

FOCUS ON FILLING

FALL 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Celebrating 15 Years of Trinity Place
- Festival of Tables Raises \$5,500+



Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

THE HARVEST OF OUR WORK

Dear Friends, Families, and Supporters,

There is something special about fall. After months of planting, tending, and waiting, the harvest gives us a chance to pause and see what has grown. It is a time to be thankful for the people who helped along the way and recognize that a good harvest takes many hands working together.

In our LMM ministries, we see that same kind of growth throughout the year. Every program, service, relationship, and opportunity is a seed we plant to help someone grow, gain greater independence, find purpose, or simply know that they are valued and belong.

Growth doesn't happen overnight. First comes the preparation, then the planting, followed by care, patience, and waiting. Sometimes we may not see much happening on the surface, but that doesn't mean growth isn't taking place. Our staff, volunteers, supporters, and community partners continue to show up and nurture the work. When someone reaches a new goal, discovers a new ability, builds a friendship, or gains confidence, we see the results of that effort. Those are the moments that remind us why this work matters.

Fall also reminds us that one harvest is never the end of the story. As we celebrate what has grown, we look ahead to what new seeds we can plant, what opportunities we can create, and how we can continue making a difference together.

Thank you for being part of our LMM family and helping create a community where everyone has the opportunity to grow and thrive.

In gratitude,




Terri Rodriguez
President and CEO
Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

THANKFUL 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 own data, nearly one-third of annual giving occurs at year-end. 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.



Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy, and Lutheran Social Services of NWO are working together under the Lutheran Ministries of Mercy umbrella to share resources. These combined efforts allow us to foster hope, create change and meet the needs of individuals and families in our care. Visit our website at lutheranministriesofmercy.org to learn more.

A Message from Carol Slight

Vice President, Filling Homes

Welcome to the latest edition of Focus on Filling! Whether you've been part of the Filling Homes family for years or are just getting to know us, I'm glad you're here.

One of the things I love about Filling Homes is the way people come together. This fall, we've enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of fellowship at our Festival of Tables, celebrated 15 years of Trinity Place in Bryan, and shared many special moments throughout our programs. We're looking forward to another opportunity to gather at the Filling Fall Fling on Saturday, November 7. It's always a joy to see familiar faces and spend time with friends who share a heart for our mission.

Of course, fellowship happens in the everyday, too. It's found in the joy of sharing a new piece of artwork, the encouragement someone receives while learning a new skill at Filling Homes Community Center, and the laughter shared by families on an autumn hayride. These moments may look different from one day to the next, but each is a reminder of how meaningful it is to spend time together and feel connected to others.

I'm grateful for everyone who makes these moments possible and for the fellowship we share as part of the Filling Homes family. I hope you enjoy this issue of Focus on Filling and the stories it shares. Thank you for being part of what makes this place so special.

Blessings,

Carol Slight



Leadership Team

Carol Slight
Vice President
cslight@fillinghome.org



Amy Krassow
Director of ICF Services
akrassow@fillinghome.org



Jenny Borgelt
Director of Community Services
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Tina Parsons
Director of Mission Advancement
tinaparsons@fillinghome.org



You're Invited!
FILLING FALL FLING

A Day of Shopping, Bidding, Winning & Giving Back!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
11AM-3PM | FREE ENTRY

Filling Homes, N160 OH-108 Napoleon, OH

We'd love to have you join us for a wonderful fall tradition! Bring your family and friends to the **Filling Fall Fling on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 11AM-3PM** for a homemade lunch, bake sale, auctions, raffles and unique treasures and fellowship.

Your participation supports the Filling Homes Transportation Fund, with matching funds totaling \$17,000 made possible by generous gifts from the Lanzer Family in honor of Vanessa Lanzer, Ray and Marie Cox in memory of Carol Dille, and Marie Cox in honor of Ray Cox and his love for Filling Homes.

MISSION



Rooted in Faith, Growing in Purpose: 15 years of Trinity Place

Some buildings continue to bring people together long after their original purpose has changed. In Bryan, Ohio, the former Trinity Episcopal Church entered a new chapter fifteen years ago as Trinity Place. Today the building remains a place of connection as a Filling Homes Adult Day Services site serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Defiance and Williams Counties.

The story began with Pastor David Proctor, a devoted friend of Filling Homes and board member of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy (LMM), who recognized an opportunity to bring services closer to home for individuals who were traveling from our West Unity and Bryan Community Homes to Napoleon for day services. Following the purchase of the building in June 2010, our teams got to work preparing the Church for a new purpose and organizing staffing and transportation.

When Trinity Place opened for Adult Day Services on October 17, 2011, seven individuals were receiving services. Fifteen years later, that number has grown to 17. Each person brings their own interests and personality, making every day a little different. From storytime visits with the Bryan Library and trips to the splash pad to making DIY instruments and dancing in what was once the chapel, joy is found amongst our Trinity Place friends. Individuals can also participate in secure document shredding and janitorial services, gaining experience while earning money.

Art has become another meaningful part of the Trinity Place story. Launched in September 2024 in collaboration with Filling Homes' Soaring Arts Studio, Trinity Place Art gives artists the chance to express themselves through photography, painting, jewelry making, yard art and more. Their work is available for purchase at Trinity Place and pop-up events with artists receiving a commission from sales.

Trinity Place artists are also connecting with local organizations through their artwork. Several artists recently helped create an Art Alley mural for Sanctuary Homeless Shelter and Dad's Place, bringing color to the buildings. They also worked together to create a cat mural for the Fulton County Humane Society in memory of Kaleb, a beloved member of the Trinity Place family. Their artwork is also featured in an exhibit on the fourth-floor maternity ward at Parkview Bryan Hospital, where visitors can enjoy and purchase their pieces.

As Trinity Place celebrates 15 years of service, Filling Homes is grateful to Pastor David Proctor for recognizing both what the building could become and what could remain the same. Today, it continues to bring people together and welcome others just as they are. Though its purpose has changed, its foundation remains, a reminder of what it means to be Rooted in Faith.

If you or someone you know has an intellectual or developmental disability and may be interested in Adult Day Services at Filling Homes, please contact Jamie Halley at jhalley@fillinghome.org or reach out to your county Board of DD Service and Support Administrator (SSA) to learn more.



Mia and Jake with Art Alley Project "All You Need Is Love"; Trinity Place clients show off their beautiful smiles: Adrienne, Joni, Krista, Meghan, Haley, and Paul

THE FILLING HOME FOUNDATION

WE SINCERELY THANK OUR FRIENDS WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY.

In Memory of

Hubert Abney

- Bobby & Margaret Edwards, Dayton, OH

Linda & Lauren Boff

- Mark Boff, Bloomfield Hills, MI

Dr. Robert Foldvary

- Anonymous
- Randal & Kristine Creviston, Canal Winchester, OH
- Robin Cutright, Defiance, OH
- Robert & Pamela Dawson, Defiance, OH
- Shay & Marilyn Dawson, Mount Pleasant, MI
- Paula Gaspar, Defiance, OH
- Debra Hench, Defiance, OH
- Frank & Jocelyne Linsalata, Gates Mills, OH
- Dennis & Cathy Price, Delaware, OH
- Michael & Jennifer Sauer, Leo, IN

Eugene Hausfeld

- Glenn & Patricia Alexander, Miamisburg, OH

Rosella Helberg,

- Walter & Lorna Hougland, Napoleon, OH

Robert Hershberger

- Marilyn Hershberger, Napoleon, OH

David Keesbery

- Anonymous

Orpha Knappe

- Karen Cain, Napoleon, OH

Michael "Boris" Kohl

- Darwin & Joan Paxton, Holgate, OH

William "Bill" Krueger

- Edward & Elaine Baker, Wayne, OH
- Marvin Dietsch, Edgerton, OH
- Mike & Virginia Donaldson, Canton, OH
- Carol Flory, Wauseon, OH
- Robert & Connie Flory, Defiance, OH

In Memory of (Cont.)

William "Bill" Krueger

- Rick Fox, Fremont, OH
- Bruce & Delores Gamiere, Defiance, OH
- Alexander & Rona Krueger, Greenville, OH
- Jack & Marilyn Krueger, Liberty Center, OH
- Joe & Cindy Krueger, Napoleon, OH
- Dave & Judy Meyer, Defiance, OH
- Jeff & Jane Meyer, Sherwood, OH
- Christopher & Karen Newton, Defiance, OH
- Ted & Carol Pohlmann, Defiance, OH
- Todd & Carol Slight, Napoleon, OH
- Carl & Nancy Stehulak, Defiance, OH
- Mary Wagner, Wayne, OH
- Robert & Christine Weber, Defiance, OH
- Jerry Westhoven & Theresa Eitzman, Liberty Center, OH

Annabelle Leupp

- Wauseon Women's Guild Of Filling Memorial Home, Wauseon, OH

Arthur J. Miller

- Anonymous

Ian Pozarzycki

- Julia Rhodes, Bryan, OH

Art Sauber

- Carol Chatham, Defiance, OH

Dan Shining

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

Sharon Wolford

- Jan Bratton, Delta, OH

The gifts recognized were received between July 1 and September 30, 2026.

In Honor of

Pastor Denise Brown

- Margery Spar, Ada, OH

Rebecca Eddington

- Audrey Sutton, Clyde, OH

Chris Peper

- Ray & Marie Cox, The Villages, FL

Individual Gifts

- **Chuck & Jeri Campbell,** Toledo, OH
- **Michael & Kimberly Cushman,** Napoleon, OH
- **Kenneth & Marsha Drewes,** Defiance, OH
- **Jeff Fedderke,** Archbold, OH
- **Kenneth & Arlene Freytag,** Napoleon, OH
- **Don & Terri Grimm,** Grand Rapids, OH
- **Gerald & Rosella Hannewald,** Waterville, OH
- **Patrick & Elizabeth Hart,** Fort Recovery, OH
- **Kurt & Donna Meyers,** Toledo, OH
- **Carol Schroeder,** New Bavaria, OH
- **Doris Smith,** Antwerp, OH
- **Eileen Stough,** Ridgeville Corners, OH
- **Ann Vreeland,** Marco Island, FL



Mercedes and Mike enjoy Johnston Fruit Farms

Congregational

- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Defiance, OH**
- **Evansport United Methodist Church, Evansport, OH**
- **St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bradner, OH**
- **St. John Lutheran Church, Deshler, OH**
- **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Defiance, OH**
- **St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sulphur Springs, OH**
- **St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon, OH**
- **St. Peters Lutheran Church, Holgate, OH**
- **Trinity Lutheran Church, Wauseon, OH**
- **Wauseon Women's Guild Of Filling Memorial Home, Wauseon, OH**
- **Women Of St. Paul's Church, Sulphur Springs, OH**
- **Women of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Crestline, OH**
- **Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgeville Corners, OH**
- **Zions Lutheran Church, Defiance, OH**

In-Kind

- **Kris Banister, Wauseon, OH**
- **Marlene Bockelman, Napoleon, OH**
- **Elaine Borstelman, Napoleon, OH**
- **Michael & Kimberly Cushman, Napoleon, OH**
- **Greg & Patricia Fisher, Defiance, OH**
- **Kenneth & Arlene Freytag, Napoleon, OH**
- **Diana Grim, Defiance, OH**
- **Suzanne Johnson, Archbold, OH**
- **Mary Kettels, Continental, OH**

In Kind (Cont.)

- **Christopher & Lisa Kline, Liberty Center, OH**
- **Matthew & Toni Lanzer, Malinta, OH**
- **Brittany Mason, Archbold, OH**
- **Jane Mcghee, Defiance, OH**
- **Tara Murphy, Wauseon, OH**
- **Eileen Stough, Ridgeville Corners, OH**
- **Sharon Wiemken, Napoleon, OH**

Business

- **The Blackbaud Giving Fund, Charleston, SC**
- **Defiance Chapter of VMCCA, Defiance, OH**
- **The Kroger Company, Cincinnati, OH**
- **Panorama, Claymont, DE**
- **Quilters Hideaway, Napoleon, OH**
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars, Minneapolis, MN**
- **Toledo Zoo & Aquarium, Toledo, OH**
- **Walmart Supercenter, Napoleon, OH**

Trust

- **Marlene Bockelman, Napoleon, OH**

Grants

- **Grace N. Cox & Betty Lou Moose Memorial Fund**
- **The Martin & Helen Fahncke Memorial Fund**
- **Marian Isaac Donor Advised Fund, Bryan Area Foundation**
- **Tom & Ellen Noneman Foundation**
- **Kevin Yarnell Family Foundation, Greater Toledo Community Foundation**

Heart to Heart, Staff Appreciation

- **Dorothy Parks, Montpelier, OH**

Scholarship

- **Terry L. Bossert Soaring Arts Scholarship, Terry L. Bossert, Maumee Ohio**

Thrivent Choice

- **Lori Beakas, Waterville, OH**
- **Deb Butler, Napoleon, OH**
- **Michelle Detwiler, Defiance, OH**
- **Norma Ehlers, McClure, OH**
- **Kelli Gerken, Napoleon, OH**
- **Connie Holers, Napoleon, OH**
- **Timothy Hoops, Napoleon, OH**
- **Alyssa Jackson, Napoleon, OH**
- **Robert Jones, Napoleon, OH**
- **Amy Krassow, Napoleon, OH**
- **William Nolan, Blue Bell, PA**
- **Janet Obee, McClure, OH**
- **David & Esther Plassman, Napoleon, OH**
- **Ward & Marirose Replogle, Defiance, OH**
- **Jack & Jack Retcher, Defiance, OH**
- **Carol Schroeder, New Bavaria, OH**
- **Beverly Sharp, Malinta, OH**
- **Linda Sonnenberg, Archbold, OH**
- **Todd & Carol Slight, Napoleon, OH**
- **Bret & Kristi Speiser, Napoleon, OH**
- **Ethel Stambaugh, Defiance, OH**
- **Charles Winters, Sylvania, OH**
- **Helen Witte, Malinta, OH**



Steve and Aric, Soaring Arts Artists, experiment with ceramic screen printing

THE FILLING HOME FOUNDATION

WE SINCERELY THANK OUR FRIENDS WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY.

Thrivent Action Team

- **Matt & Angie Bilow,**
Napoleon, OH
- **Jennifer Borgelt,** Defiance, OH
- **Jamie Halley,**
Napoleon, OH
- **Linda Hammad,** Grelton, OH
- **Christi McLaughlin,**
Defiance, OH
- **Chelsea Ridley,**
Ridgeville Corners, OH
- **Megan Ridley,** Defiance, OH
- **Kathy Schrieber,**
Wauseon, OH



Thank You for Supporting Filling Homes!

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our supporters. Your gifts help make our mission possible and make a meaningful, lasting difference in the lives of the people we serve.

If we have missed your name or listed your gift incorrectly, we apologize and ask that you contact Tina Parsons at 419-599-6901 or tinaparsons@fillinghome.org.

A Little Support Can Go a Long Way

Making everyday life more active, connected and fulfilling takes support. At Filling Homes, staff like our Direct Support Professionals and supervisors help residents plan their days and take part in activities they enjoy. Accessible transportation helps clients get where they want to go, while our programming creates opportunities to learn, create, socialize and try something new. Because everyone has different interests, abilities and goals, that support can look different from one person to the next.

For some, that might mean spending time at the Filling Homes Community Center and heading to the bowling alley during the week. With adaptive bowling equipment, people of all abilities can take their turn and participate in a way that works for them. It is a simple example of how the right support can open the door to new experiences and greater independence.

As we look toward GivingTuesday on December 1 and the end of the year, we are asking our community to become an extended part of that support. Every gift, no matter the amount, helps support the programming, transportation and staff behind these opportunities. Your generosity helps us continue providing residents and clients with more opportunities. If you have supported Filling Homes before, thank you, and if you have never made a gift, this is a wonderful time to join us.

If you are able, please make a donation at fillinghome.org or call (419) 592-6451 this GivingTuesday, or before December 31, and help support the amazing people we serve.



Apart of the Filling Homes Community Center crew, Brandon rolls out homemade tortillas; Tyler bowls with DSP Salyah, while Chris enjoys a game with DSP Bridgett at River City Bowl-A-Way.

2026

FILLING FALL FLING

A Day of Shopping, Bidding, Winning & Giving Back!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
11AM-3PM | FREE ENTRY

FILLING HOMES, N160 OH-108 NAPOLEON, OH

Live + Silent Auctions • Raffle • Vendors • Bake Sale
Free-Will Donation Lunch - Hot Chicken + Bratwurst



WIN BIG!

RAFFLE PRIZES

1st Place:
 Whole Hog + Processing

2nd Place:
 La-Z-Boy Recliner from
 Ken's Furniture

3rd Place:
 Furnishing from
 Sauder Manufacturing

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT:

*Every dollar donated to Fall Fling
 will be matched, up to \$17,000...*

In Memory of Carol Dille
Ray & Marie Cox

In Honor of Vanessa Lanzer
The Lanzer Family

In Honor of Ray Cox
Marie Cox

**Corporate
 Sponsors:**



*Presented by The Guild of Filling Homes,
 In Support of the Filling Homes Transportation Fund*

Festival of Tables Raises More than \$5,500 for Shower Trolleys

More than 200 friends joined us Saturday, September 26, for Filling Homes' annual Festival of Tables at the Hanson Aquatic Therapy Center. With 20 creative table hosts, a delicious lunch, entertainment by the Henry County Chorale, door prizes, laughter, and fellowship, this joyous event raised more than \$5,500 toward a new shower trolley for Main Campus residents.

"Designed to support comfort, safety and dignity, shower trolleys provide additional support for both residents and staff during daily personal care," shares Tina Parsons, Filling Homes Mission Advancement Director. "We're so grateful to everyone who helped make the day special, from The Guild and event sponsor, Hylant, to our volunteers, table hosts and guests. Your generosity is making everyday moments more comfortable and dignified for the people we are privileged to serve."

Please save the date for Festival of Tables 2027 on Saturday, September 25.



Festival of Tables 2026: Filling Homes staff enjoy friendly competition at the "House Divided" table; guests mingle among festive tablescapes; Zion Lutheran Church celebrates "FestivALL"; Lutheran Ministries of Mercy President Terri Rodriguez shares remarks; and David and his family "Rock Their Socks Off!"

The Guild of Filling Homes: Now Welcoming New Members

Have you ever wondered how you could get more involved with Filling Homes? The Guild of Filling Homes would love to have you on board. Founded in 1965 to honor Carrie Filling Vagen's legacy, the Guild has brought people together for more than 65 years to support Filling Homes and enrich the lives of the people we serve. Members participate in regular meetings and share ideas, discuss donation opportunities, and identify ways to enrich the lives of those we serve. Through fundraising events like the Filling Fall Fling and Festival of Tables, the Guild helps fund special projects, like the Main Campus Greenhouse. Their annual membership contributions of just \$1 or more fund the Moser Memorial Nursing Scholarship and employee scholarship for those continuing studies in the Developmental Disabilities Field.

During the 2026 Membership Drive, now until the end of November, men and women of all ages are invited to be part of this special Filling Homes tradition. Whether you enjoy volunteering, sharing ideas, helping at events or simply supporting the mission, your time, talents and perspective are welcome. You can be as involved as your schedule allows, and every contribution matters.

To learn more, please contact **Cathy Aschemeier, 2nd Vice President, at 419-267-3453.**

Save The Date

Purses for a Purpose

DESIGNER PURSE BINGO 2027

Thurs., April 22, 2027

Filling Homes Community Center



ACCEPTING NEW RESIDENTS



If you know an individual or family exploring residential options, Filling Homes is currently accepting new residents at our Main Campus in Napoleon, Ohio.

To learn more, contact Kim Stevens
at kstevens@fillinghome.org or
419-592-6451 ext. 1210.

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 Main Campus, Napoleon
Cardinal Home, Bryan
Egley Home, West Unity

Supported Living Homes & Services

Fulton, Henry, & Defiance Counties

Adult Day Services Programs

Abilities Bistro, Napoleon
Filling Home Main Campus, Napoleon
Filling Home Community Center, Napoleon
Soaring Arts, Napoleon
Studio Express, Napoleon
Trinity Place, Bryan

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Mrs. Kathleen Winters

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Kevin Yarnell



**N160 State Route 108
Napoleon, OH 43545**

419-592-6451

fillinghome.org



*To be added to or removed from
our mailing list, please email
info@fillinghome.org.*

KNOW SOMEONE WITH A HEART FOR SERVING OTHERS?



Filling Homes is hiring part-time Direct Support Professionals in Northwest Ohio

DSPs support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their daily lives, from personal care to community activities.

AVAILABLE SHIFT OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- 6–8 a.m. weekday shifts
- 3:30–6:30 p.m. weekday shifts
- 6:30 p.m.–midnight evening shifts
- Other second-shift opportunities

Every-other-weekend shifts required.

*Whether you work a few shifts a
week or more, **we'll work with your
schedule** and availability.*

**VISIT FILLINGHOME.ORG OR
SCAN THE QR CODE TO APPLY!**



STARTING PAY

\$17.00
/HR

+ \$0.50/HR MIN.
AFTER 90 DAYS
+ \$1.75/HR 2ND SHIFT
+ \$1.75/HR WEEKENDS

ITEMS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

If you feel led to give, donations of everyday items help us provide meaningful support to individuals at **Filling Homes' Main Campus & Williams County ICF locations.**

FOOD & PANTRY ITEMS

- Hot Chocolate Mix
- Ketchup
- Macaroni
- Cake & Muffin Mixes
- Mustard
- Noodles
- Oatmeal
- Rice
- Shortening
- Snack Pack Pudding
- Soups, All Varieties
- Sugar, Brown & White
- Karo Syrup
- Dessert Syrup,
Chocolate & Strawberry
- Ziploc Bags
- Plastic Tablecloths

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Bamboo Washcloths
- Hand Towels
- Unscented Lotion
- Unscented Deodorant

CLOTHING

- White T-shirts, Men's
Small, Medium, Large
- Socks, Men's & Women's



Serving Northwest Ohio since 1964.

Archbold • Bryan • Defiance • Napoleon • Wauseon • West Unity
fillinghome.org | (419) 592-6451