



2009 GIFTS OF HOPE

GIFTS OF HOPE is operated by volunteers from throughout the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, ELCA

WELCOME TO GIFTS OF HOPE 2009!

GIFTS OF HOPE, an alternative gift-giving program in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, begins its 18th year in Advent 2009. Started in 1992 in the E.L.C.A.

Metro Washington Synod, Gifts of Hope has raised well over \$2 million dollars to help people in need in our community and around the world! Whether you have given Gifts of Hope to share your faith and blessings, to avoid the commercialization of Christmas, or for other reasons, we thank you for your commitment.

This 18th GIFTS OF HOPE CATALOG retains the familiar format. You may select gifts that will support one of a number of Lutheran Social Ministry organizations, one of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod's three companion synods, or one of two camps. In addition, each participating congregation may determine and designate a separate gift proposal that satisfies its particular interests. Gift options range in price from \$5 to \$250. For each purchase, you receive a card indicating which gift will be provided to which worthy organization.

Most persons who purchase Gifts of Hope do that in the Thanksgiving through Christmas holiday season, as part of a congregationally-sponsored appeal. But individuals may purchase GIFTS at any time, and you are invited to visit our website:

WWW.GIFTSOFHOPEMETRODC.ORG

Please note that Gifts of Hope is staffed with volunteers. We thank all of these committed people. We also thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for matching gifts and local Thrivent chapters for covering printing and other costs. Because of this support, every penny received goes directly to the beneficiaries.

There are various other opportunities for caring Lutherans to support worthy causes: direct gifts; support via their congregations' budgets; participation in the United Lutheran Appeal, www.uladc.org; and "leaving a legacy" for the future via planned gifts facilitated by the Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium, www.lutheranplannedgivingdc.org. We encourage wise and generous stewardship of all the gifts that God has bestowed on us.

HOW TO PURCHASE GIFTS OF HOPE DURING ADVENT 2009

Purchase Gifts of Hope at a sales event in your local congregation. Most congregations in the Metro D.C. area host sales events during Advent.

1. Review this catalog at church or on the web at www.GiftsOfHopeMetroDC.org.
2. Fill in an order form, available at church or on the web.
3. Write a check to your church or pay in cash.
4. For each gift purchased, receive a gift card and envelope and an insert describing your gift. The actual gift will be delivered by the ministry or organization to the beneficiary.

WORDS OF THANKS

From LSS: Your gifts help us continue to ensure that refugees can rebuild their lives and gain self-sufficiency because they have access to transportation that carries them to job interviews, grocery stores, and vital appointments; children living with HIV/AIDS have nutritious snacks to fuel their weakened bodies after taking life-saving medications; children and parents may be reunited or at least questions about birth relatives can be answered thanks to your support of adoption search and reunion efforts; and children in foster care now have the chance to laugh, learn, and be adventuresome because of your generous support of a child's outing adventure. Many, many thanks to you.

From Southeast Ministries: The generous support of Gifts of Hope has touched the lives of many people east of the Anacostia River, a neighborhood plagued by poverty and violence. A sample of the impact that your 2008 gifts made include providing new books for over 45 children in our Books for a Brighter Future program to take home, keep and begin building their own libraries; eye glasses for a 55 year-old grandmother who attended our Adult Basic Education classes for over 9 months, and is so excited to be able to read the text and board more easily; and tools for a job readiness graduate who was accepted into the construction apprenticeship program and is on his way to self-sufficiency. Thank you very much. Please know that these funds truly benefit people who have very limited resources. The gifts, no matter what the size, are much appreciated and make a difference in our community.

GIFTS OF HOPE DESCRIPTIONS

GIFTS THAT BRING JOY

1. Comfy Feet Slippers

NLH \$20

Give custom booties that keep feet warm, improve circulation, accommodate swelling, and ease problems from bunions and edema. A welcome, warm comfort for the elderly.

2. Ice Cream Treats

CFLS \$5

Provide ice cream and other treats for disadvantaged children in CFLS programs. Ice cream is an incentive, a reward, and just plain fun.

3. A Week of Summer Camp for a Child

CFLC \$250

Help send a needy child to camp to experience the beauty of nature, the fun of sports, and God's love expressed through new friends and caring staff.

4. Nutritious Snacks after Medication

LSS \$10

Provide healthy snacks for campers after they have taken their medications. Camp Safe Haven is an overnight camp for low-income children with HIV/AIDS.

5. Summer Enrichment Activities

GSH \$35

Treat formerly homeless children to swimming lessons, camp crafts, tutoring, gymnastics, and trips to museums—activities that make summer a time for learning and fun.

6. Reading Club Books

THC \$20

Give a month's supply of children's books for the Partner Arms Reading Club—four paperback books for a child or teenager.

7. Sports Equipment for Campers

MLR \$30

Buy new sports equipment to be enjoyed by campers at Mar Lu Ridge: balls, bows & arrows, rock climbing equipment and other types of sporting equipment.

8. Adventure for a Foster Child

LSS \$25

Bolster children's participation in enrichment and social programs throughout the year: a Christmas party with Santa, and trips to the zoo, museums, and an amusement park.

9. A Basket of Books

SEM \$5

Southeast Ministry has a basket of free books for kids in the reception area and shelves of new and used books for adults. Keep the basket filled!

GIFTS THAT PROVIDE FOR DAILY NEEDS

10. Medical Care for Low-Income Families

LVC \$25

Help support a Lutheran Volunteer Corps Member working in a clinic that provides free medical care to uninsured families in Washington, D.C.

11. A New Mattress

NSV \$100

Furnish a room with a new mattress or bed frames in facilities where N Street Village provides overnight accommodations to homeless women.

12. Thermal Underwear

CFLS \$20

Provide thermal underwear to warm a homeless person in the D.C. area during the winter months.

13. In-Home Assistance

FSF \$15

Help a senior with housekeeping, taking proper medications, and daily chores so they can continue to live safely at home.

14. Bread and Milk for Children in El Salvador

LCES \$10

Provide food and shelter to abandoned children as well as lunches for homeless persons of all ages through a program of the Lutheran Church in El Salvador.

15. Mentoring and Educating At-Risk Youth

LVC \$35

Support an LVC volunteer working with youth at risk for gang involvement, drug use, teen pregnancy, and other problems. The volunteers teach and become role models to the young people.

16. Vision Aids for the Elderly

NLH \$15

Fund the purchase of magnifying glasses, reading glasses, reading machines, and prescription glasses for the residents at the National Lutheran Home.

17. Dental Care

FSF \$25

Help low-income elderly persons get needed dental care which can be expensive and is not covered by Medicare.

18. Kitchen Essentials

LSS \$65

Make life easier for a newly-arrived refugee family by supplying their kitchen with basic needs for home cooking: saucepan, frying pan, baking dish, mixing bowls, can opener, trash can, etc.

19. Medical Supplies

NSV \$25

Provide basic medical supplies, from non-alcoholic cold and flu medications to reading glasses, to NSV residents who often have low immunity and medical needs year round.

20. Assist at a Food Bank

LVC \$30

Support a Lutheran Volunteer Corps member working at a local food bank to collect, organize, and distribute food to families and individuals who otherwise might go hungry. In these economic times, the requests made to the food bank are growing.

21. Funds to Travel to Class

SEM \$15

GED students may miss a class simply because they have no bus token or metro card. Help these struggling students achieve their goals by providing funds for public transportation.

22. Physician Co-Pay FSF \$15
Cover the co-pay costs for low-income seniors when they must visit a doctor. Without this support, treatment may be delayed.

23. Sheets and Pillowcases NSV \$30
NSV provides overnight accommodations for homeless women in Washington, D.C. Help make these women comfortable with a set of new sheets and pillowcases.

24. Breakfast and Other Hot Meals CFLS \$25
Serve a hot breakfast to 10 homeless men, women, and children on a cold winter morning. CFLS also provides other meals to the homeless at this time of growing need.

25. Bus or Metro Fare Card NSV \$15
Provide transportation for a homeless woman served by Bethany Women's Center at N Street Village so she can get to a medical appointment or job interview.

26. Winter Coat or Heavy Boots CFLS \$50
Buy a homeless man or woman a warm winter coat or lined boots for protection from cold days on the street.

27. Nutritious Meals for a Week FSF \$20
Supply seven healthy meals for a low-income resident at a Fellowship Square Foundation residence.

GIFTS THAT BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

28. School or Exam Fees ELCRN \$60
Help keep a Namibian child in school by paying the annual \$30 school admission fee and a \$30 required exam fee. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia provides some educational aid, but cannot support all children.

29. Supplies for GED Student SEM \$20
Equip a GED student with a calculator, dictionary, binders, and subject workbooks so he or she is ready for the class and can be prepared for the GED exam.

30. Chair for a Chapel LCS \$20
Purchase a chair for a chapel being furnished for the General Bishop's Office in Bratislava, Slovakia, for use in common prayer and worship services for employees and visitors.

31. School Supplies and Computer Equipment LCES \$45
Fund upgrades for computers in local schools in El Salvador and purchase school supplies. The Lutheran Church in El Salvador will distribute the funds to schools in rural areas.

32. Language Classes for Refugees LSS \$40
Help recent refugees rebuild their lives with a gift of two months of English language classes that will help them join the workforce and adapt to their new life in the U.S.

33. Bibles for Namibian Seminary Students ELCIN/ELCRN \$30
Assist an incoming student, preparing for the Lutheran ministry at Paulinum Seminary, by giving a set of two books: a Bible and an African Bible Commentary. Students are eager to learn, but most cannot afford to buy books.

34. Renovation of the Liptovsky Mikulas School in Slovakia LCS \$50
Purchase a replacement door, flooring, or other supplies to renovate this Lutheran school which is not eligible to receive government funds. The school is very popular because of its reputation for quality education.

35. Educational Session for a Slovakian Pastoral Intern LCS \$20
Support an intern preparing for final pastoral exams by paying for an educational session at the Theological Conference, a retreat program that supports the education of chaplains and pastors, still in short supply in Slovakia.

36. Student Stipend SEM \$25
Provide a weekly stipend for GED and job-readiness students in Southeast Ministry programs. These stipends encourage good attendance and celebrate achievement.

37. Historic Renovation of Finnish Mission ELCIN \$50
Help the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia renovate and develop an historic, 1870 Finnish mission in Omandong, northern Namibia. This will honor its origins and attract visitors to the area. The immediate need is to fence the area and begin reconstruction of the small chapel.

38. Child/Teen Wellness Program THC \$50
Support one month's participation by a Partner Arms child or teen resident in the THC Wellness Program of fitness, health, nutrition, family life skills, and activities.

39. Salary Support for a Pastor LCES \$100
Pay a pastor's salary for a week or a deacon's for two weeks. The money goes to an ELCA endowment fund for stability and regularity of payment to clergy and lay church workers in El Salvador.

40. \$

*The commandment that we have from him is this:
those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. (1 John 4:21)*

GIFTS OF HOPE BENEFICIARIES

International Church Organizations (Companion Synods)

Lutheran Church in El Salvador

The LCES provides spiritual guidance, hope and reconciliation to El Salvadoran people who lack fulfillment of basic needs. Unemployment, lack of basic health care, and violence are daily occurrences for some, with women, senior citizens, and children among those most vulnerable. The church works with allied ministries to provide for basic needs, education, and health care for many in urban and rural areas.

www.elca.org/countrypackets

LCES

ELCIN/ELCRN

Lutheran Churches in Namibia

Two Lutheran bodies—ELCIN (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia) and ELCRN (Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia) cooperatively support a Lutheran Seminary in Namibia and each also sustains other educational and economic projects to improve life and livelihood and to meet spiritual needs of the Namibian people.

www.elca.org/countrypackets

LCS

Lutheran Churches in Slovakia

Since 1989 LCS, with the assistance of missionaries and financial support from partner churches, has reclaimed most of its pre-World War II properties, reopened numerous Lutheran secondary and elementary schools, established a Lutheran Theological Seminary complex in Bratislava, and begun outreach to the Roma (Gypsy) community.

www.elca.org/countrypackets

Metro DC Synod Social Ministry Organizations (SMO)s

Community Family Life Services

CFLS facilitates personal growth, independence, and integration into a healthy community through a Continuum of Care model for its low-income and homeless clients, regardless of their faith. Its programs in housing, supportive services, emergency services, after school and summer camp, and employment development target the root causes of poverty and homelessness and aim to resolve short-term crises needs, as well as to enable people to achieve permanent economic and social self-sufficiency.

www.cflsdc.org

CFLS

LSS

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area

Proclaiming God's grace, LSS/NCA compassionately works to create a society where the most vulnerable among us find wholeness, justice, and self-sufficiency. LSS provides professional social services; assists congregations in identifying and responding to human needs; and advocates for social justice, individual self-sufficiency, and the inherent worth of each human being. LSS is well known for its adoptions program, refugee resettlement and employment services, foster care, innovative programs for youth affected by HIV/AIDS, and emergency preparedness/disaster response.

www.lssnca.org

SEM

Southeast Ministry

Southeast Ministry (SEM), a joint ministry of Church of the Reformation (DC) and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, provides a ministry of hope for over 500 men, women and children a year. In the southeast part of D.C., SEM operates a GED preparation program, the Anacostia Mentoring and Employment Network (AMEN) Job Readiness training, an Ex-Offender support group, and an after school literacy and literature program for disadvantaged children.

www.reformationdc.org/Ministries/southeastministry.html

Fellowship Square Foundation

FSF provides housing and related services to low-income individuals, especially the elderly and handicapped, in the Washington Metro area. More than just a landlord providing shelter and collecting rent, FSF provides a caring staff, a comfortable, secure living environment worthy of being called "home", and special services such as beauty and barber shops, libraries, social halls, recreational facilities, and places for religious expression. Such environments and services enhance the personal freedom, independence, confidence, and well-being of its residents.

www.fellowshipsquare.org

FSF

LVC

Lutheran Volunteer Corps

The LVC is a year-long service program for people 21 and over seeking to unite faith, social justice, community living, and simplicity. Volunteers, matched with non-profit organizations in 10 metro areas across the U.S., work full-time in various positions ranging from direct social services, to political advocacy, community organizing, education, and activism. LVC volunteers strive to grow spiritually by working for social justice while living together in intentional communities, simplifying their lifestyles, and managing on a minimum stipend.

www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org

THC

Transitional Housing Corporation

Founded in 1990, THC is a faith-based non-profit organization. With three apartment buildings totaling 40 apartments, THC provides transitional housing and support services for families moving from the streets or shelters to permanent housing and stable independent lives.

www.thcdc.org

Good Shepherd Housing Foundation

GSH, serving the Prince William County (VA) community since 1989, provides permanent supportive housing and support service solutions for persons with chronic low income due to mental or physical disabilities, teenage or single parenthood, HIV/AIDS or age. GSH's Shepherd homes offers affordable supportive housing for chronically mentally ill adults. Grayson Gardens Horticultural Therapy combines the therapeutic nature of gardening with the needs of the developmentally disabled and the chronically mentally ill. And the Housing Partnership Program provides affordable, permanent supportive housing for single head-of-household families who have graduated from area transitional housing programs.

www.goodshepherdhousing.org

GSH

NLH

National Lutheran Home

A Lutheran-sponsored continuing care retirement community, with an independent living village and a large nursing home in Rockville, Maryland. The NLH has served Metropolitan Washington and surrounding areas for over 100 years, and is well-respected for its fine facilities and especially for its extraordinary caring service. The NLH currently is planning a second campus in the Winchester, Virginia area.

www.nlha.org

MLR

Lutheran Camps

Mar-Lu-Ridge (MLR), an outdoor ministry of the ELCA situated in Central Maryland's Catoctin Mountains, ministers through its summer camp, retreat and conference center, and other programs throughout the year— providing experiences to change lives, make disciples, build friendships, and create Christian communities.

www.mar-lu-ridge.org

CFLC

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp (CFLC), a year-round ministry of the Metro DC, Virginia and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synods of the ELCA, provides an intentional Christian Community experience where one meets God in God's awesome creation— over 300 acres of central Virginia's hills, streams, ponds, and forest. With its summer camp, retreat facilities, trained staff and beautiful environment, Caroline Furnace offers a place to learn and grow with others in the faith.

www.carolinefurnace.org

NSV

N Street Village

Founded by Luther Place Memorial Church (DC) in 1978, N Street Village empowers homeless and low-income women to claim their highest quality of life by offering a broad spectrum of services and advocacy in an atmosphere of dignity and respect, including transitional, permanent and addiction recovery housing; night shelter; wellness center; day program; and employment services. NSV also provides affordable housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families.

www.nstreetvillage.org