

Lake Oswego United Methodist Church

Gifts of Hope 2024

Jesus tells us that in order to give to him we must find him in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned. He asks us to reach out to the less fortunate. What better way to honor those we love this Christmas season, than to make donations that will help the needy.

Here is an updated **Gifts of Hope 2024** catalog to explain the charitable organizations that LOUMC and its members actively support throughout the year and to request your donations to the organizations of your choice as part of your Christmas giving. 100% of your donation goes directly to the charity. If you can make a donation this year, please follow the directions below. Thank you for supporting these worthy organizations during this holy season.

Online donations: Go to the LOUMC website and click ‘Donate’ in the upper right corner. Each organization is listed under the ‘Online Giving’ tab.

Mail-in donations: Using the donation sheet on the back page of this catalog, note your donation(s). Include the donation sheet and a check for the total amount made out to LOUMC.

QR codes: If you wish, you can scan the QR code under an entry to give to an organization via your mobile phone.

Home for the Holidays Bazaar on Saturday, December 7: Gifts of Hope will have a table at this event from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. You will be able to fill out forms and make donations by check, credit card, or cash.

Recognition letters: A generic donation letter will be available at the Bazaar or at LOUMC if you would like to ‘gift’ a loved one with your donation.

Community Transitional School



Now in its 35th year as a private nonprofit, CTS is a free school for children through 8th grade who live with their families in cars, tents, or transitional housing. Bus routes change daily so a child can be picked up and dropped off at different locations as required. Because the bus routes are flexible, historically CTS achieves about a 95% attendance rate for these kids. Children receive individualized instruction and access to food, clothing and hygiene products. LOUMC members have volunteered at the school, and our congregation has done regular collections for school supplies and hygiene products. CTS provides a community where children in need can survive and thrive: a refuge from the trauma and hardships of poverty and uncertainty.



Family Promise



The mission of Family Promise of Tualatin Valley (FPTV) is to equip vulnerable families and individuals to end the cycle of homelessness. FPTV has established the **Bridge to Home** shelter in a former hotel in Tigard. Up to 70 families are able to stay in this facility. Here they provide housing, hot meals, a food pantry, a clothes closet, and regular activities and play spaces for children. FPTV also provides emergency funds to help families avoid eviction, and ongoing help and support after families find permanent housing. LOUMC provides outreach funds, as well as quarterly groceries for their food pantry, and volunteer support.



The Father's Heart



The Father's Heart is a street ministry and resource center located in Oregon City. They provide 3 daily meals, showers, clothing exchanges, regular access to medical and foot care, a food pantry, and a case manager to help those living on the street to access housing and mental health/addiction recovery programs. When the temperature drops to 32 degrees, they are an emergency shelter. LOUMC provides monthly sack lunch foods as well as outreach funds for specific projects. LOUMC members also volunteer at the shelter regularly.



Habitat for Humanity



Habitat exists to provide affordable home ownership to all. In 2024, building in Portland provided 50 homes with another 60 homes in progress including 16 in King City. Building will also start for 23 homes in Lake Oswego in early winter. LOUMC volunteers worked at a King City site this summer and plan to volunteer to work monthly.



Leaven Community Land & Housing Coalition



The Land & Housing Coalition builds teams of disciples - over 80 teams since 2018 - to organize faith-owned land, people, and money to build affordable housing, counter narratives of 'Othering' of houseless neighbors, and change our broken housing systems. They've successfully changed state law multiple times to make it possible to build housing on church land, built 435+ units of transitional and affordable housing, and partnered with more than a half dozen denominations to change policies so closed church land goes to solving the housing crisis, rather than sale into the market. LOUMC donates outreach funds.



LOUMC Youth Outreach Projects



The junior and senior high Sunday school classes at LOUMC continue to support a variety of different non-profits on a consistent basis. By supporting this project, you will help provide disaster relief hygiene bags, cleaning kits, and stock the UMCOR disaster relief warehouse in St. Helen.



LOTSM



The Lake Oswego Transitional Shelter Ministry is a coalition of six LO congregations - - including LOUMC - that works in partnership with Clackamas County Social Services. LOTSM provides two self-contained apartments - one at LOUMC and one at LO UCC - for homeless families for six months (sometimes longer on a case by case basis). This gives time for families to qualify for housing vouchers, save money, and work with a professional social worker. LOUMC volunteers provide support for the guest families. Monetary donations are used for apartment maintenance, utilities and matching funds that encourage families to save.



Boys & Girls Aid: The Nest



Can you imagine being 6 years old and being bounced from one strange home to another? Can you imagine being 13 years old and headed to your 6th foster home placement? Do you know a child who needs emergency shelter or a pregnant teenager who needs supportive guidance? 1000 children and families are served each year. You have the power to make a difference in the life of these precious children. Positive outcomes are possible with your support. '



Phoenix Rising Transitions



PHOENIX Rising Transitions is an OR nonprofit of former prisoners, prisoners, and community members working toward the success of people coming home from prison. PRT works on leadership training, personal transformation, public speaking, mentoring, and community organizing. They now work with state and federal prisons and with OHSU nursing students who are studying the social and health impacts of incarceration. LOUMC has given outreach funds. Donations to PHOENIX help with both the prison in-reach work and community work with former prisoners.



Road 2 Hope



Road 2 Hope Maternity Home provides housing & support to pregnant mothers and their unborn babies. They offer prenatal care, childbirth preparation, parenting skill training, counseling and emotional support. Post birth, they provide help with education, jobs, budgeting, and life skills training. Women & babies may stay for up to a year after the birth. In 2023, R2H added 2 additional houses and doubled its clientele. LOUMC provides outreach funds and volunteers. R2H demonstrates the love of Jesus Christ while serving young women regardless of faith background.



UMCOR



When a disaster overwhelms a community, the United Methodist Committee on Relief provides training, relief supplies, case management, and long term support. They provide immediate and long term disaster response to hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, and wildfires in the U.S. and around the world. They have provided humanitarian relief to Ukraine and to Israel and Gaza. Your donations to UMCOR make it possible to be present with supplies wherever they are needed.

