



Update: LUM Emergency Shelter

LUM's 32 Year Commitment to the Homeless

...a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And he stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will."
Matt 8:2-3

Dear Friend,

If Jesus were here today, I think he would perform miracles that involved the homeless. Just as he cleansed the man with leprosy, Jesus would challenge us to look with kindness and compassion upon those in our own time who are hardest to love.



At the Lafayette Urban Ministry, we have provided overnight shelter to our homeless guests more than 210,000 times since our facility first opened in 1984. We know better than most how it is that the homeless end up on the street and the monumental challenges they face in returning to a life of normalcy.

Many of our guests struggle with mental illnesses that prevent them from holding a job or leasing an apartment. Some are addicted to drugs or alcohol and have long ago burned bridges with family and friends.

Some guests are victims of domestic abuse. Others have just been released from prison, often ostracized by employers. Still others have illnesses or disabilities and are without the means to care for themselves.

One doesn't find himself a guest in LUM's shelter unless the social fabric of his life has come unwound. The first impulse for many of us is to look the other way or to blame homeless individuals for the poor decisions of the past.

But sometimes, it is those who are hardest to love that Jesus calls us to serve.

At LUM, we wish we had the power to perform an actual miracle that would cure each of our homeless guests of the personal challenges that confound them. Instead, we concentrate on what we are able to do... show compassion, offer encouragement and provide each with real, tangible support

The Lafayette Urban Ministry provides more than just a well-run, safe and secure emergency shelter. We help the homeless with the tools they need to move out of our shelter. We have helped literally thousands of homeless men and women to make a fresh start.

It is not easy work. And not every story is a success story.

But for more than 30 years, we have been absolutely committed to helping our homeless neighbors move on to more productive, self-sufficient lives.

I hope you will join me in supporting this important work with your dollars.

Your gift of \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 will keep LUM's shelter open and staffed. It will help us to provide our homeless guests with the support they need to leave our shelter for more independent living.

Most of all, it will be a faithful expression of your concern for those, who like the leper cleansed by Jesus, are not always easy to love.

May we hear from you today?

Gratefully,

Joe Micon
Executive Director
Lafayette Urban Ministry

PS: Please give online at www.lumserve.org/donate or mail in your donation to Lafayette Urban Ministry, 420 N 4th Street, Lafayette, IN 47901

At the Lafayette Urban Ministry Shelter for the Homeless:

- We provide a safe, secure and clean overnight shelter for up to 44 guests each night.
- We help those who are physically disabled or newly employed with the professional case management services they need to more quickly leave the support of our shelter.
- We reunite our guests with the support of friends and family.
- We help the homeless to cut through the bureaucratic red tape they face when trying to re-establish their legal identities. Without a valid picture ID, a homeless individual will never secure housing, employment or public assistance benefits.
- We provide direct financial assistance to help our guests pay for initial rent costs, the costs associated with starting employment and the cost of transportation to enable them to reach the support of family or friends.



Today—We Remember—September 11, 2001



Today— we remember the Heroes, Survivors and Victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

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