically.*

## Simple Gestures Help Families in Need & Reduce Costs at LCM

This year, donations from A Simple Gesture SML have made a tremendous impact for our neighbors in need and helped reduce LCM expenses during a time when food costs remain high. This neighborhood donation pick-up program provides thousands of pounds of food, cleaning supplies and personal care items each year.

Donations of laundry detergent and dishwashing liquid are still being received from the fourth quarter collection day which was held on November 1.

Make A Simple Gesture in 2025. Join the program by contacting Linda Strup at [asimplegesturesml@gmail.com](mailto:asimplegesturesml@gmail.com) or by visiting the LCM website at [lakechristianministries.org](http://lakechristianministries.org) and completing an online registration form located under the Donations tab. Donations from A Simple Gesture help LCM address the high demand for food assistance and reduce costs for food supplies.

We deeply appreciate the generous support from our A Simple Gesture SML supporters!

