



Photo by Jeff Rogers

A Letter from our CEO

There is a beautiful passage of scripture in Jeremiah where God calls the Israelites to “seek the prosperity of the city.” This is certainly a foundational scripture to us at Lexington Leadership Foundation as our vision is for Lexington to become a City for God. I’ve now watched volunteers, staff, and leaders carry out this command in partnership with us at LLF for almost 15 years. While I have great pride in what we’ve done together, I must say that our efforts during the Covid crisis are nothing short of breathtaking. The result of this collective effort is that many marginalized in our city have been blessed during such an unprecedented time. We believe this is what God was intending when he gave that beautiful command to his people.

For us to bring prosperity to our city, we need to be mindful of justice in all

forms. Specifically, we need proactive engagement with our brothers and sisters, especially as it relates to racial reconciliation and wholeness.

We must be a booming voice for the unheard and come before the Lord with prayer and petition that we may be given supernatural strength, wisdom, and discernment to create change that reflects the kingdom of heaven.

In practicing justice, what we do is as important to us as what we say. My hope is that you, as a stakeholder in LLF and in the City for God, see us actively seeking justice for the poor and the oppressed. For us to be faithful to the scripture, this means we must “live justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.”

Finally, how we do justice is possibly of utmost importance. I’m reminded of my first community meeting with Dr. John Withers in 2006, after I was just hired to be a part of LLF. We were seated in the County Attorney’s office talking about partnering on prisoner re-entry project. Right at the start of the meeting, as they talked about justice, John interrupted and said, “Wait, before you go any further, I have to tell you that we are about justice but we are also about Jesus!” He then paused and said, “Are you okay with that?”

So, as you read this particular newsletter, I am summoning my inner John Withers by saying, “Wait, before you go any further, I have to tell you that we are about justice but we are also about Jesus.” May his Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven and may it be fulfilled that Lexington becomes the City for God that she is intended to be.

Peace,
Eric Geary

our mission

Through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit we **CONNECT** leaders, **UNIFY** the body, and **MOBILIZE** people to **TRANSFORM** Lexington into a city for God.

WOODHILL FEEDING PROGRAM

Between March, 2020 - May, 2020:

11,593 Meals Served

227 Lunches Served Per Day On Average

We will continue to serve meals throughout the summer as well. Please reach out to us if you would like to be involved in donating food or delivering meals to families at info@lexlf.org or call 859-277-3087.

URBAN IMPACT

Volunteer Highlight:

Bekah Stivers, Her Response to Helping the Community

Bekah Stivers, one of our Urban Impact volunteers, recently organized a fundraiser. The goal was to not only provide lunches for the kids and families Urban Impact and Amachi are serving during COVID-19, but to also enable caterers who are currently without work, earn income. Money raised through this project is being used to pay caterers to prepare meals. The meals are given to those families impacted by the crisis. The majority of those currently served are residents of the Woodhill Community.

This was a project Bekah took on, without prodding from the Urban Impact or Amachi staff. An important aspect of this fundraiser is the fact that many of our current volunteers and donors decided to give towards this. Most of them already were aware our staff is preparing and delivering lunches each day, but because of

Bekah's efforts, they rallied beside her. Some had already given towards our feeding efforts but chose to give again after seeing Bekah's social media posts. Others outside our network are giving to this as well, and people who previously were not familiar with our work are "sharing" the fundraiser via Facebook, as well as promoting it with videos and other means.

"We can't help everyone during this crisis. So, to me, it's important to make what help we can give matter as we merge communities and continue to grow relationships within Woodhill." –BEKAH

As a volunteer, Bekah has had the opportunity to get to know many of the young ladies who live in the Woodhill Community through the Aerial 422 silks program she initiated, as well as through our Urban Impact Girls Group. The relationships she has formed with

these young people and their families enable her to assess vital needs and set goals to help meet those needs.

Bekah is personifying our Village concept in a tangible way. She is connecting with the youth and families we serve, our current volunteers and donors, and the greater Lexington community. We are appreciative of her and the model she has set before us which not only fills a need, but builds the economy of our city during this unstable time!



Bekah Stivers Urban Impact Volunteer

PRAYER ROOM

Perservering in Prayer

During the time when the physical building of the Prayer Room was closed, our prayer ministry was going stronger than ever with the Lord's Holy Spirit guiding us. We were able to host weekly prayer and worship times via Zoom with the community, and staff

was available to pray with groups and individuals as well. We are thankful to say that as of June 1st the Prayer Room is open to scheduled groups for prayer and worship. For the summer we have decided to cease having The Prayer Room open 24/7 for safety of the community.

Please see our website at lexlf.org/the-prayer-room for regularly scheduled gatherings and if you have

any questions reach out to Tommy Green at tgreen@lexlf.org or call 859-489-8716.

May the thoughts of His mind and the purposes of His heart be established in you and for you!

The Prayer Room is located at 1218 S. Broadway Lexington, KY 40504

Mentors & Mentees Staying Connected

What does Amachi mentoring look like with social distancing in place and sheltering at home these last few months? We are so encouraged to say that even though our mentors were unable to spend time in person with their mentees, many of them are maintaining strong relationships through virtual mentoring, text messaging, phone calls, video chatting and more. It has brought joy to our hearts to see relationships grow in spite of practicing social distancing. Recently Andrea, a mentor to Rayshawn, commented on why Amachi was important to them. "I enjoy mentoring Rayshawn because I learn something new about her every day. It's so amazing to see how much she's grown as a young lady from when I first met her. As much as she has learned from me, I have learned just as much from her." Even with these alterations taking place, our work continues. We are checking in with families, providing resources to mentors and connecting our mentees to needed community resources. We're delivering lunches and educational supplies to our mentee families and are working with mentors to provide creative ways to stay connected. We look forward to being able to resume in-person meetings eventually, as well as hosting opportunities for mentors and mentees, along with matching the 30 young people currently on our waiting list!



THANK YOU

to everyone who gave for KY Gives Day 2020! Through the generosity of so many, we were able to raise \$16,000, all of which will go towards programming for Amachi.

FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

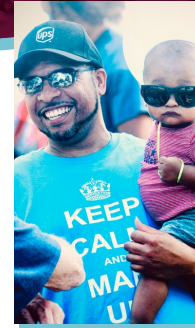
Serving the Father

As it has everyone else, the pandemic caused a pause and shift for us. As they say though, "The show MUST go on!" That is the attitude FI has taken with its Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Relationship small groups for its fathers and men. After being forced to stop in-person classes in March, staff and volunteers rallied together to organize online classes via Zoom. We worked to make sure fathers and volunteers had access to the technology and resources they needed, and once that was accomplished all groups were able to resume and complete. We are now using this approach to launch classes in Blackburn Correctional Facility and the community-at-large. We also remain strongly connected with our Fayette County Detention Center cohorts and will resume in-person classes there as soon as allowed. Thank you to all of our partners and volunteer facilitators for their skills and willingness to be agile, flexible, and most of all, committed to the fathers and families we serve.

For the 16th year, Lexington WILL host a community-wide Father's Day weekend family event. It was on the

16TH ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY FAMILY CELEBRATION

Saturday June 20



9:00AM – 10:00AM

Virtual Men's Prayer Breakfast
On Facebook Live

10:00AM – 1:00PM

DADDY DRIVE THRU

Douglass Park Parking Lot

726 Georgetown St., Lexington, KY 40508

Entering off Georgetown St. onto Scoop Brown Way

DOOR PRIZES

1:00PM

Virtual Father/Family March

Respective Homes & Neighborhoods

For more info visit lexif.org or call (859) 277-3087

RSVP on Facebook at: bit.ly/2ZSnqhz

PRAYER BREAKFAST SPEAKERS



DR. JOSEPH OWENS
LEAD PASTOR, SHILOH WALK



RAY GREEN
LEAD PASTOR, IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH



PASTOR RICHARD GAINES
LEAD PASTOR, CONSOLIDATED BAPTIST CHURCH



DAVID THOMAS
ASBURY SEMINARY

SPONSORS



bubble due to the pandemic, but after some discussion the team concluded that it may be needed more this year than ever! Fathers, families and the community need encouragement now like no other time. So...YES... it will happen in a SAFE and DIFFERENT way. All local, state, and federal COVID 19 protocol and recommendations will be adhered to and will guide event execution including crowd limits, physical distancing, PPE, and appropriate disinfection practices. The main event will be held Saturday June 20, 2020 but WILL NOT be in the traditional format. Instead it will be in the form of a "Daddy Drive Thru" event.

In accordance with current conditions, special emphasis will be placed on community unity. Resource materials and activities are being gathered to equip those fathers and families that have been impacted and to raise community morale. As usual events will promote parental support, education, violence prevention, and increasing collaborative efforts throughout the community. WE MUST come together!



THANK YOU for your support to LLF during these very challenging times. We continue to covet your prayers and support. To make a gift to LLF please go to LEXLF.ORG/GIVE

FARM FRESH PRODUCE AVAILABLE TO ALL

WOODHILL INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Order your share in advance online and then pick-up at the market! There are 4 different price options for people to choose from, so that fresh produce is affordable and available for everyone!

When: 5p.-7pm Every other Thursday
June 4th-October 29th

Where: 422 Codell Dr. Lexington, KY 40509

More info: lexlf.org/woodhill-international-market

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to get involved volunteering during this time. Amachi is still recruiting mentors, Fatherhood Initiative is actively seeking class facilitators, and Urban Impact is in need of meal delivery drivers for this summer and volunteers for the fall.

For more information about volunteering please email volunteer@lexlf.org or call our office at 859-277-3087.

SAVE THE DATE

June 20, 2020 - 16th

Annual Father's Day Family Celebration

For more info visit LEXLF.ORG or call 859-277-3087