

DISTRICT UPDATES

Food For The Poor Dedicates New Facilities



Florida-Georgia District President Gerhard Michael Jr. greets other guests in front of the statue of Jesus, a beggar, in the lobby of Food For The Poor's new headquarters.

Food For The Poor dedicated a new headquarter facility in Coconut Creek, FL, on January 17. The ceremony celebrated the 25th anniversary of Food For The Poor, the largest charity in Florida and the foremost provider of aid to the Caribbean and Latin America.

Participating in the program were representatives from various countries, including Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael Jr., president of the Florida-Georgia District.

More than 500 guests attended, including visitors from Guatemala, Spain,

Jamaica, Haiti, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Honduras, Antigua, Trinidad and multiple states within the USA.

Recognized for their contributions to serving and bettering the lives of the poor were Sister Mary Benedict Chung of Jamaica; Father Louis Grenier of Jamaica; Father José Antonio Márquez Pavón of Spain and formerly Guatemala; and Ferdinand G. Mahfood, of Deerfield Beach, FL.

Food For The Poor's new building includes 121,000

square feet of space with warehouse facilities and office space for more than 300 persons.

According to Robin Mahfood, president of Food For The Poor, last year the charity "distributed 4,054 tractor-trailers of food, medicines, medical supplies, books, educational supplies and emergency relief aid. In 2006 we built 7,003 homes, which were given to the poor.

Since 1982, we have provided over 40,000 homes for destitute families." □

Florida-Georgia District President Gerhard Michael Jr. speaking at the Food For The Poor dedication ceremonies.



District Members Active at LCEF Event

The last issue of *Lutheran LIFE* featured a report on the Lutheran Church Extension Fund Fall Leadership Conference.

Several Florida-Georgia members were active at that event, according to Richard Neubauer, LCEF Vice President and Director of District Finance & Administration.

"Our own President Gerhard Michael was Chaplain for the conference, presented several Biblical Applications and led the Sunday morning worship," Neubauer said.

"James Marriott, minister of music at Bethlehem-Jacksonville Beach directed

the volunteer choir and served as accompanist for the service. Richard Robertson of St. Paul-Peachtree City, GA, was elected to a three-year term as a member of the national LCEF Board of Directors," Neubauer continued.

"Lots of exciting stuff for Florida-Georgia!"

During the November LCEF gathering, Florida-Georgia District member Hans Tews was one of two Board members retiring after completing a full 12-year term. Tews, a retired bank executive with SunBanks in Orlando, had been the Board's Secretary for the past ten years. □

Ministry Serves Sight-Impaired

The LWML at Holy Cross Lutheran-South Daytona, FL, sponsors a ministry for the blind and sight-impaired called Open Arms.

Held on the second Saturday of the month, the meetings offer food and fellowship. LWML members do the planning, marketing, food prep and cleanup.

Birthdays are celebrated at the monthly meetings, and often a speaker or sing-along is on the program. A future program — Dinner in the Dark — will acquaint sighted people with some of the problems the blind face when dining.

Brochures detailing the events are placed in pews at Holy Cross as well as in local

stores, eye doctors' offices and other public places.

Rev. Lou Trebus, assistant to the pastor at Holy Cross, is the program director. David Jollymore serves as the administrator for the blind and visually impaired, with Kevin Friend serving in that capacity for the sighted.

"We began with the assistance of Pastor Dave Andrus, executive director of Lutheran Blind Mission in the LCMS," said Ruth Harding of Holy Cross. "Two of our officers have attended the conferences on the ministry in the past.

"Families of the congregation often help serve, and this gives the youth an insight into the life of these folks. The numbers are growing, and we are happy to provide this service." □



LWML members and guests enjoy a birthday celebration at a recent Open Arms meeting at Holy Cross-South Daytona, FL.

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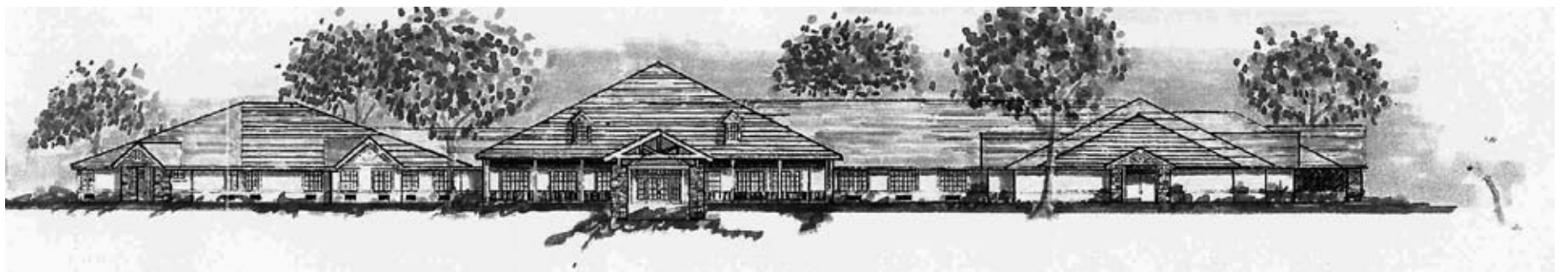
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