



• TOGETHER WE SPREAD THE JOY OF GOD'S GRACE
HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD •

2011 GIFTS OF HOPE

GIFTS OF HOPE is operated by volunteers from throughout the
Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, ELCA

A BIT OF HISTORY

The ELCA and the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod were formed in 1988. Just four years later, in 1992, *Gifts of Hope* was offered to congregations of our Synod.

Of course, everyone was accustomed to giving gifts at Christmas: a tie for Dad, a framed photo for Grandma, a piece of pottery for a special teacher. But many people wondered about giving a card. Just giving *a card* as a Christmas gift?

But tucked inside each card was a description of a gift given to someone in need: a winter coat for flood victims in North Dakota, a birthday party for an elderly resident of Fellowship Square Foundation. People quickly understood that the card was an alternative to a physical present.

Sales of Gifts of Hope cards that first year totaled \$42,711. Bishop Harold Jansen and those involved in planning Gifts of Hope were astounded and gratified at the response.

To date, Gifts of Hope has raised \$2,606,774. The funds have been distributed to the companion synods and beneficiary organizations listed on the back of this catalog.

This year, **GIVE MORE HOPE!**

HOW TO PURCHASE GIFTS OF HOPE DURING ADVENT 2011

Most congregations of the ELCA in the Washington DC area host sales events during the Advent season.

1. Consider new giving opportunities—have you been in contact with your cousin in Minnesota lately? Did you ever give your pastor a present?
2. Review this catalog at church or on the web site:
www.GiftsofHopeMetroDC.org.
3. Fill in an order form, available at church or the web site.
4. Write a check to your church with Gifts of Hope on the memo line or pay in cash.

THANK YOU!

Last Christmas your purchases helped people in the Washington metropolitan area move from homelessness to independent living, gave joy to summer campers, provided computers to seminary students in Namibia and more.

Special thanks to local chapters of **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans** for support of all printing costs!

Thanks to the volunteers who run the program, contributing nearly 800 hours of service.

“LIKE” us on Facebook



Gifts of Hope
Metro DC Washington

*The commandment that we have from him is this:
those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. (1 John 4:21)*

•2011 GIFTS OF HOPE•

GIFTS OF HOPE DESCRIPTIONS

1. Camp Scholarship

\$250

A week at **Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp** gives a needy child the experience of God's love, the joys of nature and the fun of sports, shared with new friends and the caring camp staff.

2. Training for Independence

\$150

N Street Village Supports homeless and needy clients by paying for adult education fees, CPR, First Aid and Food Handlers certificates and continuing education. This gift supports programs which point clients toward independent living.

3. Support a Seminary Student

\$100

Your gift to the **Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg** helps ensure the training of individuals to be church leaders and proclaimers of the Good News.

4. Respite for Caregivers

\$100

Provide two days of respite along with spiritual, emotional, and practical support for those who care for their elderly parents through **Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area Support U Program**.

5. Salary Support for a Pastor

\$100

Many congregations in **El Salvador** cannot support a pastor. This gift is placed in an ELCA endowment fund to create a sustainable source of income for Salvadoran pastors.

6. Education Program Services

\$75

Provide one month's GED materials and individualized training for a **Transitional Housing Corporation** resident. Your gift includes computer software, assessment and practice materials, and regular tutoring sessions.

7. Repair a Broken Sewer System

\$65

The sewer system at Oshigambo High School in Namibia is failing and causing a health hazard to the Oshigambo community. Your gift to the **ELCIN Synod in Namibia** will ensure a healthier learning environment for students.

8. Wellness Center Supplies

\$50

Provide basic supplies, such as non-alcoholic cold and flu medications, reading glasses and skin ointments for **N Street Village** residents who have low immunity and chronic medical needs.

9. Child Enrichment Program

\$50

This gift will allow a child to participate in the **Community Family Life Services** summer camp and/or after school programs of academic enrichment, arts, sports, and other recreational activities. *Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)*

10. Anti-Racism Training

\$50

All new **Lutheran Volunteer Corps** members receive training to recognize and understand racism and promote racial justice in institutions, including the church, LVC and placement organizations. Your gift will help pay for one day of training at a fall retreat.

11. Mattresses for Camp

\$50

While comfy camp bunks may sound like an oxymoron, basic beds are a necessity. Help **Mar-Lu-Ridge** replace old mattresses with this Gift of Hope.

12. Scholarship Support for Metro DC Students

\$50

Students often struggle with tuition and other basic college expenses. This Gift of Hope will allow **Roanoke College** to support Washington metro area students with college costs.

13. Books for Namibian Students

\$40

Paulinum Seminary in Windhoek, Namibia, does an outstanding job of educating students to become pastors. Students are eager to learn, but many enter the seminary unable to afford books. Buy a text book for a seminary student.

14. Emergency Medical and Dental Care for Moms

\$40

This gift provides medical and dental emergency care for homeless victims of abuse. Many **Northern Virginia Coalition (NOVACO)** children qualify for local and state benefits and health programs, but most of the single mothers do not. Your gift aids these mothers.

15. Language Classes for Refugees

\$40

Help refugees supported by **Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area** start a new life in the United States with a gift of two months of English language classes, enabling them to adapt to their new life and join the workforce.

16. Summer Fun and Learning

\$35

Treat a formerly homeless child to swimming lessons, camp crafts, tutoring, gymnastics and trips to museums. This activities program, developed by **Good Shepherd Housing Foundation**, makes summer a time for learning and fun.

17. Toys & Food for Children

\$35

19 children's hostels, sponsored by the **ELCRN Synod in Namibia**, need toys, bedding, food and clothing for the children. Provide for those children in need.

18. Haircut for the Job Interview

\$30

Many clients of the **Northern Virginia Coalition (NOVACO)** are entering the job market and an applicant needs to look nice for the interview. A professional haircut and other accessories will boost self-esteem and help the important first impression.

19. Tools for the Job

\$30

Getting a job is great until the supervisor requires a code book, uniform, work boots and/or tools and the applicant does not have them, nor the funds to purchase them. This gift to **Southeast Ministries** provides job-readiness supplies.

20. Groceries for a Family for a Day

\$30

Help meet an entire family's basic food needs so the struggling family, served by the **Northern Virginia Coalition (NOVACO)**, can concentrate on fulfilling their educational and parenting goals.

<p>21. Memory Care Tool Kit Provide activity packs to seniors at The Village at Rockville (formerly National Lutheran Home) who are in need of memory care. Each tool kit's bright colors, different textures and reminiscence tools provide stimulation which help exercise fine motor skills and improve memory connections.</p>	\$30
<p>22. Lunch Vouchers for Students Theological students in Slovakia need financial aid for room and board. Provide a week's worth of lunch vouchers for a student.</p>	\$30
<p>23. Dental Care Your gift to Fellowship Square Foundation will help low-income elderly or disabled persons get needed dental care. Dental care can be expensive and is not fully covered by Medicare.</p>	\$25
<p>24. Job Skills Coaching Community Family Life Services has a track record in job placement and job retention. This gift will support coaching in the skills needed to get a job: how to search, how to communicate effectively, how to dress, and how to interview.</p>	\$25
<p>25. Camping Activities Youth Haven, a camp for teens with HIV/AIDS operated by Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area, offers support and learning projects that introduce teens to professional possibilities and encourage positive self-expression. This gift will fund development of skills such as music production and photography.</p>	\$25
<p>26. Retreat Lodging Support one night's lodging for a Lutheran Volunteer Corps member on retreat. Retreats are essential to building community and learning new skills. All new volunteers go on retreat early in their year of commitment.</p>	\$25
<p>27. Books & More for Youth Provide a month's supply of educational materials for the Youth Enrichment Programs for children in Transitional Housing Corporation facilities. This program includes books, workbooks, tutoring and enrichment activities.</p>	\$25
<p>28. Metro or Bus Fare Card Help homeless women get to a medical appointment or job interview. Purchase a fare card for one of these women served by Bethany Woman's Center at N Street Village.</p>	\$25
<p>29. Nutritious Meals for a Week Support the purchase of food, preparation and serving of seven nutritious meals for a low-income resident at a Fellowship Square Foundation residence.</p>	\$25
<p>30. Honor a Caring Person Lutheran Volunteer Corps members live simply, build community atmosphere, and seek social justice. Honor a friend who embodies these ideals with this gift which will support LVC volunteers during their year of service.</p>	\$25
<p>31. In Home Care for Seniors Be of assistance to a senior citizen, served by Fellowship Square Foundation, who wants to live safely at home, by aiding with housekeeping, basic medical care and daily chores.</p>	\$20
<p>32. Gift Card for Gas or Food Gas and food gift cards can make a substantial difference for low-income families in need. Your gift to the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation will help put food on the table or gas in the car.</p>	\$15
<p>33. Life Story Journal The Life Story Journal project helps residents at The Village at Rockville (formerly National Lutheran Home) bring back old memories and creates a long-lasting bond with future generations. It also offers a system of interaction for volunteers, friends and family.</p>	\$15
<p>34. Emergency Food, Transportation and Clothing Community Family Life Services is the first point of contact for many people in DC who are in a crisis situation. Your gift helps CFLS respond with food, clothing assistance, delivery of meals to the elderly and transportation assistance.</p>	\$15
<p>35. Child/Teen Wellness Support one week's participation by a Partner Arms child or teen resident in the Transitional Housing Corporation wellness program which emphasizes fitness, health, good nutrition and family life skills.</p>	\$15
<p>36. Flash Drives for Job Club The Southeast Ministry Job Club helps job seekers save resumes in multiple formats to fit different position requirements. Important documents such as birth certificates, social security cards and other IDs are saved on flash drives so they are readily available when job opportunities arise.</p>	\$10
<p>37. Reduce Carbon Footprint The Chapel's furnace at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg is 110 years old and energy inefficient. Converting to a geothermal system will shave the carbon footprint on Gettysburg's historic Seminary Ridge. Help get the project underway.</p>	\$10
<p>38. Read This! Southeast Ministry's programs emphasize reading skills for youth and adults. This gift buys books and enables adult learners to participate in events such as the annual "Big Read."</p>	\$5
<p>39. Our Daily Bread: A Gift Card for a Refugee Supply food through a Giant or Safeway gift card to a newly arrived impoverished refugee served by Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area.</p>	\$5
<p>40. Congregation Designated Gift</p>	\$

GIFTS OF HOPE BENEFICIARIES

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp, CFLC
 a year-round ministry of the Metro DC, Virginia and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synods of the ELCA, provides an intentional Christian Community experience where one meets God in God's awesome creation—over 300 acres of central Virginia's hills, streams, ponds, and forest. With its summer camp, retreat facilities, trained staff and beautiful environment, Caroline Furnace offers a place to learn and grow with others in the faith.
www.carolinefurnace.org

Community Family Life Services, CFLS
 CFLS facilitates personal growth, independence, and integration into a healthy community through a Continuum of Care model for its low-income and homeless clients, regardless of their faith. Its programs in housing, supportive services, emergency services, after school and summer camp, and employment development target the root causes of poverty and homelessness and aim to resolve short-term crises needs, as well as to enable people to achieve permanent economic and social self-sufficiency.
www.cflsdc.org

Fellowship Square Foundation, FSF
 FSF provides housing and related services to low-income elderly and disabled persons in the Washington Metro area. More than just a landlord providing shelter and collecting rent, FSF provides a caring staff, a comfortable, secure living environment worthy of being called "home", and special services such as beauty and barber shops, libraries, social halls, recreational facilities, and places for religious expression. Such environments and services enhance the personal freedom, independence, confidence, and well-being of its residents.
www.fellowshipsquare.org

Good Shepherd Housing Foundation, GSH
 Good Shepherd Housing Foundation of Prince William County, Virginia (GSH), is a provider of housing and support services for the homeless and those in imminent danger of homelessness. GSH provides housing and intensive support services for over 80 men, women and children. Some are single adults with serious mental illness; some are veterans; and some are families and families on the edge, especially those paying 50% and more of their low-wage incomes on housing. Support services include life skills classes, parenting classes, help with budgeting, and skills testing and evaluations of school-aged children. GSH partners with area service providers who are skilled professionals able to help each participant plot a path to stability.
www.goodshepherdhousing.org

Lutheran Church in El Salvador, LCES
 The LCES provides spiritual guidance, hope and reconciliation to El Salvadoran people, many of whom lack fulfillment of basic needs. Unemployment, lack of basic health care, and violence are daily occurrences for some, with women, senior citizens, and children among those most vulnerable. The church works with allied ministries to provide for basic needs, education, and health care for many in urban and rural areas.
www.elca.org/countrypackets

Lutheran Churches in Namibia, ELCIN/ELCRN
 Two Lutheran bodies—ELCIN (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia) and ELCRN (Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia) cooperatively support a Lutheran Seminary in Namibia and each also sustains other educational and economic projects to improve life and livelihood and to meet spiritual needs of the Namibian people.
www.elca.org/countrypackets

Lutheran Churches in Slovakia, LCS
 Since 1989 LCS, with the assistance of missionaries and financial support from partner churches, has reclaimed most of its pre-World War II properties, reopened numerous Lutheran secondary and elementary schools, established a Lutheran Theological Seminary complex in Bratislava, and begun outreach to the Roma (Gypsy) community.
www.elca.org/countrypackets

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, LSS/NCA
 Proclaiming God's grace, LSS/NCA compassionately works to create a society where the most vulnerable among us find wholeness, justice, and self-sufficiency. LSS provides professional social services; assists congregations in identifying and responding to human needs; and advocates for social justice, individual self-sufficiency, and the inherent worth of each human being. LSS is well known for its adoptions program, refugee resettlement and employment services, foster care, innovative programs for youth affected by HIV/AIDS, and emergency preparedness/disaster response.
www.lssnca.org

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, LTSG
 At the crossroads of history and hope, the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg offers graduate degree tracks and lifelong learning programs that equip professional and lay leaders to serve with deep faith and excellence in congregations, social ministry agencies, campus ministries, military settings, and global missions.
www.ltsg.edu

Lutheran Volunteer Corps, LVC
 The LVC is a year-long service program for people 21 and over seeking to unite faith, social justice, community living, and simplicity. Volunteers, matched with non-profit organizations in 10 metro areas across the U.S., work full-time in various positions ranging from direct social services, to political advocacy, community organizing and education. LVC volunteers strive to grow spiritually by working for social justice while living together in intentional communities, simplifying their lifestyles, and managing on a minimum stipend.
www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org

Mar-Lu-Ridge (MLR), MLR
 an outdoor ministry of the ELCA situated in Central Maryland's Catoctin Mountains, ministers through its summer camp, retreat and conference center, and other programs throughout the year—providing experiences to change lives, make disciples, build friendships, and create Christian communities.
www.mar-lu-ridge.org

N Street Village, NSV
 Founded by Luther Place Memorial Church (DC) in 1978, N Street Village empowers homeless and low-income women to claim their highest quality of life by offering a broad spectrum of services and advocacy in an atmosphere of dignity and respect, including transitional, permanent and addiction recovery housing; night shelter; wellness center; day program; and employment services. NSV also provides affordable housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families.
www.nstreetvillage.org

Northern Virginia Coalition, NOVACO
 NOVACO helps homeless victims of domestic abuse become healthy, secure and self-sufficient through community collaboration to provide housing, education, childcare, counseling, mentoring and financial management.
www.novaco.org

Roanoke College, RC
 Roanoke College (an ELCA college) develops students as whole persons and prepares them for responsible lives of learning, service, and leadership by promoting their intellectual, ethical, spiritual and personal growth. www.roanoke.edu

Southeast Ministry, SEM
 Southeast Ministry (SEM) provides a ministry of hope for men, women and children in a safe and respectful environment through education, job readiness training and youth literacy programs that build self-esteem, transform lives and help those involved realize their God-given abilities! In the southeastern part of Washington DC, SEM offers job readiness and GED programs, and an innovative literacy and literature program.
www.reformationdc.org/SEM.html

The Village at Rockville (formerly National Lutheran Home), VR
 Serving seniors and their families with quality care for 120 years, The Village at Rockville, nestled on 30 acres in Rockville, Md., offers independent living, short-term rehabilitation, extended nursing care, respite, hospice and coming soon, assisted living and memory care services.
www.thevillageatrockville.org

Transitional Housing Corporation, THC
 Founded in 1990, THC is a faith-based non-profit organization whose mission is to assist families who are homeless, low-income and at-risk make transformational changes in their lives through tailored housing and supportive services. THC provides transitional and permanent supportive housing and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing programs to more than 200 families in the District.
www.thcdc.org