What an amazing year you have provided us at Metro Lutheran Ministry. Your generous support has allowed us to implement new programs, expand our services, and dream big for the future.

With your help, MLM impacted the lives of over 20,000 at-risk and low-income individuals this year. Through services such as the MLM Food Pantry, Emergency Assistance, and Learning to Earning, we were able to address our neighbors’ immediate needs and help many towards the path of self-sufficiency.

Additionally you have welcomed several new programs such as Impact Wednesday. Developed in partnership with Avenue of Life, Impact Wednesday is a coalition of 20 social service agencies that work to stabilize homeless and at-risk families in the KCK school district. By combining resources and tackling each family’s housing, employment, transportation, and health challenges in a holistic manner, Impact Wednesday has reduced student homelessness by 40% in the last two years.

Because of your enthusiasm and generosity, other MLM programs are strong and expanding. This last year saw an increase of homes repaired by the Minor Home Repair Team, enabling many seniors and individuals with disabilities to stay safely housed. Case management for the Family Empowerment program has increased as well with 112 families receiving in-depth coaching and financial literacy training. We are proud to say that 31 families successfully graduated from the Family Empowerment program this past year.

Thanks to a grant from the Sunderland Foundation, MLM’s Central location underwent an exciting transformation. With the help of our volunteer Minor Home Repair Team, the Learning to Earning computer lab moved from the warehouse to the main building and the pantry moved from the main building to the warehouse. Logistically, this switch will help MLM and our clients better utilize the building...and our programs.

Looking ahead to 2018, the dream of Eileen’s Place is closer to becoming a reality. The multi-unit apartment complex, designed specifically for single mothers and their children, will be a safe and nurturing community that includes on-site support staff, a playground, and even a daycare facility.

Closer on the horizon is the launch of MLM’s new Financial Opportunity Center at our Midtown location. In partnership with LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation), MLM will be the 5th FOC site in Kansas City, providing integrated services related to financial coaching and career guidance. The FOC will significantly enhance existing MLM programs and connect us to many new resources.

Your contributions are an investment in the community and the fuel that keeps us going. It has been our pleasure to serve alongside you.

Respectfully,

Jim Glynn
Executive Director

Tim O’Neil
Chairman of the Board

Our Mission
With abiding faith in the intrinsic value of all God’s children, Metro Lutheran Ministry connects those in need with food, housing, health care, education, employment services and other resources in order to nurture greater hope, health, opportunity and peace.

Our Vision
To be a community that acts justly, loves mercy and walks humbly with God. (Inspired by Micah 6:8)
MLM believes that every person is entitled to a life of dignity and a hope for the future. Poverty makes that right seem like a far-fetched dream for far too many people throughout the metro area.

The root causes of poverty are complex; it may be triggered by a job loss, divorce, unexpected family crisis, illness, or underemployment. For those suffering its effects, poverty presents many impossible choices every day. One client commented, “If I pay the rent and bills, I have no money for food.” Basic needs must be sacrificed for other basic needs.

Thankfully, you have helped stand in the gap for thousands of Kansas Citians and helped diminish their fear, reveal their strength, and restore their hope.
When I was out there, homeless, I felt like an outcast, a reject. Now, that’s all behind me. I feel human again, like my old self. When I got to MLM, I started healing. I can be somebody again, other than a ghost.”

- Bill, graduate of MLM’s Permanent Supportive Housing program

See notes to financial statements.