

The Social Ministry Committee extends the generosity of the congregation to people in need in the Sarasota/Manatee county area. The committee's mission is to identify local agencies and/or families in need and bring their plight to the congregation. The congregation enables the committee to find a way to meet that need. Each committee member serves as liaison to one or more organizations and communicates to the committee the organization's most urgent needs. This process allows the committee to evaluate the organizations, discuss their needs, and assure that the congregation's gifts are being used in the best possible way to serve the community.

In 2011, financial contributions totaled over \$43,000 (\$38,000 from the church benevolence budget [Social Ministry and Local Mission], \$4,700 from additional congregational giving, and \$645 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, along with gifts-in-kind from three separate drives sponsored by the committee during the year.

Social Ministry Committee

Membership

Sandi Carlson, Chair
Lynn Blackledge, Vice-Chair
Gary Yakes, Council Liaison
Darla Anthony
Don Anthony
Brooke Burgher
Rex Burgher
Dick Elliott
Geri Nelson
Christine Ortiz
Carilyn Reiter
Donna Schlorf
Jane Wittlinger
Pastor Bernthal, ex-officio

For information please contact
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Social Ministry



“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

**Social Ministry Committee
St. Armands Key Lutheran Church**

In 2012, the church supported 19 different charitable entities listed below:

Adult Lutherans Organized for Action (ALOA)
All Faiths Food Bank
Angel Tree
Bethesda House
Brothers & Sisters Doing the Right Thing
Community Coalition on Homelessness
First Step
Foundation for Dreams
Genesis Health Services, Inc.
Harvest Tabernacle (Esther's Place/ Harvest House)
Lutheran Outdoor Ministry
Lutheran Services Guardianship Program
Lutheran Services of Florida
Manasota Lighthouse for the Blind
Mothers Helping Mothers
Resurrection House
Salvation Army
Wheat Ridge Ministries
YMCA Schoolhouse Link Program

Excerpts from a few of the thank you letters received this past year:

"As the year ends I want to thank you for your generous donation and ongoing support of our program. Your kindness, support and caring are one of our many blessings and we are truly thankful for all you do." - Sandy Gallagher, Program Director, Bethesda House

"Thank you so very much for your generous gift... Your partnership in ministry delivers healing, hope, and help to people in need in the name of Jesus." – Steve Cecchetti, Director of Development, Lutheran Services of Florida

"Thank you so much for donating diapers and wipes for the young children in our program. The Riverview High School Cysis Teen Parent Program is a drop out prevention program for students in Sarasota County who become pregnant or are parents before graduating from high school. Over 90% of our population lives in poverty. Often it is the donations such as yours that help a student remain in school rather than having to go to work." Dr. Kathy Kourapis, Childcare Director

"Please accept our sincere thanks for the generous donation that you provided for homeless unaccompanied youth here in Sarasota County. The homemade holiday cookies and candies from your group were a taste of heaven. The youth also appreciated the gift cards that you gave them. One youth wrote, 'Thank you sooooo much. You made me a very happy girl. My Christmas will be worth something thanks to you.'... You efforts and generosity made the youth feel valued and realize that they do not have to face their struggles alone." – Ellen McLaughlin and Brian McCombie, Sarasota Family YMCA

"Thank you! Your gift for the purchase of large print bibles will be enjoyed by our residents immensely. It supports our commitment to our residents' dignity of life, even for those who outlive their financial resources." – Estelle Crawford, President, Pines of Sarasota

"On behalf of the Foundation for Dreams, I want to say THANK YOU! We are ecstatic to receive the funding from your church to provide services to children with special needs who wish to attend the 2012 Dream Oaks Camp Summer Residential Program. This funding will put smiles on many campers' faces." – Elena Cassella, Director of Development, Foundation for Dreams