

Update: On Serving Immigrants & more

On Serving Immigrants

I am frequently asked about the numbers of Latino families served by LUM. My response is always the same: very, very few. I would suggest that less than 1% of those served by LUM in recent years are ethnically Latino. With fear of being overly general, my observation is that Latino families tend to be more stable and intact than others served by LUM. I find the work ethic to be very strong in our local Latino community. Perhaps these are reasons why LUM serves so few households from this community.

My sense is that questions about LUM's service to Latino families are all too often motivated by more than concern for others or simple curiosity – although there certainly is that. My sense is that the questions sometimes come from a more ungracious place.

Recently, the LUM Board studied the issue of immigration. Here's what they concluded: The Bible directs how we should relate to immigrants. The Old Testament describes God's admonishment to the Israelites: "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." LV 19:33-34

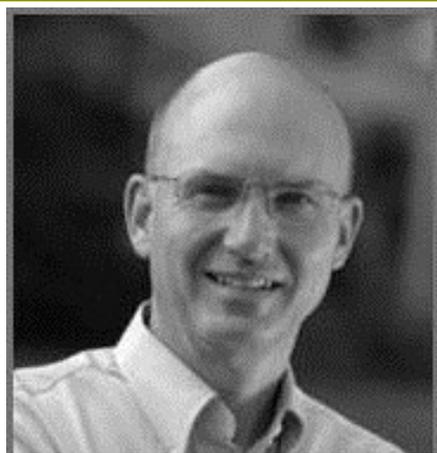
In the New Testament, Jesus commands us to welcome the stranger "For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison, and did not take look after me." Matthew 25:45 further adds "I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these; you did not do it for me."

LUM's Mission Statement says: *Ours is a Christian ministry that welcomes congregations and people of all faiths. We give witness to God's saving love and prophetic power by loving neighbors, seeking justice, empowering the least among us, and renewing the Church's social ministry.* In 1990 LUM passed its Racial Equality Action Plan and has left it unchanged for 22 years: No applicant or recipient of services or benefits provided by the Lafayette Urban Ministry shall suffer discrimination due to his/her race, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, physical handicap, sexual orientation, political association or belief, or union affiliation or activity.

So it was with a sense of consistency and continuity that after its study, the LUM Board passed the following statement:

- We affirm Lafayette Urban Ministry as a social justice ministry.
- We believe and advocate for maintaining the principles of equality, human rights and dignity of all.
- We advocate basic services of life, health, education, and well-being for children and adults who need our services regardless of immigration status.
- We oppose policies that separate families.
- We support exploring pathways to citizenship for immigrants.

These statements reaffirm our ministry. They encourage our board, volunteers and staff to incorporate these principles into LUM's programs, practices and mission. I think the LUM board did a terrific job. [What do you think?](#)



Joe Micon, Executive Director

Beth Ann Winebrenner Social Justice Fund

The Lafayette Urban Ministry Board has voted to establish the *Beth Ann Winebrenner Social Justice Fund* as a tribute to long-time LUM friend and donor [Beth Ann Winebrenner](#). Beth Ann, passed away on Sunday, March 11, 2012 in Notre Dame, Indiana leaving LUM \$94,000.



"Beth Ann had a special joy about her," says LUM Executive Director Joe Micon. "She was a professional social worker who did a tremendous amount of good for the world. I am very saddened by her passing."

Beth Ann married Louis Balazs, on May 27, 1984. She referred to him interchangeably as both her husband and soul mate! They traveled extensively to Europe and Asia, working for the rights of Russian Jewish dissidents. Louis was a professor in the Physics Department at Purdue and passed away on December 26, 2000.

The Beth Ann Winebrenner Social Justice Fund will be used to help fund LUM's public policy advocacy on behalf of at-risk children and working families. "Beth Ann showed her faith in God and compassion for others by the way she lived her life," said Micon. "I can think of no more fitting tribute than allowing her legacy and spirit to continue through the designation of this new named fund."

LUM is so grateful to Beth Ann for remembering in her final wishes those we serve here."

Not the Marrying Kind Lecture



Interested in viewing this informative lecture by Dr. Sarah Mustillo of Purdue's Department of Sociology?

Just go to LUM's YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/LUMinistry) and view the lecture by clicking [HERE](#).

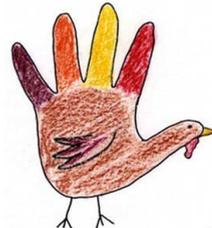
The Lecture was presented to 40 pastors of Lafayette Urban Ministry member churches on August 25 and again to the LUM Board and staff on September 19, 2012.

LUM is grateful to Dr. Mustillo for taking the time to research and present the facts and figures surrounding the issue of increased non-marital births and their impact upon the economic well-being of children. We are grateful for her help in beginning a conversation of obvious import to LUM and the families and children we serve.

LUM Thanksgiving Celebration

The Lafayette Urban Ministry's Annual Community [Thanksgiving Celebration](#) will be held again this year on Thanksgiving Day at [Central Presbyterian Church](#). More than 800 people will be served. You may volunteer or contribute food by clicking [HERE](#).

Call or email [Heather Hansen](#) for more information at (765)423-2691 or hhansen@lafayetteurbanministry.org



Please share this e-Newsletter with others as you deem appropriate.

Questions or comments?
E-mail us at lum@lafayetteurbanministry.org or call (765) 423-2691



Follow LUM on