To extend its mission outreach, education and social ministry, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod works with independent Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) that agree to ensure their programs are in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the LCMS.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 18, 2020
Lutheran Services in America webinar: “Multidimensional Family Therapy”
lutheranservices.org/content/webinar-multidimensional-family-therapy

February 19, 2020
LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission webinar: “Create Vibrant Multi-Ethnic Ministries”
calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-create-vibrant-multi-ethnic-ministries/

This is the work our friend, Pastor Weston Wildauer from Good Shepherd Lutheran Chapel, Cape Girardeau, Mo., has been called to do. A couple of years ago, while attending a ministry alliance gathering at a local hospital, the Lord gave him a vision to get his congregation engaged in the ministry of practical, emotional and spiritual support for those affected by cancer. This prompting brought Phil’s Friends, an RSO, to mind.

Weston connected with a couple of friends he thought would make fantastic volunteers and partners for Phil’s Friends. Since then, his church congregants have fully embraced all that is needed to make this a successful ministry. They make sure individuals affected by cancer in their church receive a care package, they continually host collection drives for care package items, they make blankets, and they have blessed Phil’s Friends with donations.

Weston’s volunteer team has more than doubled, mostly by word of mouth, and now includes volunteers from other congregations. It has proved to be a huge catalyst for spiritual growth. “When our congregation hears someone has cancer, our congregants want to give the gift of Phil’s Friends — it is now a normal part of the support process.”

Through the work of churches like Pastor Weston’s, Phil’s Friends has been able to support more individuals. Here is a message from a care package recipient:

“The impact your organization had on me was amazing. When I got out of the hospital the first time (after two weeks) I saw this package at my door. It truly gave me a bright spot in a very dark time of my life. Thank you for all of the work you do, it is truly God’s work.”

To learn more, please visit or contact Tony Ciro at tonyc@philsfriends.org.
Perry Lutheran Homes has been awarded the 2019 Public Trust award for the creation, launch and spread of the StepUp Movement to shine a light on elders living in communities who are lonely, afraid, hungry and forgotten.

Perry Lutheran Homes’ StepUp Movement was selected for the award by industry professionals at LeadingAge Iowa. LeadingAge Iowa recognizes one organization annually for its efforts that go far beyond traditional resident care and services to support and improve the greater community, and is an example of the organization’s mission in action demonstrating commitment to social responsibility.

The “Step” in StepUp stands for Serving Together our Elderly with Passion and engages the greater community of Perry, and beyond, to take notice of the needs of elderly citizens around them, and to StepUp and take action to help. This movement was launched at the first annual StepUp Celebrate dinner in May 2018. Following the dinner, weekly StepUp challenges were issued on Facebook to encourage community members, businesses, service organizations, churches and more to get involved in SteppingUp. The StepUp campaign continued in July 2018 with the first annual Run Through Time 5K Fun Run celebrating elders, music and memories to raise funds for elders unable to afford care living at Perry Lutheran Homes and for home-delivered meals to elders in the community. In 2019, these efforts and more were repeated with greater awareness and involvement as well as supporting the weekly senior fellowship meal with not only dollars, but staff support to keep the program going.

“LeadingAge Iowa is so pleased to recognize Perry Lutheran Homes with the 2019 Public Trust Award for the StepUp Movement, which is a challenge to the greater public at large to recognize and meet the needs of older adults within the community. We particularly liked how this movement is applicable not only in Perry but also in any other community within Iowa and beyond. We can all do more to support and honor the elders around us,” said Shannon Strickler, President and CEO of LeadingAge Iowa.

The award presentation was accompanied by a short video presentation which can be viewed on YouTube at youtu.be/ITaA180w1CE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about Perry Lutheran Homes, please visit perrylutheranhome.org.
**APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH**

*Join the LCMS in Celebrating Volunteers!*

RSOs are encouraged to join the LCMS in April’s National Volunteer Month celebrations.

**Please review and update your RSO directory listing on lcms.org.**

LCMS Volunteer Connection often refers interested volunteers to the RSO directory on lcms.org for service opportunities. Please review your organization’s entry at lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/recognized-service-organizations/directory to ensure your record is up-to-date and accurate. If any information about your organization on the entry needs to be updated, please send those updates to cara.patton@lcms.org.

**Help us create buzz on social media!**

Use these hashtags when posting about volunteers on social media:

- #nationalvolunteermonth
- #LCMSvolunteers

If you would like your post to be shared, please contact LCMS Volunteer Connection.

If you have any questions about LCMS National Volunteer Month efforts or would like to join our celebration via social media, please contact Maureen Lenz at 314-996-1629 or maureen.lenz@lcms.org.

Thank you for celebrating our awesome LCMS volunteers!

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Deaconess Dorothy Krans**

Director, Recognized Service Organizations
314-996-1636 (office)
800-248-1930, Ext. 1636 (toll free)
314-660-9406 (cell)
dorothy.krans@lcms.org

**Deaconess Cara Patton**

Coordinator, Recognized Service Organizations
314-996-1635 (office)
800-248-1930, Ext. 1635 (toll free)
cara.patton@lcms.org

* * * * * * *

For more information about the LCMS RSO ministry, visit lcms.org/rso.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, contact Deaconess Cara Patton at 314-996-1635 or cara.patton@lcms.org.

* * * * * * *

**BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER** of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.”

**2 COR. 1:3–5**

---

**WANT MORE RSO NEWS OR LOOKING FOR AN RSO?**

Check out our searchable directory and find more RSO news at lcms.org/rso.

---

RSO News Update is published quarterly by: LCMS Recognized Service Organizations, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122, 888-THE LCMS (843-5267), lcms.org/rsos

RSO News Update may be reprinted with acknowledgment given to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.