



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

2014 GIFTS OF HOPE

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

Making a Difference: Gifts of Hope serves as a bridge between those who want to help and those who provide the help. This year Gifts of Hope will reach \$3M in donations during our 22 years. Thousands of people have seen their lives change for the better: those who received and those who gave.

Why do you support Gifts of Hope?

- To bring hope to others—today and tomorrow.
- To share a portion of what God has given you.
- To pay it forward because someone helped you.
- To honor Jesus' commandment to have love for one another.
- To serve, knowing it is more blessed to give than to receive.
- To strengthen your relationship with God—lifting your hands and your life.
- To respond to the grace which God has given you.
- To help those in need.
- Because Jesus calls us.

The 39 gifts in this catalog provide a glimpse to the needs that are in our community which are addressed by the 17 GOH agencies. In addition to our annual Advent campaign in the congregations of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, Gifts of Hope moves forward in new directions.

Benefit Concerts: Gifts of Hope has recently celebrated our second annual Benefit Concert. At our first concert (September 2013) our audience enjoyed the organ music of Martin Kueckes. We raised more than \$2100 for our agencies, which included matching funds from the Montgomery Chapter of Thrivent Financial. This past October our audience enjoyed the music of jazz vocalist and pianist Lizabeth Flood. All money raised, with matching funds from the Fairfax Chapter of Thrivent Financial, was disbursed to our 17 Gifts of Hope agencies.

New Website: This fall we launched a new Gifts of Hope website which provides smoother access to information about our agencies, designated gifts, and activities. Our new website has a new, shorter URL: www.giftsofhopedc.org

Our gifts are an alternative to traditional gift-giving. There are 3 different ways to select gifts which will benefit those in need.

1. Most congregations in the Metro DC Synod (ELCA) host sales events during the Advent season. There are a variety of gifts, so find those that interest you or are at the 'right price'. (Remember to bring your checkbook.) You will receive holiday cards, including descriptions of the designated gifts, which you can give to your loved ones. 100% of your monetary gift will go to the beneficiary organizations.
2. Place an order online for Christmas or any other gift-giving occasion and receive a holiday or all-purpose card and gift description insert. Tax-deductible gifts are available year-round at: www.giftsofhopedc.org (NEW URL). (Payment by credit card, debit card or Paypal account.)
3. If you do not place an order through your congregation during Advent or place an order online, then please complete the order form below and mail it with your check, payable to 'Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod'.

ORDER FORM

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Email Address: _____

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
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MAIL TO:
Carolyn Sowinski
20415 Peridot Lane
Germantown, MD 20876

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/DCGOH](https://www.facebook.com/DCGOH) (you do not need to have a FB account to look at our page!)

Blog: giftsofhopedc.blogspot.com

Website: www.giftsofhopedc.org NEW

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GIFTS OF HOPE DESCRIPTIONS

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|---|--|
| <p>1. Camp Scholarship \$250</p> <p>This Gift of Hope helps send a child to Mar-Lu-Ridge Lutheran Camp for one week. Help a camper experience the joy of nature, skill of sports, fun of new friends and caring camp staff—all under the umbrella of God’s love.</p> | <p>10. Medical Care for Moms \$75</p> <p>This gift provides medical emergency care for homeless victims of abuse served by Northern Virginia Coalition (NOVACO). While children qualify for local and state benefits and health programs, many mothers do not.</p> |
| <p>2. Language Interpretation Services \$150</p> <p>Difficulties for the homeless are compounded if they do not yet speak English. N Street Village can provide services to homeless clients of over 150 languages. This Gift of Hope will provide one month of interpretation services for homeless women who do not speak English as a first language.</p> | <p>11. Kitchen Essentials for Family Supper \$60</p> <p>Help a refugee family served by Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area build their kitchen with essentials, making cooking and family mealtime easier. This gift will provide a saucepan, frying pan, mixing/serving bowls and utensils.</p> |
| <p>3. Two Weeks of Service \$120</p> <p>LVC volunteers work on social justice issues at over 120 non-profits across the country including the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, giving organizations access to affordable, skilled employees. This gift allows Lutheran Volunteer Corps to provide two weeks of service, addressing injustices through direct service, advocacy and organizational support.</p> | <p>12. One Week of Service \$60</p> <p>LVC volunteers work on social justice issues at over 120 non-profits across the country including the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, giving organizations access to affordable, skilled employees. This gift allows Lutheran Volunteer Corps to provide one week of service, addressing injustices through direct service, advocacy and organizational support.</p> |
| <p>4. Church Building Repair \$100</p> <p>Architecturally beautiful churches in Slovakia need repair. This gift will provide funds to repair the church tower for the congregation in the Kamenany village, served by the Lutheran Churches in Slovakia. Fixing the roof will end water damage to the sanctuary and provide a safe worship space.</p> | <p>13. Transportation Assistance \$60</p> <p>Preloaded SmarTrip cards help homeless women, clients of N Street Village, attend medical appointments, job interviews, work, and recovery support groups. This gift provides a month’s transportation to a woman rebuilding her life.</p> |
| <p>5. Support for Caregivers \$100</p> <p>Help fixed-income caregivers attend Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area’s Support U classes at free or reduced cost, giving them support and training as they bear the responsibility of caring for an aging or ill loved one.</p> | <p>14. Electronic Library \$50</p> <p>E-readers allow seniors to adjust print size and lighting of text. They are lightweight and easy for seniors to hold or carry. This gift will help create an electronic library available to all seniors at The Village at Rockville, a National Lutheran Community.</p> |
| <p>6. Child Enrichment Program \$100</p> <p>This gift supports low-income and homeless children in Community Family Life Services programs as they participate in academic tutoring, sports and arts. Help ensure positive development for these children.</p> | <p>15. House Furnishing Kit \$50</p> <p>Provide one homeless family at Transitional Housing Corporation with a basic household furnishing kit as they move from a homeless shelter into an apartment. Your gift helps finance beds, sheets, kitchen items and more.</p> |
| <p>7. Drip Irrigation Gardens \$100</p> <p>Drip irrigation systems help vegetable gardens grow in Namibia’s arid environment. The ELCRN community in Namibia needs more gardens producing more nutritious food. This gift will provide a water tank, soil, shade netting, plants, organic fertilizer and training.</p> | <p>16. Invest in Future Leaders of the Church \$50</p> <p>Those called to ministry sacrifice time and energy, study the Word of God and develop skills which put words into action. This gift to the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg will help underwrite costs, thus maintaining steady tuition levels.</p> |
| <p>8. Fund for Retired Pastors \$75</p> <p>The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia has a pension fund for pastors who retired after 1990, but not for pastors who retired sooner. This gift to ELCIN will go into a retirement account and support an outreach workshop for these pastors who retired before 1990.</p> | <p>17. Job Skills Coaching \$50</p> <p>Job competition is intense. Some who want to work do not know the basic steps to gain employment. Your gift to Community Family Life Services helps clients develop skills necessary to get a job: how to search, communicate, dress, interview.</p> |
| <p>9. Mattresses, Blankets, Shoes \$75</p> <p>Be a hero to a neighbor in need. This gift provides a pair of shoes, a warm blanket, a much needed mattress or another daily essential for a child or family served by Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area’s Youth Haven Camps, Refugee and Immigrant Services or Foster Care programs.</p> | <p>18. Chaplaincy Services \$50</p> <p>This gift provides chaplaincy services for low-income seniors at Fellowship Square Foundation to help prevent isolation and boredom, to comfort during times of need and for religious services to the homebound.</p> <p>19. Equipped for a New Job \$50</p> <p>Getting a job is great until the supervisor says you need an ID card, textbook, uniform, work boots or tools. This gift equips Southeast Ministry clients for their jobs.</p> |

<p>20. Funds for Luther Plaza \$50</p> <p>Roanoke College is developing a new gateway to the Cregger Center. This gift will support efforts to create the Luther Plaza—an architecturally designed green space for relaxation and gathering at the crossroads of campus life.</p>	<p>31. Dental Care \$25</p> <p>Your gift to Fellowship Square Foundation will help low-income elderly or disabled persons get needed dental care which can be expensive and is not covered by Medicare.</p>
<p>21. Books for Seminary Library \$40</p> <p>Paulinum Seminary in Windhoek, Namibia does an outstanding job of educating students to become pastors. The library and professors need books on theology, philosophy, Old and New Testaments. This gift will put learned texts into the hands of seminary students.</p>	<p>32. SmarTrips for Success \$25</p> <p>Residents at Transitional Housing Corporation spend an average of \$50 a week commuting to job interviews and job training seminars. This gift helps cover transportation costs during the vulnerable time between homelessness and self-sufficiency.</p>
<p>22. Humanitarian Assistance for Deported Migrants \$40</p> <p>Violence, forced recruitment of children and adolescents into gangs have triggered an increase in family migration from El Salvador since 2011. The Lutheran Church in El Salvador helps women, children and adolescents who are repatriated and need transitional help. This gift purchases a food kit for families when they arrive back in El Salvador.</p>	<p>33. Support Pastoral Ministry in El Salvador \$25</p> <p>The Metro Washington DC Synod is a companion synod to the Lutheran Church in El Salvador which is committed to serving impoverished and marginalized communities. Your donation, placed in an ELCA endowment fund, will support pastoral ministry where the congregations are too poor to support a pastor.</p>
<p>23. Transportation Assistance \$35</p> <p>Transportation is a big expense for Northern Virginia Coalition (NOVACO) families. The mothers need to get to work, to counseling and/or to transport their children to daycare. This gift will provide money for gas, bus tokens and more.</p>	<p>34. Food for a Seminarian \$20</p> <p>Help meet basic needs for students and their families at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. The Seminary Food Pantry provides nonperishable foods, fresh produce, laundry/cleaning supplies and more, essentials for limited income families pursuing their call to public ministry.</p>
<p>24. School Clothes \$30</p> <p>Formerly homeless children served by Good Shepherd Housing Foundation, like all children, keep growing all through the year. Help outfit them with school clothes, including winter coats.</p>	<p>35. Gas and Food Cards \$15</p> <p>Gas and food gift cards make a substantial difference for low-income families served by Good Shepherd Housing Foundation. This gift puts food on the table and gas in the car ensuring that children are fed and parents get to work.</p>
<p>25. Summer Camp Equipment \$30</p> <p>Fishing, archery, caving and more! This Gift of Hope will provide sports equipment to campers at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp. Help make the camp experience memorable for all.</p>	<p>36. Full Day of Service \$15</p> <p>LVC volunteers work on social justice issues at over 120 nonprofits across the country including the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, giving organizations access to affordable, skilled employees. This gift allows Lutheran Volunteer Corps to provide one day of service, addressing injustices through direct service, advocacy and organizational support.</p>
<p>26. Mentor Program \$30</p> <p>A mentor can change a child's life. This gift will allow a child in foster care or in a homeless family to participate in Community Family Life Services' Mentoring Program, pairing the child with a mentor who will support him/her on the road out of poverty.</p>	<p>37. Therapeutic Memory Garden \$10</p> <p>Therapeutic gardens are designed to facilitate health and well-being by providing a peaceful open-air environment, with stimulating colors, fragrances, textures and sounds. This gift will provide special plants and flowers for the two new memory gardens at The Village at Rockville, a National Lutheran Community</p>
<p>27. Bridge the Digital Divide \$30</p> <p>Access to information technology (IT) is not a luxury; it is a key to improving the educational and economic prospects of Southeast Ministry learners. This Gift of Hope helps SEM purchase equipment and maintain the infrastructure to help learners succeed.</p>	<p>38. Rush Hour Ride \$10</p> <p>A bus ride can be the difference between a Southeast Ministry learner attending class/work or living another day without self-sufficiency. This gift provides much needed transit help for low-income people attending literacy and GED preparation classes or for job-readiness graduates commuting to work.</p>
<p>28. Groceries for a Family for a Day \$30</p> <p>Help meet a 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>	<p>39. Nutritious Meal \$10</p> <p>Help provide a nutritious meal to a homebound resident at a Fellowship Square Foundation residence. Your gift subsidizes the cost of food and the preparation and serving of one meal.</p>
<p>29. Pack a Backpack \$25</p> <p>Transitional Housing Corporation provides backpacks, healthy snacks, educational games and other school needs to homeless and at-risk youth. This gift helps finance THC youth programs.</p>	<p>40. Congregation Designated Gift</p>
<p>30. Nutritious Food \$25</p> <p>Many homeless and low-income women do not have access to affordable and nutritious food. N Street Village provides three meals a day to clients. This gift will provide 20 healthy meals to clients.</p>	

GIFTS OF HOPE BENEFICIARIES

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp [CFLC]

Located on 270 acres in the Shenandoah Valley, CFLC provides an inviting remote environment where campers can meet God in God's awesome creation. This year-round ministry serves the Metro DC, Virginia and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synods of the ELCA with summer camp sessions and year-round retreat facilities where guests grow with others in faith.

www.carolinefurnace.org

Community Family Life Services [CFLS]

Founded in 1969, the CFLS vision is to end intergenerational poverty by creating opportunities for positive change and transformation. CFLS provides children, youth and adults with the tools to move beyond poverty and homelessness into permanent self-sufficiency. Our programs include affordable housing, mentoring for youth and families, employment coaching and placement, case management, parent education, youth development programs, and food and clothing distribution.

www.cflsdc.org

Fellowship Square Foundation [FSF]

FSF provides affordable housing and support services for low income seniors and the disabled in the DC area. FSF provides caring and secure living environments and important support services which help residents to stay independent as long as possible. Gifts make a difference in the daily lives of FSF residents.

www.fellowshipsquare.org

Good Shepherd Housing Foundation [GSHF]

GSHF's mission is "To provide housing options for vulnerable individuals and families with low income, particularly those struggling with mental illness". Support services include partnering with area service providers who are skilled professionals in their Shepherd Homes program and providing case management, life skills and rental assistance to families in transitional living programs.

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]

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia and the 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/NCA has served the Metro DC community since 1917 with in-depth, professional services through faith active in love. Current programs include: Adoption & Foster Care, Caregiver Support, Congregational & Community Education, Refugee & Immigrant Services, Youth Haven Camps (HIV/AIDS)

www.lssnca.org

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg [LTSG]

At the crossroads of history and hope, the LTSG 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]

LVC is a national service and leadership development organization that matches volunteers with full-time, year-long positions in social justice organizations. Volunteers work at nonprofits in 13 U.S. cities to provide direct service, advocacy, community organizing, education and more. Living together in household communities of 4 to 7 people, our volunteers commit to 3 core spiritual practices: building community, working for justice, and living simply and sustainably.

www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org

Mar-Lu-Ridge [MLR]

An outdoor ministry of the ELCA situated in Central Maryland's Catocin Mountains, MLR 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 1972, N Street Village is a community of empowerment and recovery for homeless and low-income women in Washington, DC. With comprehensive services addressing both emergency and long-term needs, NSV helps women achieve personal stability and make gains in their housing, income, employment, mental health, physical health, and addiction recovery.

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, child-care, 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]

Located in Ward 8 of Washington, DC, SEM provides a ministry of hope for men and women in a safe and respectful environment through education, job readiness and other programs that build self-esteem, transform lives and help those involved realize their God-given abilities.

www.southeastministrydc.org

The Village at Rockville [TVAR]

Serving seniors and their families with quality care for over 120 years, TVAR, nestled on 30 acres in Rockville, MD offers independent living, short-term rehabilitation, extended nursing care, respite, hospice, assisted living and, coming soon, memory care services.

www.thevillageatrockville.org

Transitional Housing Corporation [THC]

THC is a faith-based homeless service organization, founded in 1990, with the mission to provide housing and supportive services to at-risk families to help them make transformational changes in their lives. THC has become a leading services and housing provider in DC providing transitional, permanent supportive, rapid re-housing and affordable housing to more than 500 families.

www.thcdc.org