



More meaningful giving.
2024 CATALOG



More Meaningful Giving

Are you ready to change the world but don't know where to start? Do you have a loved one who doesn't need or want any more "stuff" but whom you'd like to recognize with a gift in their honor?

Consider giving a tax-deductible Gift of Hope.

Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift-giving program and ministry sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Gifts of Hope is open to all people and helps people in need regardless of their faith or religious affiliation.

Local and Global Impacts

Operating since 1992, Gifts of Hope has raised and disbursed almost \$4 million to church camps, local ministries, international companion synods, and local social service agencies affiliated with the Synod. These funds have helped the homeless, the hungry, the young, the elderly, immigrants, refugees, jobseekers, seminary and college students, and those seeking to improve their lives.

Unlock Your Generosity

We've done the work of vetting and curating a list of beneficiary organizations that do good work in our community and beyond. You can give to a variety of ministries all at once and in one place, saving you time. Gifts of Hope covers online payment and wire transfer fees when distributing donations to beneficiary organizations. Any amount is appreciated, and rest assured that your donation will help those who need it the most.

It's easy to give: you can either donate online (GiftsOfHopeDC.org) or write a check (see the order form at the back of the catalog). Within about a week of receiving your payment, we will send you a letter acknowledging your donation and which you can use for tax purposes.

If you are giving in someone's honor or memory, we invite you to send a digital card to your loved one(s). Some congregations within the Metro D.C. Synod may also have printed cards available; check with your congregation to see if they opted to print cards. If you would like a special letter to send to family or friends letting them know that you have donated in loving memory of someone special, please contact the Gifts of Hope Director at goh@metrodcelca.org.

Gifts of Hope thanks Good Shepherd Lutheran (Gaithersburg), Emmanuel Lutheran (Vienna), and Thrivent Financial for funds that helped offset catalog and card printing costs.

HOW TO ORDER

Online Donations

We use Square to take online payments and accept all major credit cards, Square gift cards, Apple Pay, and Google Pay. Square payment processing keeps your transactions safe and secure. You can add multiple items to your shopping cart within a single transaction and you can customize your donation amounts, too.

You can access our Square shopping site through our website (GiftsOfHopeDC.org) or you can go straight to gifts-of-hope.square.site and access it there.

Giving with a Check

1. Complete the order form at the end of this catalog.
2. Make your check payable to Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA (add "Gifts of Hope" to the memo line).
3. Mail your order form and check to the Gifts of Hope Director (the address is on the order form).

Donations via Gifts of Hope are transferred to these ministries as unrestricted gifts so that the ministries may determine how best to use the funds. If you wish to donate to a specific program within a ministry, please contact the ministry directly for instructions.



Questions?

Feel free to contact the Gifts of Hope Director:
goh@metrodcelca.org

GiftsOfHopeDC.org
[@GiftsOfHopeDC](https://twitter.com/GiftsOfHopeDC)

Beneficiary Organizations

Get to know the organizations we support and their impactful work in the world.



Community Family Life Services

cflsdc.org

Since 1969, Community Family Life Services (CFLS) has provided children, families, and adults with the tools and resources needed to move beyond poverty and homelessness. CFLS specializes in reentry support for women who are returning home following a period of incarceration by assisting them as they move into permanent self-sufficiency and stability. Our clients are seeking healing and redemption and a second chance at life. **Your gift of any amount will help CFLS provide reentering women with essential tools for success through access to all of our services including employment, parenting, mental and physical health, HIV prevention, domestic violence awareness, financial literacy, legal advice and more.**



The Community of St. Dysmas

stdysmasmd.org

The Community of St. Dysmas (CSD) is a congregation within the walls of the Maryland State prison system. Staff and volunteers provide worship, Bible study, and Christian support to the inmates at four facilities, as well as support to those who have been transferred to a facility that doesn't have a formal congregation. These lively, faith-filled congregations are where God is changing lives through the good news of grace, forgiveness, and new life. CSD partners with aftercare programs to provide support for members after their release to find housing, employment and basic needs. **Your gifts will enable CSD to continue to bring the Gospel into the prisons and support people as they transition back to the community.**

Fellowship Square

fellowshipsquare.org

Founded in 1960, Fellowship Square advocates for and provides affordable housing and supportive services to older adults with very limited income. Fellowship Square offers safe living environments that enhance independence, self-confidence, and the well-being of its diverse residents. The chaplaincy program provides pastoral care and counseling to residents. **Your gifts will support emergency food supplies, some medical/dental expenses, transportation assistance and other healthy living services and activities.**





Gracing Spaces

Gracing Spaces is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that furnishes homes to help neighbors transition from homelessness. Gracing Spaces began 20 years ago, collecting furniture, household items, children’s clothing and toys, and preparing them for distribution to the clients of more than 20 other non-profits and Fairfax County agencies. We were able to assist more than 1,000 people in 2023, distributing more than 6,200 items.

One of the social workers we partner with said, “As a school social worker, managing many needs, your program’s efficiency in assisting families quickly and the kindness and warmth displayed by volunteers is commendable.” A non-profit organization outreach case manager said, “We social workers help clients get into places, but Gracing Spaces makes it a home!” **Your gift will help us to continue this vital ministry of serving our neighbors.**



Good Shepherd Housing Foundation

goodshepherdhousing.org

Good Shepherd provides housing for vulnerable individuals and families with low income, particularly those struggling with mental illness. Rent does not exceed 30% of income and case management support is available in some of the homes. **Your gift allows Good Shepherd to give each family in their housing program a \$250 monthly housing utility allowance plus affordable rent. Without this support many children would not have a permanent home to return to after school.**



Housing Up

housingup.org

Founded in 1990 by volunteers in faith-based communities, Housing Up builds thriving communities in Washington, DC by developing affordable housing and providing comprehensive support services to homeless and low-income families, empowering them to gain long-term independence.

Housing Up serves more than 900 families throughout the District and offers a broad range of services, including enrichment programming for youth and young adults. To thrive in the District, families not only have to maintain their housing but also have to pay for items many of us take for granted like transportation, childcare, food & household essentials and healthcare. With homelessness rising 12% in DC in the past year, we need your help to ensure families stay stably housed.

Beneficiary Organizations

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La Sagrada Familia

La Sagrada Familia is an outreach of service and learning and outreach ministries with the Latinx immigrant community around Langley Park in Maryland. La Sagrada is sponsored by a network that includes the Metro D.C. Synod, St. Luke Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, and Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Maryland. Congregations of the Maryland Conference also support La Sagrada Familia's work, as do individuals from all over the area.



The Humble Walk

Dinner and Worship every Sunday @5 @Hope Lutheran Church and Student Center

Lutheran Campus Ministry

facebook.com/thehumblewalk

Lutheran Campus Ministry supports young adults as they navigate one of the most important times of their lives. Throughout the Synod, our campus ministries provide opportunities for students to worship, grow in their faith and connect with inter-faith learning opportunities, as well as develop leadership skills, participate in meaningful service opportunities, have time and space for retreats, and much more. **Your gifts support and raise up young adult leaders who are the present (and future!) of the church and the world.**

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area

lssnca.org

Since 1917, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA) has served boldly in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Today, LSSNCA provides services that foster healthy and self-sufficient livelihoods including refugee and immigrant resettlement; workforce development, and interpretation; family and children services—foster care for unaccompanied refugee minors and adoption services; and health and wellness services—CARE for Newcomers, healthy relationships education and Youth Haven. Together and with the help of partners and volunteers, we work to promote welcoming and compassionate communities.

Gifts will transform the lives of others.



Lutheran Volunteer Corps

lutheranvolunteercorps.org

Since 1979, more than 2,700 Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) “Fellows” have selflessly dedicated their time and vocation to the causes of social justice, inclusion, and equity. Their work has profoundly impacted our society, addressing a wide range of social issues such as immigration reform, legal justice, housing insecurity, educational programs, health advocacy and access, and much more. LVC builds a community of volunteers from all backgrounds and lifestyles, bound by a robust spiritual goal and a desire to create meaningful change through intersectional action.

LVC is a place for everyone, welcoming Fellows from all walks of life: retirees, those on sabbatical, individuals facing job loss, recent graduates, gap year participants, and anyone seeking a greater purpose. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, participation is free for the Fellow, but the effect they make on their Placement community is immeasurable.

Many LVC Fellows go on to make a significant impact in their Placement positions and beyond. We urge you to consider making a gift to help nurture the next generation of diverse emerging leaders. Your support is not just valuable, it is pivotal in shaping the future of our society through these leaders.

What your Partnership Gifts Will Do:

- **\$275 provides a Fellow a “Living and Learning” stipend for food, local travel to the charity where our Fellows serve, and incidentals,**
- **\$1,650 houses six Fellows in DC’s Bon House AND provides a “Living and Learning” stipend,**
- **For one month, \$3,330 provides rent, housing, and utilities for Six Fellows in the ENTIRE Bon House (in DC)!”**

N Street Village

nstreetvillage.org

Founded in 1973, N Street Village supports homeless and low-income women in Washington D.C. to claim their highest quality of life by offering a broad spectrum of services, including housing, and advocacy in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. The Village provides the tools for women to make real, lasting change in their lives.

Your gift of:

- **\$29 can provide a Household Essentials Kit with cleaning supplies, toiletries, and more**
- **\$37 can provide 30 nutritious meals**
- **\$72 can provide three welcome kits with essentials like socks, travel-sized toiletries, and more**
- **\$200 can provide housing and services for one week for two women living in permanent supportive housing**
- **\$500 can provide housing and supportive services for two weeks for one woman living with HIV at Miriam’s House**



Support Outdoor Ministries: Caroline Furnace & Mar-Lu-Ridge

carolinefurnace.org • mar-lu-ridge.org

Outdoor ministries serve youth and families, provide space for respite and learning in beautiful settings, and help others grow in faith. Located in Fort Valley, Virginia, Caroline Furnace’s mission is to provide unforgettable faith, education, and renewal experiences in God’s creation for all God’s people. Located in the beautiful Catoctin Mountains of Maryland, Mar-Lu-Ridge is a place of community, service, and sanctuary. Both outdoor ministries offer year-round retreat hospitality and summer camp programming.

Your gift will be split evenly between Caroline Furnace and Mar-Lu-Ridge. Funds will be used to support scholarships, programming, and equipment.

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Roanoke College

roanoke.edu

Roanoke College is a four-year, liberal arts college located in Salem, Virginia. Founded in 1842, it is the second oldest Lutheran-affiliated college in the United States. With an innovative core curriculum, outstanding faculty and a stunning location in Virginia's Blue Ridge, Roanoke guides each student on a highly personalized journey to develop their strengths and embrace their potential. Students gain the mettle, mindset and empathy to pursue purposeful lives and meaningful careers while meeting our society's most pressing needs.

Your gift supporting Roanoke College will be directed to the scholarship program for students pursuing a church vocation who are from the Washington, D.C., area or the three international companion synods. Gifts of Hope helps students with tuition assistance and other college expenses.



Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington

samaritanministry.org

Samaritan Ministry's Next Step program is a critical lifeline for DMV adults whose lives have been stymied by poverty, ill health, racism, limited access to opportunities, and hopelessness. We empower returning citizens and others experiencing homelessness, unemployment and other critical challenges to set and achieve personalized goals for self-sustaining and purposeful lives, one step at a time. Intensive personal counseling, GED prep, job-readiness instruction, vocational training, and career coaching offered through a team of caseworkers in four home-like offices across the region are all included in our lifelong, wrap-around services. Additionally, we support enrolled Samaritan participants with interview attire, pantry food, personal hygiene products, and other emergency assistance. And for Samaritan volunteers, we offer substantial opportunities to assist participants on their journeys, providing a chance for mutual transformation and growth.

Your gift will provide a participant with hope, guidance, and material support in getting their own life on track. \$100 could provide an Internet hotspot, \$500 would supply a loan-to-own laptop, and \$1,000 could help secure an apartment lease or go towards the purchase or repair of a car required for employment. Any amount will assist us in providing skilled and dedicated caseworkers.



Shelter House

shelterhouse.org

Shelter House was founded in 1981 to address the homelessness crisis in Fairfax County. Over the past 40 years the agency has blossomed to provide a variety of housing solutions and critical support to persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness and victims of domestic violence. Currently, Shelter House provides homelessness prevention services, emergency shelter, drop-in day services, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and affordable housing to support low-income households in the Northern Virginia area to obtain and maintain safe, permanent housing. Your gift to Shelter House is more important than ever as many low-income households struggle to navigate the long-lasting economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By choosing to give to Shelter House, your gift of rent or utility assistance will help to ensure that families are able to stay in housing during this difficult time.



United Lutheran Seminary

unitedlutheranseminary.edu

United Lutheran Seminary (ULS) is the ELCA seminary within our region. ULS is comprised of two physical campuses, Philadelphia and Gettysburg, and a distributed online learning campus. ULS is a Reconciling in Christ seminary.

United Lutheran Seminary builds and sustains an affirming and diverse learning community of faithful, well-educated leaders skilled at guiding grace-filled encounters. Deeply rooted in the history of Lutheranism within Christianity, we witness to participate in the work of God in the world through spiritual leadership, public advocacy, impactful worship, and care of neighbor. The seminary offers six graduate degree tracks and lifelong learning programs that equip rostered and lay leaders to serve with deep faith and excellence—in congregations, social ministry agencies, campus ministries, military settings, and global missions.

Your gift to ULS will help seminarians meet basic needs and help underwrite expenses while they are being formed as faithful servant leaders and develop skills that are Lutheran in focus, ecumenical in practice, and led by grace.





The Village at Rockville – A National Lutheran Community

thevillageatrockville.org

Founded in 1890, The Village at Rockville—A National Lutheran Community—is a Life Plan Community, offering independent living, assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care to older adults in Montgomery County and the surrounding areas. Inspired by Matthew 25:40, The Village at Rockville is committed to our mission to honor, inspire and support choice and opportunity in service to older adults, including residents experiencing financial difficulty. Our benevolent care program provides financial assistance to residents who outlive their financial resources, through no fault of their own, so that they can remain at The Village at Rockville. **Your gift is priceless to residents in need because it offers them peace of mind, security, and dignity. We invite you to support our mission and benevolent care as we faithfully serve older adults.**



Companion Synod: **The Salvadoran Lutheran Church**

The Salvadoran Lutheran Church is a new church: small in numbers, but with a powerful voice in a country where pain and hope are both easy to see. These Lutheran churches in El Salvador thrive among the least fortunate, in urban slums and small towns. **Your gift will help fund micro-business grants and other projects, and support salaries for pastors, almost all of whom have jobs outside the church, to pay their bills and support their congregations.**



Companion Synod: **Lutheran Churches in Namibia**

Our Synod has Companion Synod relationships with three entities in Namibia—The Paulinum Seminary, ELCIN, and ELCRN. Gifts of Hope help the various Lutheran entities in Namibia, who can choose which project they like (whether it be books for the Seminary, hostel supplies for ELCRN, or monies for the retired pastors' fund sponsored by ELCIN). **Your gift will improve livelihoods and meet the spiritual needs of the Namibian people.**



Order Form for Donations by Check

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____

Full Address (street, city, state, zip code) _____

Email address _____

Are you a member of an ELCA Metro D.C. Synod church? If so, please list your church name and city. _____

Are you a church giving one check that is actually a compilation of multiple gifts from individuals/families? If so, can you give us a rough estimate (it's okay not to have an exact number) of how many donors are included in this one gift? _____

YOUR ORDER

Beneficiary Organizations	Amount of Donation
I will support all organizations with one donation split evenly among them.	
Community Family Life Services	
The Community of St. Dymas	
Fellowship Square	
Good Shepherd Housing Foundation	
Gracing Spaces	
Housing Up	
La Sagrada Familia	
Lutheran Campus Ministry	
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area	
Lutheran Volunteer Corps	
N Street Village	
Outdoor Ministries (Caroline Furnace and Mar-Lu-Ridge)	
Roanoke College	
Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington	
Shelter House (formerly NOVACO)	
United Lutheran Seminary	
The Village at Rockville—A National Lutheran Community	
Companion Synod: The Salvadoran Lutheran Church	
Companion Synod: Lutheran Churches in Namibia	
Administrative Costs	Amount of Donation
I wish to support the mission of Gifts of Hope with a contribution to the operating fund.	
TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT:	

All donations are tax deductible. **Make checks payable to Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, ELCA (add "Gifts of Hope" to the memo line).**
 Mail checks to: Gifts of Hope, c/o Natalie Cain, 7901 Bethelen Woods Lane, Springfield, VA 22153



GIFTS *of*
HOPE

GiftsOfHopeDC.org

[@GiftsOfHopeDC](https://twitter.com/GiftsOfHopeDC)