



Lake  
Christian  
Ministries

# Heart & Hope

## Food Pantry Expands to Meet Rising Demand

Over the past three years, the Smith Mountain Lake region has seen a sharp increase in poverty and food insecurity. As household budgets are stretched thin by rising costs, more families are turning to Lake Christian Ministries (LCM) for support—and our food pantry must expand to meet this urgent need.

Between 2022 and 2024, LCM experienced a 53% increase in overall client numbers and a 65% surge in food pantry requests. In 2024 alone, LCM served 3,761 unduplicated individuals, fulfilling 14,178 food orders—enough to provide 254,400 meals.

To meet these growing needs, LCM opened a second facility in September 2024. This new space now houses the clothing selection area, a warehouse for furniture and household goods, and a Learning Center. Renovations to the existing building allowed LCM to add five offices for financial aid, the New Tomorrows Program, and services provided by our community partners.

**Now LCM is tackling the next critical need: expanding the food pantry.** The final phase of renovation will double the pantry's size by repurposing space formerly used for sorting donations. This expansion will improve workflow and reduce long client wait times.

"On busy days, families are waiting up to 45 minutes to receive food," said Executive Director Jane Winters. "We want clients to have time to visit other areas—clothing, furniture or financial services—without being delayed by food order fulfillment."

The project includes electrical upgrades, HVAC installation, wall modifications, and additional shelving to handle large pallet deliveries. Much of the labor will be done by volunteers to reduce costs. LCM has been blessed with an anonymous donation that will address nearly 90% of the renovation costs. If you would like to **help with the remaining 10% needed**, please send your donation (with "Food Pantry Renovation" noted on your gift) to: Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121.



# Save the Date for the 2025 SML Walk to End Poverty

**\$1 for \$1 Matching Challenge means donations work twice as hard!**

The annual SML Walk to End Poverty will be held on **Saturday, September 20, 2025**, at SML State Park. Registration starts at 9 a.m.; walkers and runners—participating as individuals or members of church, school, civic group, business, and neighborhood teams—depart at 10 a.m. A free hot-dog lunch, door prizes and socializing follow. Proceeds from the event enable Lake Christian Ministries to continue providing vital programs and services that address the growing number of SML-area families struggling with poverty—especially critical as costs for food, housing, and utilities remain high.

Once again, donors can double their gifts thanks to event sponsors and anonymous LCM volunteers who will be matching, dollar for dollar, the first \$25,000 donated. Early donations can be made from June 30 to September 19 online at **[smlwalktoendpoverty.com](http://smlwalktoendpoverty.com)**. Checks may also be mailed to Lake Christian Ministries, P.O. Box 695, Moneta, VA 24121 with a memo designation for “2025 Walk.”

The needs for food and crisis aid continue to be at an all-time high. Our new building is helping us serve the many in need in more convenient, comfortable, and efficient ways, but government funding for food is down—making donations that enable our programming more critical than ever before.

Volunteers are always needed to serve on the Walk planning team, which meets from June to September. If you're interested in serving, please contact **Jane Winters** at **[lcmexdr@gmail.com](mailto:lcmexdr@gmail.com)**. More information about this important event will be provided later this summer. Until then, save the date and plan to join us for a fun morning in the park on September 20. Dogs that play nicely with others are welcome!



**SMLwalk** Make a Difference Together  
**TO END POVERTY**

## 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 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.

Mattresses (clean & gently used)

Appliances

Dishwashing Liquid

Laundry Detergent

Toothpaste & Toothbrushes

Shampoo & Deodorant

Diapers – all sizes

Canned Soups

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Summer Clothing – all sizes

Plastic Grocery Bags – *Drop off your plastic grocery store bags at LCM. We reuse them to package food for our neighbors in need.*





# Volunteers Enjoy the 2025 Appreciation Event

Lake Christian Ministries volunteers, board members, and staff enjoyed the 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 25 at Bethlehem United Methodist Church. Volunteers were thanked for their dedication and service to LCM and our neighbors in need. Attendees enjoyed lunch, participated in a Lake Christian Ministries trivia game, heard neighbor success stories, and were honored for outstanding service.

The 2025 Paul Eveland Extra Mile Awards were presented to volunteers who go "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" in volunteer service to LCM and families in need. The 2025 award winners were: Jamie Walker Tuggle, Front Office & Technology Volunteer; and Eric Neder, Food Warehouse & Inventory and Technology Volunteer.

"We thank all our volunteers who donate their time and talent to assist Lake Christian Ministries and local families struggling with poverty," said Jane Winters. "We have the best volunteers in the lake community. They are the heart and soul of LCM!"



*Jamie Walker Tuggle and Eric Neder receive the 2025 Paul Eveland Extra Mile Award.*

## Welcome New Volunteers

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

Dana Fortney  
Diana Miller  
Lee Ann Monsour

Lyn Siebert  
Michelle Cummins  
Tracey Batakis

### Ridge View Bank Volunteers

Jessica Prickett  
Jodie Byrd

Jones Tyler Lee  
Lesley Carter

Robert Shorter  
Taylor Gallegos

Tina McConnell

## Service Impact

During the first four months of 2025, Lake Christian Ministries volunteers and staff fulfilled a growing number of requests for food assistance. Rising costs for housing, utility service, and food continue to significantly impact low-income families who are struggling to make ends meet. Many more neighbors are engaged with our New Tomorrows Program to overcome barriers and build stability for themselves and their families.

**From January to April, LCM Provided**

Food Assistance to Fulfill

**4,423 Food Requests**

**10% increase over 2024**

Financial Aid in the amount of

**\$69,103 to assist 196 families**

**To prevent homelessness and restore utility service**

New Tomorrows Program Services

**Helped 261 Individuals Build More Secure Lives**

**75% increase over the same period of time in 2024**

# Hospitality Certification Classes Help Clients Secure Jobs

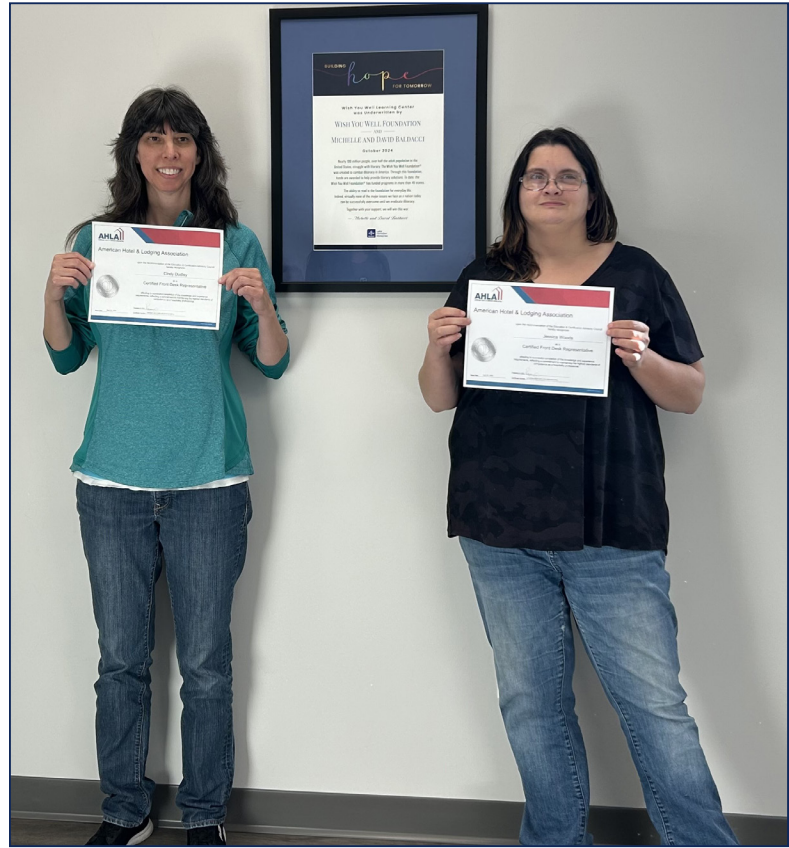
Lake Christian Ministries is partnering with Bedford County Adult Education to offer hospitality certification classes for neighbors in need. This partnership recognizes that earning certification for an in-demand, well-paying job can be key to breaking the poverty cycle for an individual or family.

American Hospitality and Lodging Certifications are nationally recognized and are required for employment by many commercial establishments such as hotels, restaurants, and retail stores. Classes which began at LCM in April include Front Desk Representative, Guest Room Attendant, and Maintenance Employee Certifications.

Each course spans 12 hours and is held on Mondays from 4 to 7 p.m. for four weeks in LCM's Wish You Well Learning Center. We are grateful to **Michelle and David Baldacci, who donated the funding** to create this beautiful and functional space where we can also offer GED, literacy, nutrition, and career-building classes to our clients.

Kathy Smith, Bedford County Public Schools and local GED Coordinator, and Michelle Swanson, LCM's New Tomorrows Director, are working together to select the courses that will be the most beneficial for LCM's clients. Planned for this fall are certification courses for Restaurant Server, Kitchen Cook, and Tourism Assistant.

Participants also practice interviewing, learn how to write a resume, and learn how to recognize and report human trafficking. LCM shares monthly job postings with class participants. With an American Hospitality and Lodging Association certificate, a professional resume, and good interviewing skills, graduates have an advantage over many others who may apply for the same jobs.



*LCM Neighbors Cindy Dudley and Jessica Woods earned Front Desk/Customer Service Representative certifications*

# Liberty University Students Provide Support Through Lynchburg Serves Day!

We thank the Liberty University students who helped with painting and landscaping at Lake Christian Ministries' facility on April 26 through Lynchburg Serves Day!

Nine Liberty University students worked hard to refresh our aging facility with new paint and fresh mulch. The facility looks great! The students' day of service was such a blessing to Lake Christian Ministries, the neighbors we serve, and our SML community!





# New Getting Ahead Graduates!

The 2025 winter/spring **Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' by World** classes concluded on April 23, marking the successful graduation of four dedicated individuals: **Teresa Kane, Devon Darty, Samantha Vaughn, and Terra Vaughn**. This achievement is a testament to their hard work and commitment to personal and professional growth.

The 14-week Getting Ahead Class series was held in partnership with Bethlehem United Methodist Church's Wonderful Wednesdays Program. This community-focused program provides a supportive network designed to foster personal development and community connection. The Wonderful Wednesday Program provides an evening meal, childcare, and a welcoming atmosphere to ensure that all attendees can focus on their growth without worrying about logistical challenges.

Teresa Kane, one of the four graduates, expressed her gratitude by saying, "Taking this course has given me the tools and resources to turn my life around. It provided useful insights and skills that helped put things into perspective and showed me that it is possible to build a better life. Lake Christian Ministries has helped me create an incredible support system and I am very grateful."

The graduation of the Getting Ahead classes is a significant milestone for graduates, who now step forward with renewed confidence and skills. They will continue to work in the New Tomorrows Program to address goals toward stability. This class series, offered by Lake Christian Ministries, has impacted over 115 lives by fostering a sense of community and providing invaluable resources and relational support.



*Above: 2025 Winter/Spring Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' by World Class graduates include Terra Vaughn, Devon Darty, Samantha Vaughn, and Teresa Kane. Class facilitators were Susan Hughes and Fran Daughtery.*

*At Left: Getting Ahead Graduate Devon Darty shares his "Future Story" at the graduation ceremony.*

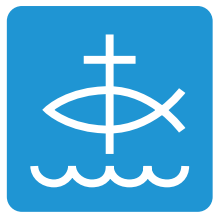


## Lake Christian Ministries Receives Outstanding Nonprofit Award

### GOOD NEWS!!

Lake Christian Ministries was recently awarded the 2024 Outstanding Nonprofit Award at the annual meeting of the SML Chamber of Commerce. We want to thank our volunteers, staff, donors, community partners, and churches. Together, we make a huge impact in our community!





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.*

## Making a Lasting Difference for LCM

Consider making a planned gift—cash, gifts of real estate or stock, charitable bequest, retirement assets, life insurance, and charitable trusts—to contribute to the stability of Lake Christian Ministries' future programs and services. Supporting LCM's long-term goals is a good option for donors making deferred gifts or desiring the benefit of tax relief for large gifts or estates. LCM has two long-term funds: The **LCM Endowment Fund** and the **LCM Support Fund**. Both funds are components of the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust (GLCT) which professionally invests these funds on behalf of LCM. Our goal is for these perpetual fund to grow over time and annually provide operational and program support from a portion of annual earnings. These funds will also offer support for the Lake Christian Ministries' extraordinary needs that may periodically arise.

Donors who commit a planned gift to LCM can become a member of the **LCM Sustainers Society**. Benefits include recognition, if desired, in a variety of ways. We hope you will consider becoming a member of the LCM Sustainers Society. Your contribution will make a difference for our Smith Mountain Lake neighbors now and for generations to come.

**Want to Learn More?** Email LCM's Executive Director, Jane Winters, at [lcmexdr@gmail.com](mailto:lcmexdr@gmail.com) or call **540-328-1002**.

## A Simple Gesture Helps Families in Need

Donations from A Simple Gesture SML help our neighbors in need and reduce LCM expenses during a time when food costs continue to be high. This neighborhood donation pick-up program provides thousands of pounds of food, cleaning supplies and personal care items each year.

**The second quarter collection day is Friday, June 6, with a wish list for shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes.**

### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

If you haven't already registered for A Simple Gesture, send an email to [asimplegesturesml@gmail.com](mailto:asimplegesturesml@gmail.com) with your name, email, and address or complete a registration form on the LCM website, [lakechristianministries.org](http://lakechristianministries.org), under the Donations tab. Let us know if you want to donate and/or serve as a neighborhood pick-up driver.