



2017-2019 LWML Mission Grant #2

Mercy House for Women and Children Franklin Avenue Mission, Flint, Michigan, \$100,000

Prayer Guide

Prayer #1 – Gracious Heavenly Father, many of us live a life so full of Your blessings, we often forget to look at those around us in need not only of physical care, but in greater need of emotional and spiritual care. The LCMS churches and community members on the east side of Flint have recognized this need. With mercy and humility, they have taken on the challenge of caring for a poverty-stricken community, providing much needed mercy, kindness, and love to those women and children suffering physical and mental abuse. We ask Your blessings on this mission so their service will truly reflect Your grace and unconditional love as they share the good news of the Son who willingly sacrificed Himself for us all, thus providing a glorious eternal home for all who believe in Him. This we ask in His name. Amen.

Prayer #2 – Lord, you have called us to serve those around us in the same manner Jesus served the less fortunate. He healed the lepers, befriended a prostitute, instructed His disciples to let the little children come to Him. All these actions show us the way to serve those in a world in need of healing, friendship, and care. As the Mercy House Mission grows and comes into fruition, may the work of these volunteers create joy, peace, and comfort to the unwed mothers in need of parenting skills. May it provide safety and comfort to the women and children who will seek shelter from abuse and give them the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus' saving love.

Prayer #3 – Heavenly Father, most of us have no concept of the dire situations facing these women that come to Mercy House. You have blessed us but also commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves. We pray for these recipients that they come to know and feel the same joy, comfort, and loving relationship with our Savior as we know. Jesus healed, restored, and loved those that were shunned by society. Help us to do the same with our support of Mercy House Mission. May all the work at Mercy House be done to Your glory, Lord. Amen.

Prayer #4 – We come to You, Father, to ask for blessings for not only those being served in Mercy House, but those who serve. Grant them wisdom and patience. Provide the proper words at the proper time. Help them to reach those who are hurting through the services provided at Franklin Avenue Mission. May their answer to the call "Whom shall I send?" offer many opportunities to share the Good News of salvation. Open the hearts and minds of those who have become jaded by the world that they will be willing to accept the love and physical care offered by this mission, but most importantly, hear and learn the words of grace and forgiveness as taught and shared by the workers. And, may the peace of God that passes all understanding keep their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen

Mission Grant Story

The Franklin Avenue Mission (FAM), established by area LCMS churches in Flint, Michigan, serves one of the poorest cities in America where 46% of the general population live below the poverty level. On the east side of the city, these percentages increase to 80%. The mission is sustained entirely by member congregations, individual donations, and many volunteers as it provides much needed services to the east side. Meals are served, Bible studies offered, and an adult supervised children's program is provided for the community. In the larger context, FAM is working outside brick and mortar walls being missionaries to the poor of an urban city.

Franklin Avenue Mission has taken a bold step in providing an additional much needed service in the area by providing a safe, caring, and loving residence for local unwed mothers and a safe haven for women and children needing to escape abusive relationships. The mission has purchased the residence next door for this purpose. The home is in need of renovation as well as additional square footage. This home has become "Mercy House for Women and Children." Through this mission, the volunteers and workers hope to reflect and teach the best practices of parenting and relationship building, providing a different view of family and living unknown to many. The home will also provide a secure place for unwed mothers to live, giving them an alternative to abortion.

This mission is providing the means for local and regional LCMS members to serve in the mission field by becoming the hands, feet, face, and voice of Jesus; an opportunity many in the area would not otherwise have the ability or means to serve. With the funds from this grant, the Franklin Avenue Mission can continue with confidence in laying out plans for the Mercy House.