

**Emergency Overnight
Shelter and Services**

831 N. Sycamore St.
(Corner of Oakland & Sycamore)
Lansing, MI 48906

Loaves and Fishes



Ministries

**Transitional Housing
and Services**

Zacchaeus House for women
with children
Luke's House for single men

Telephone (517) 482-2099 Fax (517) 482-6848

Fall 2021

HELP US CELEBRATE L&F'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR 2021-22
"A BLAST FROM THE PAST"

By Joan Tirak, Co-Founder of L&F Ministries



**Okemos Presbyterian Summer Bible Study
in 1981 with their teachers & some of
our original L&F volunteers**

With the guidance of their Bible Study teachers, these children joyfully helped paint a mural of Jesus feeding the multitudes on the original overnight shelter dining room walls. They "sponge-painted" the people on the hillside. ♥♥♥

What a JOY for me to reflect on the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Loaves and Fishes Ministries, since I had the privilege of being one of the original five Core Group co-founders. It was late 1979 when we first started planning ALL that we would need to do to establish a shelter, secure a Special Use Permit to operate, and make certain it would be acceptable to the neighbors. We had numerous meetings - sometimes 2 or 3 consecutively on a single day - over several months to deal with all the intricacies. We finally found a house, thanks to Jim Booth, our realtor... *who then became an avid Wednesday overnight volunteer and served for years in that role till he sadly died in 2016.* Our hearts were inspired by the story of Jesus feeding the multitudes, and the Parable of the Last Judgement where the faithful ask Jesus, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.'" We were also led by our spiritual mentors: Mother Therese of Calcutta, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, and were... *and still are,* guided by the nonviolence embraced by each of them. **Now, 40 years later, our hearts are overwhelmed with the goodness of all our dedicated staff, board members, and volunteers who served so lovingly over these many years. God bless them ALL. ♥♥♥**

In honor of our 40th year, we are launching 4 ways for you to get involved

♥♥♥ Support our 40th Anniversary "Giving Hearts" Fundraiser by using the enclosed envelope OR donating through Network for Good. (See bottom of pg. 2)

Help us celebrate our new & improved L&F website by browsing & getting to know us better & sharing it with family & friends: www.loavesandfisheslansing.org

Consider becoming a volunteer OR offering to join our Core Community Board of Directors. If either interests you, email volunteers@loavesandfisheslansing.org

Join us for a spring 40th Anniversary Celebration gathering (depending on the COVID-19 situation). Watch for possible date on our website or in our next mailing.



Director's Corner

Dr. Thomas Woods (Dr. T)

I can't believe that Loaves & Fishes Ministries has been around for 40 years! My Lord, where has the time gone? When you read about our history and how L&F came into existence, it's an amazing story. Led by our founders and their inspiration to assist others along the way, this special Core Group of people were blessed with a "never say die" attitude that was not going to allow anything to stop them from seeing their dream through to its fruition. It's a story that movies are made of, with a mixture of creative license here and there just to make it even more gripping...but you get my point. Please go to our newly designed website www.loavesandfisheslansing.org to learn more about the birth of Loaves and Fishes; the Founders, the Core Community, and the journey from who we were then to who we are now as we are constantly moving forward.

Please take the time to read a few "Success Stories" (under "About Us" tab) from former shelter and transitional house guests who have found their way to independence and permanent housing through their connection to L&F case management. L&F will always be evolving to better serve the ever-changing needs of our community and its most vulnerable, the homeless population. Along the way and through the years, so many of you made the decision to join our ministry by donating your time, talents, items, and monetary gifts in a multitude of ways. No doubt that without you becoming a part of L&F, our existence may have been short-lived, or, at minimum, it could have been much more challenging. **Thanks to you, you have given us strength, courage, dedication and perseverance, all culminating in a continued effort to serve others as we look forward to serving our community for the next 40 years.**

So, here's to our donors, many thanks! And thank you to all our fantastic volunteers, who work directly with our guests! And thank you food volunteers, who keep our guests fed! Thank you to church ministries and businesses and governmental agencies whose never-ending prayers and undying support in a multitude of ways have added to keeping our doors open! L&F staff's dedication to its mission is infectious and they love to serve this community with all that they have. Despite the recent challenges facing our country and our community, our staff risked being on the job so no person in need would be lost between the cracks and denied support.

To our founders and the Core Community Board of Directors, you guide us, support us, you pray for us and with us and give all that you have, even to this day to keep L&F viable, and remain in a position to help others...and for that we thank you the most. You have stood the test of time. The countless lives that you have touched over a 4-decade period is nothing short of remarkable and what a blessing to have so much dedicated, caring, and empathetic help along our great voyage. God has shown this little shelter on the northwest side of town many blessings and much favor, through your prayers.

Happy 40th Anniversary Loaves and Fishes Ministries!

**♥♥♥Please Join our L&F 40th Anniversary "Giving Hearts" Fundraiser
1981 - 2021**

We invite you to help to continue growing our legacy of service to our sisters and brothers experiencing homelessness by making a "Giving Hearts" donation at any time throughout this year ~ the year of our 40th Anniversary! We know full well that your financial gifts come from deep within YOUR "Giving Hearts" ♥♥♥ ~ in support of our staff and volunteer "Giving Hearts" ♥♥♥ which together make the continuation of our compassionate service possible. So please join us in this ministry of healing and hope!

**Donate to our 40th Anniversary
"Giving Hearts" ♥♥♥ Fundraiser**

by using the enclosed envelope OR making a secure donation through our website at www.loavesandfisheslansing.org Click on "Donate," then click the "Network for Good" button.



Angels Amongst Us

By Jim Veurink, L&F Volunteer

We are gratified that so many of you share your time, talent, and treasure in quiet, yet significant ways. We are touched by the financial donations you freely give. We appreciate the many nutritious dinners along with food staples, sustaining our guests each evening. Thank you!

Our recent **“Adopt a Project”** fundraiser was a big success. With your gifts, we’ve installed three new air conditioners to the overnight shelter, the kitchen and dining area (The Gathering Place), and our longer-term shelter next door, Zacchaeus House.

Many thanks to **Steve Wagner** for trimming trees and removing brush from our property. Steve offered his trailer to remove all refuse as well.

Thanks, also, to the **Kiwanis Club of Lansing** for their fundraiser, providing us with 30-day CATA bus passes for our guests. With these monthly passes, folks have reliable transportation to and from workplaces and appointments.

Thank you to our dedicated friends who faithfully provide **ten to fifteen backpacks each month**. What useful gifts! The backpacks are stocked full with convenient items and provide efficient storage as guests navigate town.

Special thanks to **Country Stitches of East Lansing** and co-owners **Ann Fuller** and **Brian Ladson**, along with their **quilters**, who sponsor a **Quilt-A-Thon** quarterly. Ann and Brian and their vendors, donors and quilters come together to create one-of-a-kind quilts and gift them to our residents. (See pictures on the right.) These comfortable quilts provide a personal, cozy touch to each bed. As guests transition to new apartments and homes, a unique, attractive quilt helps make a new place a “home.”

Last but certainly not least, we deeply appreciate the **personal checks** and **online donations** sent through **Network for Good**. We are inspired by your selfless giving. Thank you for sustaining our shelters and supporting our work to provide a welcoming, safe space for our guests!

God bless you, Good and Faithful Servants!

Check out our New Website at
www.loavesandfisheslansing.org

“Country Stitches” crafters hard at work



Country Stitches ✦





831 N. Sycamore
Lansing, MI 48906

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lansing, MI
Permit No. 362



CURRENT RESIDENT OR

L&F 40th Anniversary
“A Blast from the Past”
See page 1 for the story and
celebration of our 40th year
serving our sisters and brothers
experiencing homelessness!



Support our 40th Anniversary “Giving Hearts” Fundraiser (Pg. 2)

Join our all-important Volunteer Recovery Drive
L&F is in Critical Need of Volunteers!
Inviting FORMER and NEW volunteers to join us in caring for our Guests ♥♥♥

Please consider *returning to volunteer OR becoming a new volunteer* to help with caring for our L&F guests. It truly takes a village to do this work 24/7 throughout the year. Prior to the onslaught of COVID, we had a large pool of faithful volunteers, who understandably had to pull back. During that time and since the availability of life-saving vaccines, our dedicated staff has done an incredible job of ensuring that L&F stayed safe. *So, if you are immunized with the vaccine, please consider joining OR rejoining our Volunteer Team to help care for our guests.*



♥♥♥ Hoping to SEE YOU soon!
Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@loavesandfisheslansing.org

Check out our New Website at www.loavesandfisheslansing.org