

When You Support LMVFM You're Helping us Help Them



"Thank You for helping LMVFM help us!!!"

Donations of these items help us to keep our programs and services *free* to those we serve.



Gift Cards (especially *gas* and *general merchandise*) of any amount, Unused stamps, Small/Large Business Envelopes, File Folders, and General Office Supplies.

Why your help matters

LMVFM provides veterans, contractors and their family members with **free** counseling services and assessments, help with their VA claims, assistance locating and connecting with other types of resource support.

1. LMVFM does not solicit, or accept any government funding or resources.
2. All LMVFM programs and services are free to our clients.
3. LMVFM has *never* turned a veteran, contractor or family member away for any reason.
4. We are good stewards of our resources and we don't waste your donations on cheap advertising trinkets

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM



Help Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries (LMVFM)
Provide Free Counseling and Care Services to Veterans & their Family members
When you enroll your Kroger Plus Card, enter LMVFM's Number "27018" and shop!



ENROLL IN KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS TODAY!

1-866-221-4141

www.kroger.com/communityrewards



Please Help Us Thrive by Donating Your Thrivent Choice Dollars to LMVFM



Thrivent Choice members have big hearts!

Thank you to the many Thrivent members who are donating your Choice Dollars to LMVFM. Your donations are having a *big* impact on our ability to continue providing critical programs and services free to veterans, contractors and their family members.

If you're a Thrivent member looking to support a ministry that actively serves our veterans and their family members, we would be very grateful to receive your Choice Dollar donations.

Donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars is easy

To donate your Thrivent Choice Dollars call 800-847-4836 to speak with a representative.

Thrivent Seed Money Donations



Thrivent Seed Money donations have been a blessing to our ministry and have helped us in our mission in many ways. Here are a few ways Thrivent members have contributed to LMVFM's mission.

- ♦ We receive a number of requests for our resource materials which we send at no cost to churches- which can be hard on the budget. One of our Thrivent members used her seed money to purchase postage stamps for the ministry to help with our mailings.
- ♦ Thrivent members have also used their seed money to purchase the food and supplies we use for our training programs.

If you are interested in helping us with Seed money please give us a call so we can tell you what things we are in need of. 260.755.2239

To make a Thrivent Seed money donation call 800-847-4836 to speak with a representative.



Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc.

3480 Stellhorn Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46815

260.755.2239 www.lmvfm.org



"Holly Marie Ford"

September 8, 2008



November 24, 2016

As many of you may have heard, SGT Holly Marie Ford ended her temporal duty assignment as LMVFM's "Paws & Effects" team leader the day after Thanksgiving, 2016. Holly fought a noble fight through the end against the cancer that had invaded her body, bringing joy to those she met, and tears to us who accompanied her on her final journey home.

The words "you're bringing Holly-right" which we had grown accustomed to hearing over the past five years had become a running joke for us, in that we, the human team members of LMVFM, could have stayed at home if only Holly could have driven herself and given our ministry presentations. Holly was indeed the star team member of LMVFM's "Paws & Effects" therapy dog program.

You can train a dog to do a lot of things, but Holly had gifts that couldn't be taught, including the gift of knowing who needed the limitless unconditional love she possessed, which she freely shared with all she met.

Examples of her awareness of who among her needed her ministrations were evidenced as she would walk into a counseling session and hop up on the couch next to a veteran who was struggling to find the words to say what was hurting him so deeply. At one church about five minutes before the service was to start, Holly was asleep beside her mother, Jody, about two pews back. A woman came up to the worship leader who was sitting in front of me, well out of Holly's earshot, and whispered that her father had just been put in hospice. Suddenly the familiar tinkle of Holly's dog tags hit my ears and I watched her come from behind me and walk directly up to the woman and, leaning into her, look up with her big, beautiful brown eyes which I think melted each of us.

Today when we hear the words "you're bringing Holly-right" each of us momentarily feel the sting of our loss. But those words also serve as a reminder of the love that God has for each of us, a love which is selfless and free, a love that we are called to share with those we serve.

Thanks be to God, and the Holly's He has put in our lives, including...



Reporting for Duty

“PVT Lilly-Bell Ford”



On 14 January, 2017 we adopted our newest team member “PVT Lilly-Bell Ford”, a 7 week old Golden retriever puppy who is in training to serve as a therapy dog at LMVFM.



One of the first gifts that PVT Lilly –Bell presented with has been her love of a good snuggle. Having grown a bit since she arrived she is about too big to hold but will give it a good effort and if that doesn’t work will join you on the couch.

As a part of her training, PVT Lilly-Bell will begin attending Sunday school, and Church services at St. John’s Lake Township, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Paws & Effects



Progress Report: “PFC Stanley Tucker”

PFC (Private First Class) Stanley Tucker continues to train at LMVFM as a future therapy dog to provide comfort to our veterans and their family members both at our office, and on mission trips.



Depending on the dog, and breed norms, the average time it takes to train a service dog is around two-three years. Stanley-Tucker is an English Lab and in his case we estimate that he will probably take the full three years. He has begun working with several veterans, but still requires a bit more training and is not quite ready for public duties.

Training takes place in a variety of locations. LMVFM therapy dogs are trained in a multitude of environments. They can be found attending church services as well as visiting with veterans on the farm.



Stanley Tucker loves spending time with his favorite people back in the counseling office, especially with his “Aunt Cathi”, LMVFM’s Board Chaplain.

LMVFM: Focus on Education



The Church and Military Ministry

The spiritual health and wellness of all humans is first and foremost the responsibility of the church. Here at LMVFM we take that responsibility seriously and are committed to training those within the church about the unique challenges of military service on those who have served and the family members of those who have served. Recently a pastor who was interested in learning more about how to effectively work with veterans and their family members spent three days with us in training. A week after the pastor returned home I received this note from the pastor:

Just a week after returning home from my three day training program at LMVFM, a man (I’ll call him Roger, not his real name) came to my church office, wanting to talk to a pastor. Ironically, he had been given a list of churches to choose from, and had picked ours. As we talked I suddenly realized that Roger was displaying, what I had only a week earlier learned were signs of Post-traumatic Stress (PTS). I gently asked what would be the breakthrough question: “Roger, are you a veteran?” Turns out that he was a Viet Nam Era vet and was only now getting connected to Veterans Administration benefits. At that moment, what he needed was a chaplain, and the Holy Spirit led him to a Lutheran Church where he could find one. After offering pastoral care and putting him in touch with those in VA who could assist him, we prayed and he went away with my callback information and the certain knowledge that the pastor’s and church’s doors were open and ready for him, 24/7/365.

The pastor’s letter illustrates just how important it is to provide the church with the basic tools to both identify our veterans, and effectively minister to them.



If you would like to learn more about our seminars or schedule one for your church, or group we’d love to hear from you.

For more information about our seminars please give us a call at:

260.755.2239 or email us at:
LMVFM.org@gmail.com

