

NEWS RELEASE:

Contact: Edie Norris, Public Relations Director
Lutheran Women's Missionary League
3915 64th Ave Ct NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
(253) 973-1498
edielwml@gmail.com

LWML Office
PO Box 411993
St. Louis, MO 63141-1993
(800) 252-LWML (5965)
www.lwml.org

December 14, 2009

LWML GRANT GIVEN TO “THE CARPENTER’S HANDS”

Youth Director Carl Schleede, Grace Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, is privileged to work with teens who want to make life better for those in their community. These youth, under the direction of able adult volunteers, make necessary household repairs inside and outside the homes of elderly people who no longer can physically do the work themselves or for those who are financially unable to do it. The youth and their mentors are named “The Carpenter’s Hands.”

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) voted at the Portland LWML Convention in June 2009 to grant \$26,000 to provide a used van that is outfitted with tools that are needed for the work of “The Carpenter’s Hands.” On November 22, 2009, the van became a reality when LWML President Janice Wendorf presented a check to Carl Schleede, adult coordinator for the program and Rev. Kevin Loughran, pastor at Grace and LWML zone counselor for the St. Petersburg LWML Zone.

After the grant check presentation, Director Schleede shared a letter from one of the recipients: “My dad died. Then I was involved in a major accident ... suffered six broken ribs, a broken sternum, shattered the right knee, tore the left shoulder, had several herniated discs and suffered a severe head injury. It took five months to learn to walk and nine months to make my mouth say what my mind was thinking. I had short-term memory loss. I could not work and my husband was working two jobs to make ends meet. My faith became weak and I wondered about my God.”

The recipient concludes: “Then you, Carl, knocked at our door. Through your act of service and the team that you have brought in to help my family, our hope is being restored, a new foundation is being built, the coldness of my heart is melting away, and again I am finding the way ... in the small and large things the group is doing for me, my husband and three children ... I am slowly seeing that God is real ... God does hear me and is concerned for me ... Thank you from the very depths of my heart, a place that I haven’t visited in a long time!”

President Wendorf quoted James 1:22, *But be doers of the Word and not hearers only*. She commended the group for their work in going to those in need in the St. Petersburg area. She shares: “It was great to be able to share with the congregation that many in LWML would be praying for this grant and the impact that it has on the community.” Marilyn H. Treanor, President of the Florida-Georgia District LWML, also attended the presentation service and reception following.

Donations for the 2009-2011 Mite Goal may be made securely on the LWML Web site at www.lwml.org Select “Giving” on the left hand menu, then click on “Donate Online” and follow the directions for making a donation.

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is the official women’s auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For over 65 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman’s relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

LWML news releases are archived at www.lwml.org under News link.