

FOCUS ON FILLING

Fall 2025

Every Masterpiece Tells a Story at Trinity Place of Filling Homes

For Lucretia, decorating her own cake is more than just a treat - it's a joyful expression of creativity and confidence!

More on page 4.



Lutheran Ministries of Mercy:

THRIVING THROUGH THE SEASONS

Dear Friends, Families, and Supporters,

It's incredible to think that the LSS food pantry is celebrating 50 years of service within an organization that has ministered to the greater Toledo community for more than a century...or that Luther Home will soon celebrate its centennial anniversary...or Filling Home, the youngest of our organizations, now has more than half a century of caring under its belt.

Born from small gatherings of friends and neighbors, stirred by faith and the pressing needs of our communities, these organizations began humbly: feeding the hungry, caring for the disabled. Guided by scripture and empowered by prayer, early efforts were never about numbers but about love, one person and one family at a time.

As the seasons have passed, through faithful endurance and deep-rooted partnerships, our organizations have steadily evolved and grown. We have embraced innovation without compromising mission, have integrated technology, weathered economic fluctuations, and evolving public policy. Leadership has passed from one faithful generation to the next, carrying with it the founding vision, yet continually shaped by the evolving needs of the world around us. Where once we served tens...then hundreds...now thousands...we remain driven by a continuing call to mission...a call to love God...love people...and bring hope where it's needed most.

Today, our ministries emerge stronger than ever, rejoicing in the blessings of the past and continuing as adaptive, vibrant communities of service. Thank you for joining us in another season of this important work.

Sincerely,




Terri Rodriguez
President and CEO
Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

YEAR-END GIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.—Psalm 136:1

As we start to think about celebrating the holidays with family and friends, we are reminded of God's love. And while gifting presents to loved ones is a hallmark of the holiday season, charitable giving is also at its highest during this time of year.

According to our research, nearly one-third of annual giving occurs during the last three months of the year. Please consider these tips as you make your giving choices.

1

Decide what matters to you!

No matter which organization you choose, there is no wrong gift when it comes to making a difference.

2

Do your research.

Visit our websites or Candid.org to learn all about our organizations. We maintain up-to-date fiscal and program information on these sites.

3

Tax deduction eligibility.

In addition to benefiting your chosen charity, your donation may also qualify for a tax deduction. Your financial advisor will help you make the best choices for your charitable giving goals.

A Message from Carol Slight

Vice President, Filling Homes

Happy Fall!

As the air turns crisp and the leaves begin to show their colors, I find myself reflecting on the beauty of community and how each person, each gift, and each act of kindness adds its own shade to something greater.

This fall, that beauty is on full display downtown, where artists from Filling Homes have helped create the new pocket park mural which was recently revealed. Watching individuals of all abilities bring their ideas and colors to life has been pure joy. Those murals aren't just art. They're a celebration of inclusion, creativity, and the amazing things that happen when our community comes together.

Beyond the murals, the spirit of Filling Homes continues to shine in every corner of our ministry. From residential homes to day services, employment skills training to supported living, each program is filled with stories of growth, friendship, and faith in action. Our teams and the people we serve inspire one another daily, reminding us what it truly means to live with purpose and joy.

To all who continue to support Filling Homes through your prayers, your time, and your giving, I thank you. You make it possible for the people we serve to live out their gifts and share them with the others. Your compassion and generosity continue to brighten lives.

With appreciation and blessings,

Carol Slight



Carol Slight
Vice President



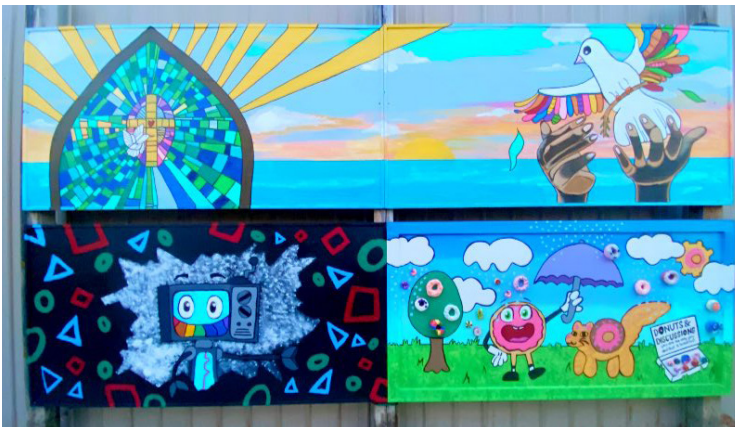
Amy Krassow
Director of ICF Services



Jenny Borgelt
Director of Community Services



Chelsea RedFox
Director of Mission Advancement



2025 marks the eighth year that Soaring Arts has partnered with the City of Napoleon to create beautiful murals in the Downtown Pocket Park. A combination of creative expression and community support that continues to brighten our shared spaces.

Each new piece reflects the talents and perspectives of local artists while reminding us how art can bring people together and inspire inclusion in our community.

About the Cover: Spotlight on Lucretia

At Filling Homes' Trinity Place Adult Day Services, Lucretia shines as a woman of many talents. A longtime fan of anime, she is an active member of the anime club in partnership with Soaring Arts. Excitingly, the club has been selected as a vendor at DefCom-X at the Defiance Northtowne Mall on November 15 - a wonderful opportunity to share their creativity with the community!

Beyond her love for anime, Lucretia is also an accomplished seamstress. From sewing clothes and costumes to stitching cozy blankets for her beloved unicorn, she pours care and imagination into every piece she creates. Many of her works are available for purchase at Trinity Place.

Recently, Lucretia celebrated her birthday surrounded by friends and staff. True to her creative spirit, she even decorated her own birthday cake. It was a joyful day that highlighted not only her artistic talent but also the special freindships she's built at Trinity Place.

We invite you to stop by and browse the unique artwork and handmade items created by Lucretia and other talented artists. Our gallery is open to the public Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. and is located at 3570 St. Rt. 576, Bryan, Ohio. The paintings below were in Lucretia's first art exhibit!



Filling Homes Guild - Open to All

The Filling Homes Guild has a long and caring history. What began as the Women's Guild has grown into a welcoming community for everyone who shares a heart for our mission. By joining, you'll be part of a circle of friends who support individuals with developmental disabilities through encouragement, service, and fellowship. It's a way to carry forward a proud tradition while opening new doors of inclusion and joy. We'd love to welcome you into the guild and invite you to come join us, make friends, and be part of something truly meaningful.

Dues are \$1.00 minimum (or more - free will donation). This membership drive is for active Guild members as well as for those that wish to be monetary supporters only.

If you would like more information about the Guild, please call Cathy Aschemeier, Guild Second Vice President, at 419-267-3453. Membership dues can be sent to Cathy as well at 01610 Walnut Grove Rd., Defiance, OH 43512. The membership drive will run through November 15, 2025 and all membership and dues are asked to be in by December 1, 2025. Your place in the Guild is waiting!

Festival of Tables: A Celebration of Creativity and Community

Late September brought another fantastic Festival of Tables, presented by the Women's Guild of Filling Homes and sponsored by Hylant! 17 beautifully decorated tables hosted by 15 amazing hosts and hostesses filled the room with creativity, laughter, and joy. Themes ranged from "Oh My Gourd, I Love Fall" and "Communication Through the Years" to "Par-Tea Time" and "There's No Place Like Filling Home".

The event raised a grand total of \$3,905.25 supporting programs and services for the clients and residents of Filling Homes.

Congratulations to the Snow Queens from Zion Lutheran in Defiance, winners of the People's Choice Award! Thanks to all our hosts, volunteers, Hylant, and Thrivent Action Teams for making it possible.

Would you like to join the fun next year? Be a guest, volunteer, or hosts a table and help create lasting memories!



People's Choice Winner - Zion Lutheran Church, Defiance "Snow Queens".



"Pineapple Paradise" themed table hosted by Cassie Norden.



Terri Rodriguez, LMM President and CEO along with Andrew Kelleher of Hylant, the event corporate Sponsor seated at the "Par-Tea Time" table.



Filling Homes staff and volunteers for the event: Jennifer Lambert, Morgan Mazuchowski, Sarah Jackson and Cindy Kern.

GIVING TUESDAY

Save the Date

December 2, 2025

Your generosity helps create moments of joy, independence, and opportunity for those we serve. Together, we can lift spirits and brighten futures!



THE FILLING HOME FOUNDATION

WE SINCERELY THANK OUR FRIENDS WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY.

In Memory of

Adolph Beinke

Sam & Beverly Costello
North Olmsted, OH

Chuck Nagel

Kevin & Kathy Sonnenberg
Napoleon, OH

Dan Shining

Rob & Renee Timbrook
Perrysburg, OH
The Andersons
Maumee, OH

Doug Schmidt

Glenn & Patricia Alexander
Miamisburg, OH

Gary Delventhal

Doug & Susan Fruth
Napoleon, OH

Gina Gaietto

Doreen Gaietto
Tiffin, OH

Ian Pozarzycki

Julia Rhodes
Bryan, OH

Karen Kemper

Thomas & Cheryl Hoefler
Kettering, OH

Keith Sonnenberg

Marian Dickmann
Napoleon, OH

Larry Basselman

Patricia Basselman
Archbold, OH

Mary Ann DeWit

Elnora Hohenbrink
Holgate, OH

Rev. Donald Hare

Barbara Hare
Celina, OH

Ruth Ann Martin

Bob & Elaine Keinath
Reese, MI

William (Pookie) Hamilton

"S.K. & P.L. Hamilton Living Trust"
Toledo, OH

In Honor of

Krissy Kargoff

Earl & Janice LaGorin
Sarasota, FL

Geri Alexander

Linda Meyers
Kettering, OH

Deb and Joe Butler

Roger and Deborah Benz
Willard, OH

Rebecca Eddington

Audrey Sutton
Clyde, OH



**YOUR GIFTS CREATE
HAPPINESS!**

Individual Gifts

Andy Miller

Waterville, OH

Carol Chatham

Defiance, OH

Carol Schroeder

New Bavaria, OH

Chuck and Jeri Campbell

Toledo, OH

Don and Terri Grimm

Grand Rapids, OH

Donna Frank

Stryker, OH

Douglas and Jill Gilliland

Archbold, OH

Duane Shively

Bowling Green, OH

Individual Gifts Cont.

Gary and Carol Bernath

Napoleon, OH

Glenn and Patricia Alexander

Miamisburg, OH

Jacqueline Williams

St. Marys, OH

John and Wanda Schimpf

Bloomville, OH

Julia Rhodes

Bryan, OH

Kathy Giesige

Defiance, OH

Kurt Meyers

Toledo, OH

Michael & Kimberly Cushman

Napoleon, OH

Paulette Place

Delphos, OH

Reynaldo Camarillo

Napoleon, OH

Sam & Sandy Denn

Wauseon, OH

Shirley Jones

Bloomville, OH

Stanley and Pamela Engle

Leo, IN

Suzanne Johnson

Archbold, OH

Wanda Schlachter

Defiance, OH

Organizational Gifts

Wauseon Women's Guild

Of Filling Memorial Home

Wauseon, OH

Defiance Chapter Of VMCCA

Defiance, OH

Panorama

Claymont, DE

The Blackburn Giving Fund

Charleston, SC

The Kroger Company

Cincinnati, OH

Thrivent Choice

Napoleon, OH



Thank you to the congregation at Zion Lutheran Church, Defiance for your donation of personal care bags for our residents. Your kindness and generosity mean the world to us and the people we serve. Thank you for making a difference in our community!

Pictured are Emma Cohrs, Administrative Assistant, Chelsea RedFox, Director of Mission Advancement accepting the donation from Steve Graf, Zion Defiance.

Congregational Gifts

Evansport United Methodist
Evansport, OH
Napoleon Church Of The Nazarene
Napoleon, OH
Northwestern Ohio Synod, ELCA
Findlay, OH
St. John Lutheran
Deshler, OH
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran
Defiance, OH
St. Paul Lutheran
Sulphur Springs, OH
St. Paul's Lutheran
Napoleon, OH
St. Peter's Lutheran
Edon, OH
Zion Lutheran
Ridgeville, Corners, OH
Zions Lutheran
Defiance, OH

Thrivent Choice

Amy Krassow
Napoleon, OH
Bonnie Ohlrich
Liberty Center, OH
Bradley Baden
Troy, OH
Carol Slight
Napoleon, OH
David Bishop
Deshler, OH
David Crandall
Napoleon, OH
Esther Oberhaus
Napoleon, OH
Gregory Harmon
Perrysburg, OH
Herb Bunke
Clearwater, KS
Jack Retcher
Defiance, OH
Kelli Gerken
Napoleon, OH
Kristan Norden
Napoleon, OH
Louis Streicher
Napoloen, OH
Mary Streicher
Napoleon, OH
Paul Oehrtman
Napoleon, OH
Peggy Harmon
Perrysburg, OH
Rebecca Cordes
Columbus, OH
Robert Jones
Napoleon, OH
Sarah Jackson
Napoleon, OH
Terry Cohrs
Napoleon, OH
Thrivent Choice
Napoleon, OH
Todd Slight
Napoleon, OH
Ward Repogle
Defiance, OH

In Kind Gifts

Andy Miller
Waterville, OH
Donna Frank
Stryker, OH
Douglas & Jill Gilliland
Archbold, OH
Evansport United Methodist
Evansport, OH
Glenn & Patricia Alexander
Miamisburg, OH
Henry County Republican Party
Napoleon, OH
Julia Rhodes
Bryan, OH
Kathy Giesige
Defiance, OH
Mercy Health
Toledo, OH
Michael & Kimberly Cushman
Napoleon, OH
Napoleon Church Of The Nazarene
Napoleon, OH
Oldcastle Napoleon Team
Napoleon, OH
Paulette Place
Delphos, OH
Reynaldo Camarillo
Napoleon, OH
Sam & Sandy Denn
Wauseon, OH
Suzanne Johnson
Archbold, OH
Wauseon Women's Guild
Of Filling Memorial Home
Wauseon, OH
Zions Lutheran Church
Defiance, OH

The gifts listed were received from July 1, 2025 through September 30 2025.

If we have failed to list your name or have listed your gift incorrectly, please accept our apologies and contact Emma Cohrs at 419-592-6451 or emmacohrs@fillinghom.org

Teaching Inclusion from the Start: Growing Hearts that Welcome All

Children learn so much by what they see, hear, and experience. The values instilled in them at an early age help shape the kind of adults they become.

One of the most important lessons we can teach is the value of inclusion and acceptance - especially when it comes to understanding individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

When children spend time with people of all abilities, they discover that differences are not barriers but opportunities for connection and friendship. These early experiences nurture empathy, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone involved.

At Filling Homes Community Center, we see this beauty in action each month when children from Kid's Haven Daycare visit. Whether sharing a game, a laugh, or a simple activity, these moments remind us that inclusion isn't complicated, it begins with an open heart, a welcoming spirit, and the willingness to see the person before the disability.

By teaching children the importance of acceptance now, we help raise a generation that will naturally embrace diversity, advocate for others, and build communities where everyone is valued.

Together, we can ensure that the message of belonging is not just taught, but lived today and for years to come.

How can you be a part of this?

Families & Congregations: Talk with the children in your life about the beauty of differences. Encourage them to welcome and include others. The seeds of compassion planted today will grow into a more inclusive tomorrow.

Supporters & Donors: Your generosity helps create spaces where friendships like these can flourish. Together, we're building a world where everyone belongs.

Do you belong to a group or organization that would like to visit one of our Adult Day Program sites and share your time and talents? Join us for a tour or activity - you'll leave with new friends, joyful memories, and a heart full of gratitude.

For more information, please contact Jenny Borgelt, Director of Community Services, at jennyborgelt@fillinghome.org or 419-592-6451 ext. 1203.



Brianna loves making new friends - and enjoys games and crafts with them.



Matt enjoys spending time outside on the patio with friends from Kid's Haven Daycare.



Water balloon races with Eric was a perfect game for the hot summer weather.

Get Involved!

Become a volunteer and make a difference.



Volunteers are the heart of our mission at Filling Homes. Whether lending a hand at community events, sharing a special skill, or spending time with the individuals we serve, your time and talents can make a lasting impact. Every smile, conversation, and act of kindness helps create a more inclusive and caring community. If you've been looking for a meaningful way to give back, contact Sarah Jackson at 419-592-6451 ext. 1350 for more details!

Celebrating Our Team with a Sweet Treat of Appreciation

Each September, we celebrate Direct Support Professional (DSP) Appreciation Week - a time to honor the incredible individuals whose care, dedication, and compassion make a difference every single day. Our DSP's embody the spirit of Filling Homes - caring deeply, giving generously of their time and compassion, and inspiring joy. They bring laughter, and love into the lives of those we serve - often finding just as much meaning in the relationships they build as the people they support.

As one DSP shared, "My favorite part of the job is taking the residents out into the community and just having fun!" Whether it's a trip to a concert, a sporting event, or simply spending time together, these moments create lifelong memories. Another DSP reflected, "It brought tears to my eyes to see how happy they were. It's something I'll never forget."

"My favorite part of the job is taking the residents out into the community and just having fun!" - Reagan J

Beyond the outings and special events, it's often the everyday moments that matter most. "Seeing them smile when you walk into the room, sitting and talking, laughing together. They are my family." These words capture the spirit of what it means to be a DSP - showing up with heart, creating connection, and helping others live life to the fullest.

To show our appreciation, we celebrated in the sweetest way possible! The main campus was treated to a ice cream machine for the day - complete with every topping one could imagine, while decadent ice cream treats were delivered to all Supported Living and Adult Day Program sites. It was a delicious way to say **THANK YOU** to the amazing team members who make Filling Homes a place of belonging, joy, and purpose every day.

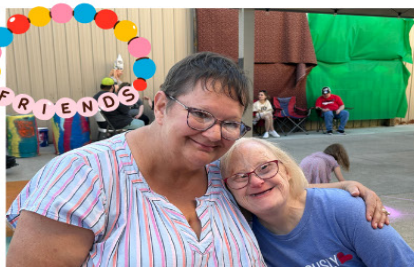
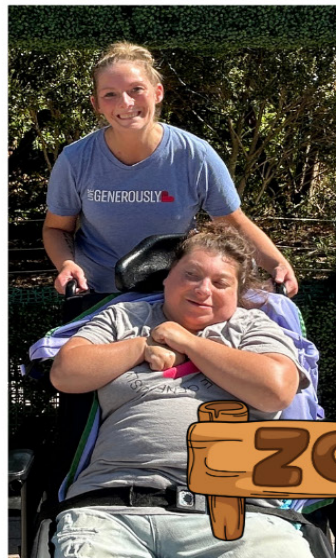
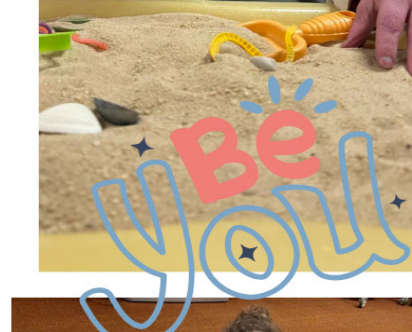
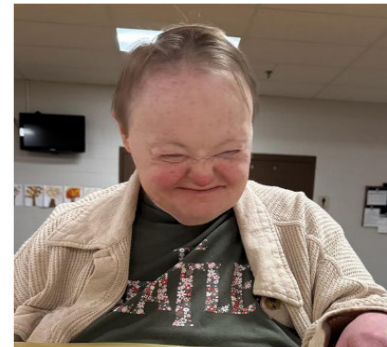
Below, Cheslea RedFox, Director of Mission Advancement poses in front of the ice cream machine set up for the day at the main campus. This was a generous donation from Kurtz Ace Hardware and we thank them so much for their support. As you can see, it was enjoyed and brought a lot of smiles so DSP's Katie Acry, Kenzie Eagleson-Powell, Ariel Thebeau and Brenda Garbers.



At Filling Homes, every team member plays a vital role in creating a place where care, connection, and purpose come to life. During DSP Appreciation Week, we were especially proud to honor the dedication and compassion of our Direct Support Professionals — and to recognize that their work shines even brighter because of the support of so many others across our organization. Together, our staff make Filling Homes a community of belonging, joy, and love.

MISSION

INSIDE THE



Our Mission

Rooted in faith, we support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, enriching lives full of value, hope and choice within their community.

Our Core Values

Treat all with Respect
Act with Integrity
Serve as Faithful Stewards
Strive for Excellence

Our Ministries

Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)

Filling Home Campus, Napoleon
Cardinal Home, Bryan
Egly Home, West Unity

Supported Living Homes & Services

Fulton, Henry, & Defiance counties

Adult Day Services Programs

Filling Home Community Center, Napoleon
Soaring Arts, Napoleon
Studio Express, Napoleon
Trinity, Place, Bryan

Filling Home of Mercy

Board of Directors

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Filling Homes Foundation Members

Lori Beakas
Marvin Dietsch
Elisa Harmon
Paul Oehrtman
Kevin Yarnell

PLEASE JOIN US!



FREE ENTRY!

FILLING FALL FLING

Presented by: The Women's Guild of Filling Homes
Saturday, November 1, 2025
11am - 3pm

Free-Will Offering Lunch
Hot Chicken, Brats, & Homemade Pie

Bake Sale - Live and Silent Auctions
Raffle

1st - Whole Hog with Processing!
2nd - Lazy Boy Recliner from Ken's Furniture
3rd - 2 Door Storage Cabinet from Sauder Woodworking

Ken's Furniture SAUDER

Please join us in the Hanson Aquatic Therapy Center Gymnasium on Filling Homes Main Campus

Proceeds to Filling Homes Transportation Fund

Questions? Please contact
419-599-6901 or
chelsearedfox@fillinghome.org

 Filling Homes
Enriching Lives of People with Developmental Disabilities

We invite you to
STAY CONNECTED



Please send address changes to:
Email: emmacohrs@fillinghome.org
Focus On Filling
C/O Filling Homes
N160 St. Rt. 108
Napoleon, OH 43545



† Filling Memorial Home of Mercy †

N160 State Route 108
Napoleon, OH 43545

419-592-6451
fillinghome.org



Change Service Requested

Needs List ❤️

As we continue to support our mission, we rely on the generosity of our amazing supporters. Below is a list of our current needs for the base campus, should the opportunity to give arise. Thank you!

- Hot chocolate mix
- Ketchup
- Macaroni
- Mixes (cake, muffin)
- Mustard
- Noodles
- Oatmeal
- Rice
- Shortening
- Snack-pack pudding
- Soups (all types)
- Spaghetti
- Sugar (brown, white)
- Syrup (karo, chocolate, strawberry)
- Zip Lock bags
- Washcloths
- Water color paper
- Bamboo Washcloths
- Hand towels
- Lotions
- Deodorant
- Men's white t-shirts
- Paintbrushes
- Plastic table cloths
- Stock paper
- String, twine, raffia
- Water/splash balls
- Washable markers
- Glue sticks
- White card stock paper
- Water colors
- Acrylic craft paint

