

Grant Report for: The Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Helping Hands Initiative
Grant Award: \$100,000
Reporting Period: October, 2016 through May, 2017

In September, 2016, we reported that we were able to successfully complete the *Helping Hand Initiative* in two communities in the Spring and Summer of 2016 according to our original plan, serving a total of 13 homeowners in the Lansdowne community of East St. Louis, Illinois, and Fremont, Nebraska.

The Mission Grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) helped the LCMS National Housing Support Corporation (Lutheran Housing Support) extend this *Helping Hand Initiative* from a local pilot program to a National Key Initiative of our organization. Since last fall Lutheran Housing Support (LHS) has not only completed the 2016 iteration of this initiative, we have worked to extend the *Helping Hand Initiative* into 2017.

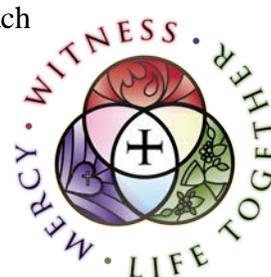
2017 Helping Hand Initiative

In the December, 2016, LHS was awarded a \$25,000 Grant from Concordia Lutheran Ministries (Cabot, PA) to provide partial funding for the *2017 Helping Hand Initiative* which will return to a community in NE Indiana in the spring of this year. LHS has historic relationships in Ft. Wayne and surrounding communities, including additional funding and project partners, which will help allow LHS to continue the success it realized in the 2016 initiative funded by the LWML Mission Grant.

At present LHS has secured the following partnerships as it builds on last year's success:

- **Laborers For Christ (LFC)** will return as a partner to provide a team of skilled workers
- **The Ft. Wayne Department of Parks and Recreation** will provide facilities for the LFC team at their Johnny Appleseed Campground
- **The City of Ft. Wayne Code Enforcement Office** will help identify homeowners
- **The Charlie Tippmann Foundation Charitable Trust** has provided additional funding of \$7,000
- **Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne** has been selected as LHS' *Helping Hand Initiative* Congregational Partner which includes an additional \$4,000 in local funding

Holy Cross has a vital partnership with Vicar Lewis King at King's Community Outreach Center in a neighborhood on the south side of downtown Ft. Wayne which will be the focus of the initiative. This partnership, along with the volunteer and financial resources that the congregation is able to provide makes Holy Cross a perfect congregational partner for the initiative.



As of this report, LHS has a grant application pending with a local funding partner in Ft. Wayne, the Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation. We are very confident of receiving an award from this foundation since they provided substantial funding for the 2014 pilot of the Helping Hand Initiative. The size of the award will have a direct impact on scale of the *2017 Helping Hand Initiative*.

We can say confidently that the 2015-2017 LWML Mission Grant not only impacted the ministries of Unity and Trinity Lutheran congregations in East St. Louis (Illinois) and Fremont (Nebraska) and the lives of those homeowners receiving services. The grant also helped LHS establish the Helping Hand Initiative as LHS' National Key Initiative. Even now we are working on plans for the *2018 Helping Hand Initiative* and ways that we can be even more successful at sustaining this initiative into the future.

This report has been compiled by Mary Hamilton, LCMS Grants Manager with the above information provided by Rev. John M. Albers, Director of Resource Development, LCMS National Housing Support Corporation, john.albers@lcms.org / 314-996-1317.

