



LLF Honors Volunteers and Partners at its Annual Banquet

With the help of over 50 sponsors, LLF honored its volunteers and partners on October 25th in a packed ballroom at Lexington’s Hyatt Regency. The evening featured four themes: Faith, Strong Families, Opportunity, and Community - all components of what A City for God looks like.

Tommy Green spoke about **faith** and the collaborative effect which *The Prayer Room* has among various parts of the Body, including Wellspring Prayer Center. Jeff Rogers, an award-winning photographer and founder of Wellspring, was recognized for his work in creating opportunities for others to experience healing prayer.

David Cozart of the *Fatherhood Initiative* spoke about **strong families**, the positive role fathers play in a child’s life, and the impact that healthy relationship classes are having. He recognized Ben



LLF staff Chloe Martin and Michael Overstreet

and David Kibler, a father and son team who have been leading these classes for several years, which have reached hundreds of fathers. A compelling testimony was given by one of the dads who has been positively impacted by the program.

Maggie Middleton spoke on behalf of *Amachi*, our one to one mentoring program for children affected by incarceration. She recognized Charlene Creager for the **opportunities** she provides as a mentor to her mentee, Dulce. Charlene’s commitment to expose Dulce to new experiences, such as jewelry-making, has provided Dulce with a glimpse of the creative and entrepreneurial possibilities available to her.

Lastly, we heard *Urban Impact’s* Chloe Martin and Michael Overstreet, who were once students in the ministry and are now LLF staff members. They spoke about **community** and how the village approach is so applicable to the work of Urban Impact. They recognized several groups in attendance which make up the village to impact children, including school personnel, community workers, volunteers, funders and others.

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.

FROM THE CEO

A foundational scripture for LLF is from Isaiah 61:1-4. In fact, if you walk into the Woodhill Community Center from the bottom floor you will see a portion of this scripture on the wall. The wall of reclaimed oak, donated by Old World Timber, provides a meaningful backdrop. The artist, Trisha Dailey, a volunteer from On the Move Art Studio, boldly, simply and beautifully displayed this verse:

“They will be called oaks of righteousness, a tree planted by the Lord...”

While the scripture has great potency in and of itself, it’s the backdrop that displays the power that best describes LLF.



For this backdrop to be built, someone had to dream it; there was an architect who designed it; there were funders that caught the vision; a builder framed it; a company donated the oak; a finish carpenter installed it; an artist displayed the verse. This represents the guts of who we are at LLF. We bring together leaders, gifts, skills, talents, and passion to create backdrops for God’s power to be displayed. You’re a part of it, too! Check out the artwork on display in this newsletter - God’s masterpieces in process - with LLF as the backdrop.

Eric Geary
CEO

URBAN IMPACT

What's Happening With Urban Impact

It's been an exciting fall so far, launching programming at the Woodhill Community Center while continuing activities at sites throughout the city. Elementary Academy is operating three days a week during after school hours. High school tutoring and college prep occurs on Wednesday afternoons. Woodhill Community Center is home to a Read to Succeed site, offering reading help to kids in the neighborhood. Urban Impact's Girls Group meets weekly in the café, cooking dinner and discussing issues relevant to middle and high school girls. Every Friday,



Thanksgiving dinner at Woodhill

high school students and young adults meet for open gym. Community events such as "Helado Y Bingo" are happening on various weekends.

Urban Impact's annual family Thanksgiving Dinner was the highlight of our fall, with 142 people in attendance. Kids, caregivers, volunteers, donors, and staff came together for a potluck meal. It was a great time of fellowship and celebration!

We are thankful for the ways God has blessed LLF through the Woodhill Community Center. We also look forward to the great things He has ahead.

UI group mentoring at Crawford Middle School

AMACHI

New Grant Announcement

We are excited to announce that LLF was awarded one of seven national awards by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice. This award, a \$500,000 grant, will address the issues that impact the opioid crisis in Central Kentucky. The opioid epidemic has reached tragically high levels in Kentucky and beyond, and



this grant will allow LLF (and partner organizations) to respond to youth impacted by opioid addiction. Kentucky experienced over 1,400 opioid related overdoses in 2016 and "...in 2017 Health and Human Services declared this epidemic a public health emergency." ([hhs.gov/opioids](https://www.hhs.gov/opioids))



Through this grant, the LLF mentoring programs will enhance and increase services to young people impacted by this epidemic. We will provide individual and group mentorships, provide education for mentors, mentees, and caregivers, as well as access to professional services for youth dealing with addiction. We are excited to serve our most treasured assets- our youth- in this way, and to do what we can to eradicate this tragedy.

Annual Amachi kickball game

PRAYER ROOM

Intertwine 2018

Intertwine 2018, a city-wide prayer, worship, and missions summit hosted in partnership with 12 local ministries, took place on UK's campus November 30 - December 1.

Tommy Green, Director of *The Prayer Room* for *Lexington Leadership Foundation* said, "The heart and intent of the conference was to celebrate Our Father and His family in Lexington - demonstrating that we are one church in the region through our willingness to work in concert for the Kingdom."

Some of the participating ministries included *National Christian Foundation of KY*, *City For The Nations*, *4Kids*, *Moms in Prayer*, *The Fatherhood Initiative*, *Wellspring Prayer Center*, *The Family Foundation of Kentucky*, *Christian Student Fellowship*, and *The WAR [Worship, Anointing, and Revival] Movement*. In addition to 12 different speakers, there were 5 worship teams involved, extended times of intercession, a missions fair highlighting regional opportunities, and an art exhibit featuring prophetic work from local creatives.



Leaders engaged in outreach to international students at UK.

One gentleman remarked, "I've been working in the prayer and worship front in Lexington since 1974, and I've never seen 12 ministries come together to do anything. This is significant for the kingdom."

According to Tommy, *The Prayer Room* plans to facilitate *Intertwine* annually. "It was and can continue to be a beautiful time of reflecting on what the Lord has done in our midst as the Body of Christ in Lexington, and a good tone-setter for the year following with respect to looking forward to what He will do."

FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE



Recent Fatherhood graduation

Looking Back, Planning Ahead, Focused Upward

We are pleased as we look back on another year of service to fathers and families. We have worked to maintain our strong community and faith partnerships and added several new ones, including: Embrace UMC, Amteck, Inc., Russell Cave Church of Christ, and Clark Company. In addition to new partners, we also continued to recruit more of our invaluable volunteers and facilitators. With the cooperation of all of these, FI will serve nearly 300 fathers during 2018. Almost half of these were served while incarcerated, resulting from our partnership with the Fayette County Detention Center.

In the coming year we are looking forward to expanding our presence across the city by identifying new locations to our

services. While we are excited about the newly occupied Woodhill Community Center, we will continue to strive to be neighborhood-based and community focused. We will also continue to work to establish statewide awareness, training, and resources for others wishing to serve.

Finally, we will identify new ways to present the fathers, children, and families served with the opportunity to strengthen their faith. With the assistance of LLF's Prayer Room Director, Tommy Green, we will create opportunities for participants to come together in community and brotherhood.

Here's to a great year of service and more to come!



Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways to get involved volunteering with LLF and our initiatives. For more information about volunteer opportunities visit our website at lexlf.org, email volunteer@lexlf.org, or call us at 859-277-3087.

Give

Your gift matters! Together with our 500 volunteers and over 60 partners, LLF has the privilege of serving over 3,000 children and families. We could not do this without your support.

You can make a gift to LLF through our website at lexlf.org/give.

Double the Impact of Your Gift!

William R. Kenan Charitable Trust Challenge



LLF has been presented with an incredible opportunity for a \$500,000 matching grant from the William R. Kenan Charitable Trust. For every new donor, they will match the gift, dollar for dollar, doubling it. And, for every returning donor, they will match the amount of increase in giving, year over year.