

By Kara Brown, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The Center for Lay Ministries has been providing services to our community for more than 56 years. Our Food Pantry and Bliss House Recovery Program are needed now more than ever!



CLM Food Pantry Reaches New Record for Clients Served in a Day

The CLM Food Pantry continues to see a steady increase in the number of households seeking assistance. Rising food and housing costs are making it increasingly difficult for families and individuals to make ends meet. More neighbors are walking through our doors looking for food. In August, we reached a new record of providing food to 131 households in one day! We are committed to being a place where everyone who needs food is welcomed with compassion and treated with dignity. But meeting this growing need requires your support. Every food donation, financial gift, and hour volunteered helps us keep our shelves stocked and ensures that we can continue serving our neighbors.

Celebrating Two Bliss House Graduates

We've had lots to celebrate in the CLM Bliss House this summer. Two women graduated from the Bliss House Recovery Program, marking an important milestone in their journeys toward lasting recovery and independent living. Graduation represents much more than completing a program—it represents courage, perseverance, and the beginning of a new chapter. We are incredibly proud of these women and grateful to everyone who walks alongside them through their recovery journey. Their successes remind us why this work matters.

Save the Date: Give for Good Louisville — September 10

One of the most important opportunities to support CLM this fall is Give for Good Louisville on Thursday, September 10. Your gift can help provide food to a growing number of families and individuals through the Food Pantry while also supporting women as they work toward recovery and independent living through Bliss House. When our community comes together, those individual gifts can make a tremendous impact.

Please mark your calendar for September 10. Go to www.giveforgoodlouisville.org and search for Center for Lay Ministries to donate. Your generosity helps us continue providing food, hope, recovery, and a pathway toward a better future for our neighbors.

Thank you for standing with the Center for Lay Ministries and helping us make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families in our community.

--Kara

Bliss House Recovery Program is Ready for Fall

By Stephanie Satterly, Bliss House Director

If you know me, you know this is my favorite time of year. The leaves start changing, pumpkin-flavored everything takes over the grocery store, and—most importantly—I no longer have to pretend I enjoy sweating just from walking to my car. Summer and I have never really been friends, so I'm always excited to welcome fall. But beyond my personal celebration of cooler weather, fall is a reminder that change can be beautiful. Trees don't cling to the leaves they've outgrown—they let them go, trusting that what's next is worth it.

That's a lesson we see every day at Bliss House. Recovery is full of letting go: old habits, unhealthy relationships, fear, shame, and the lies we've believed about ourselves for far too long. It isn't always comfortable, but neither is growth. Watching our residents embrace change, support one another, and continue building lives they can be proud of is one of the greatest privileges of this work. Every season brings something new, and we're grateful to everyone who continues to walk alongside us—our volunteers, donors, supporters, alumni, and community. Thank you for believing in second chances and for helping make Bliss House a place where hope continues to grow.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have hoodies to wear, candles to light, and a caramel apple cold brew that's not going to drink itself. Here's to cooler weather and warmer hearts!



Thank you to Turner Construction Company, the LPX Group and Luis Ramos Asphalt for patching and painting the CLM parking lot this summer. It looks awesome! We appreciate you all volunteering your time and the necessary supplies for this project. Thank you for your continued support of CLM!

Bliss House Wish List

- College Ruled Notebooks
- Pen/Highlighters
- Deodorant/Body Wash
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- Laundry Detergent
- Cleaning Supplies
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Halloween Candy

Food Pantry Wish List

- Peanut Butter
- Cereal
- Spaghetti & Sauce
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Deodorant/Body Wash
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

CLM Food Pantry Volunteer Corner

By Rhonda Grangier, Volunteer Coordinator

Celebrating Our Volunteers Who Make a Difference

Every week, our food pantry is filled with more than food—it's filled with compassion, generosity, and people who care about our neighbors. At the heart of it all are our incredible volunteers.

Our volunteers give their time, energy, and kindness to help make sure families and individuals in our community have access to the food they need.

From picking up at retail/Dare to Care locations, sorting donations and stocking shelves, to packing boxes, greeting guests, and helping with distribution, every task plays an important role.

But your impact goes far beyond the work you do. A friendly smile, a warm welcome, or a helping hand can make someone's day a little easier during a difficult time. Our volunteers help create a food pantry where everyone is treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.

We are grateful for volunteers who show up week after week, as well as those who lend a hand whenever they can. Your willingness to serve reminds us that meaningful change often begins with simple acts of kindness.

To all of our food pantry volunteers: THANK YOU. Thank you for giving your time, sharing your talents, and caring for our community. Your dedication makes a real difference, and we could not do what we do without you.

Together, we are not only providing food—we are building a stronger, more caring community, one neighbor at a time.

If you are interested in volunteering, you can contact Rhonda at volunteers@layministries.org.



Thanks to the **First Merchants Senior Management Team** for volunteering at the CLM Food Pantry as part of the First Merchants C.A.R.E.S. Day! They worked hard cleaning up our landscaping around the pantry. Thank you for being great community partners!



Thank you to **Clark County 4-H** for the huge donation of bottled water. They collected water and donations during the Clark County 4-H Fair. We appreciate your support of the CLM food Pantry!



Huge thanks go out to the employees of CTDI Jeffersonville for their donation! They collected 5,063 pounds of food for the CLM Food Pantry. We are so grateful for your generosity to help feed our neighbors.



Thank you to our friend Kynton for his mission of providing cars for our young visitors to the Food Pantry. The kids have loved getting the gift of a car! We love to see young people caring for others in need.



Thank you to our friends in the Stone Creek Village and Wathen-Cherokee Terrace neighborhoods for holding food drives in their neighborhoods this summer! They each collected over 1,000 pounds of food! Contact Julie at Julie@layministries.org if you'd like to hold a food drive in your neighborhood.



We're proud to partner with the National Association of Letter Carriers for the largest single-day food drive in the United States, Stamp Out Hunger every May. Thank you to the letter carriers and to everyone who donated to Stamp Out Hunger this year!



Thank you to Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Otisco for collecting food to feed families in need! We appreciate you and all of our church partners!

Summer Celebration for Volunteers

The CLM Food Pantry hosted a Summer Celebration to show our heartfelt appreciation for our amazing volunteers and to thank them for the time, compassion, and dedication they give to serving our community. We celebrated with ice cream treats from the NWSB Fun Truck, musical entertainment by the R & R Duo, and cookies baked by Ruthie and LuAnn.



Give for Good Louisville — September 10

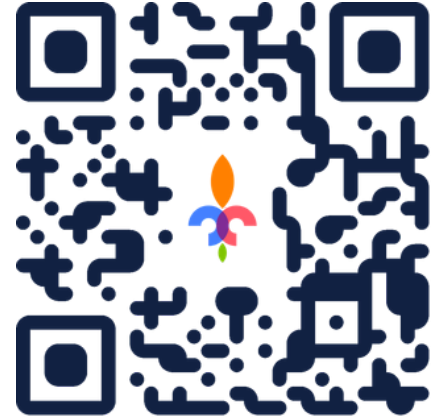
Mark your calendar for September 10 and Give for Good to the Center for Lay Ministries!

The needs in our community continue to grow. More individuals and families are turning to the CLM Food Pantry for help, while women at the CLM Bliss House are working hard to build lives of recovery, stability, and independence.

Your online donation during Give for Good Louisville can help the Center for Lay Ministries continue providing food to our neighbors and supporting women as they work toward a brighter future.

Every gift makes a difference. No matter the size of your gift, every donation helps us meet the growing needs in our community and continue providing hope and support to those we serve.

Please join us on September 10 and make a difference with your gift to the Center for Lay Ministries! Click the QR code or go to www.giveforgoodlouisville.org and search for the Center for Lay Ministries to donate.



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