

## Registration Deadline Approaching for LWML Convention



Margie Smith  
LWML Communicator

Plans are being finalized for the 30<sup>th</sup> biennial convention at the PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, September 22-24. Register early for a discount. The deadline for

early registration is July 1. The final deadline for registration and also for hotel reservations is August 22, 2006.

The theme of the convention is "God's Grace, the Heart of It All," based on Ephesians 2:8. There will be many speakers, and a special celebration for 50 continuous years of the LWML scholarship program. Several speakers will be former recipients of our scholarships, including the first recipient, Rev. Donald Muchow.

Servant Events will be held on Friday, before the convention begins. The convention will open with a celebratory worship service on Friday evening, and everyone is invited to attend — not just those registered for convention. Rev. Victor Belton will be the worship proclaimer.

Saturday morning will begin with the traditional zone banner procession. Voting will take place for new officers and mission grants. Other speakers

include keynote speaker Marilyn McClure, with the LWML "Heart to Heart" program; and Marguerite Christman, LWML Vice President of Servant Resources. There will also be speakers at each of the special luncheons on Saturday. Rev. Muchow will speak at the banquet on Saturday evening.

Sunday will begin with an early morning Mission Walk, followed by the final convention session.

Throughout the entire convention there will be singing and sharing with fellow sisters and brothers in Christ. Even the exhibits will have something special!

Come join us in beautiful Palm Beach Gardens! For more information, see our website: [www.flgalwml.com](http://www.flgalwml.com). □

**HANDS OF MERCY** — An ongoing mission project of Trinity Lutheran-Sommerfield, FL, is collecting small-sized toiletries, toothbrushes, paper products, plastic trash bags and toilet paper for residents of H.O.M.E. — Hands of Mercy Everywhere, a Christian maternity home for teenagers in Belleview. In March, the congregation's Lutheran Women's Missionary League chapter sponsored a bake sale to benefit H.O.M.E. On May 10, Trinity's LWML President Elaine Helgeland presented H.O.M.E. Executive Director, Diane Schofield with a check for \$1,200. Eight LWML executive board members toured H.O.M.E. in Belleview. □



## Florida LWML Reaches out to Katrina Victims

Sparked by a mission service proposal outline presented at the Spring Rally of the LWML Southwest Florida Zone, the Women of Marco Lutheran Church-Marco Island sent aid to three educational departments of coastline Mississippi churches unable to operate after being devastated by Hurricane Katrina last year.

St. Matthew-Gulfport; Church of the Pines-Waveland; and Christ Lutheran-Pascagoula all sustained physical damage that made areas unusable. Records and materials were water soaked to various degrees.

After communicating with Shirley East, president of the LWML Magnolia Zone, the Marco

Island group sent \$125 to each of the three churches. The same assistance was sent in response to a request from Erma Winston, a Louisiana/Mississippi LWML District officer who planned to hold a Vacation Bible School for children who were returning to Holy Cross-New Orleans.

Responding to that gift, Winston wrote of VBS plans, "We are planning to include other activities during this time, such as community services, health and welfare, school supplies distributions and counseling... I just wanted to let you know that your contribution will certainly assist us in making this project a reality."

A Marco Lutheran Bible class and fellowship also sent \$150 in aid to a New Orleans congregation. The group heard that members of St. Paul Lutheran near the French Quarter were making up evacuation kits for their parish children and needed New Testaments to include. The Marco Lutheran gift helped complete that project. □

**RALLY OUTREACH** — Donations generated at the LWML Spring Rally hosted by First Evangelical Lutheran-Clearwater, FL, benefited those in need in the community. Shown here are

Marj Crosmer (left) of First Lutheran presenting a check for \$1,246.75 to Jamia Austin (right), representing Religious Community Services. Included in that total was \$200 donated by the North Pinellas Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Austin is the Director of the Clearwater RCS Food Bank. □



## LSF Observes World Refugee Day

Lutheran Services Florida held a news conference at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour-Tampa on June 14 to commemorate World Refugee Day, designated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to honor refugees worldwide.

"Lutheran Services Florida joined Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in celebrating this important day to honor refugees living in our communities," said Joy Margolis, LSF Director of Marketing/Communications.

"All other Tampa Bay area refugee resettlement organizations — Catholic Charities, Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, the Florida Center for Survivors of Torture and the First Baptist Church — joined LSF in celebrating the many contributions refugees make to their communities."

Former refugees from Sudan, Liberia and Colombia shared stories of their personal struggles to reach freedom. Other speakers included representatives from the Tampa Mayor's Office; the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office; Hillsborough County Hispanic Liaison Anthony Morejon; and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The conference focused on the courage of refugees and the contributions they make to their communities.

"On this special day we will honor refugees in our community and remember those still waiting in camps throughout the world," said James A. Wells, LSF President and CEO. "There are approximately 19 million refugees in the world — 80% of whom are women and children — and this news conference is an opportunity to share information with the people in our community."

Tampa joined cities in more than 100 countries around the world celebrating World Refugee Day and the courage of refugees and the contributions they make to their communities.

LSF is a statewide, non-profit, human care agency dedicated to helping all people in need regardless of religious affiliation, age, or national origin. Since the LSF Refugee Resettlement Program began nearly 25 years ago, over 200,000 refugees have received help to build new lives in freedom. The Agency has 65 programs located across Florida and has provided assistance to nearly 750,000 children and families in need. □



Mokhtar Maki Mogtaba, refugee from Sudan resettled by LSF, addressed the press conference.

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